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Why Should Parents Support RIF?

RIF (Reading is Fundamental) is a free book distribution program designed to stimulate reading by children. Since its founding in 1966 RIF has distributed over a quarter billion free books . .

The scope of its operations is staggering — and, in the opinion of Rosemead Kiwanis, worthy of active parental support. 240,000 volunteers

are presently involved nationwide. They serve 3.3 million children – two thirds of them at risk of not meeting basic educational goals.

The program presently serves 16,500 public and private schools nationwide (four of them in Rosemead).

In addition to serving regular schools, RIF programs also serve

child care centers, libraries, hospitals, clinics, migrant worker camps, Head Start programs, homeless shelters and detention centers.

Why is RIF important?

Because this is a “critical need” field. An estimated 3.8 million adults in Los Angeles County (53% of the adult population) have

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Free Reading Guide Helps Parents Teach

A bilingual Parent Reading Guide (Guia de Lectura Pasra Padres) is now freely available. This was revealed at a meeting of RIF (Reading is Fundamental) coordinators held October 7, 2005, in Inglewood, CA.

The Guide has been produced by the Public Affairs staff of the *Los Angeles Times*. It utilizes materials from many reading experts from across the country. It was prepared separately from the *Times*’ editorial staff..

The Guide is part of the paper’s “Reading by 9” program, (now accessible online at latimes.com/readingby9) and has 10 major sections, including:..

- Four methods for improving children’s vocabulary
- Five ways to help so-called “slow learners”
- Eight ways to prepare infants and toddlers for reading
- Five ways to help beginning readers
- Seven ways to encourage reading skills
- Thirteen characteristics of a good school reading program
- Recommended English and Spanish book titles for young readers

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Rosemead
Kiwaniis
Club
“since 1945”

Box 832
Rosemead, CA



*Not all grapes
foster wrath.*

(From “guide”- p.1)

(kindergarten through third grade readers

- Twenty-four tips for parental facilitation of reading
- Seven “outside the book” reading opportunities
- Seventeen Internet reading resources

The Guide is designed to be used in conjunction with the *Times* ‘Sunday thru Friday “Kids Reading Room” feature – billed as the “only page in the newspaper that is by and for kids.”

Copies of the guide can be obtained free of charge by Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura County residents. Simply util-

ize the latimes.com/readingby9 website address, or call toll free 877-732-3299.

The Guide is definitely “recommended reading” for all parents involved in all aspects of the RIF-Southern California program.

Information on many other reading resources for parent use is also included on the website.

KIWANIS — ALWAYS BUILDING

ONE CHILD, ONE PERSON, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

Rosemead Kiwanis has served our community since 1945. In addition to the RIF program featured in this special edition we

- sponsor Key Club and Builders Club programs in six local schools
- operate an extensive after school program
- facilitate health oriented activities such as flu shot drives and distribution of literature for young mothers
- participate in both an annual farm/city student exchange and an overnight mountain Winter Leadership Camp
- support the “adopt-a-grandparent” senior visitation programs
- assist in scholarship distribution
- develop member communication abilities through Rosemead Kiwanis Toastmasters and facilitate lectures on various topics to interested community groups
- supported targeted programs for developmentally challenged adults at the Lincoln Training Center
- are involved in disaster preparedness and awareness programs

We are always interested in making new friends. To subscribe to our local email newsletter (the RKC Reporter) just send a request to KCRosemead@aol.com.

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low literacy skills according to the Los Angeles Workforce Literacy Project.

To Rosemead Kiwanis this means that the need for focused RIF efforts in our community is obvious. Poor literacy runs in families, with lifetime sociological and economic consequences for affected kids.

RIF is funded in part by a contract from the U. S. Department of Education and issues grants on a matching basis. Its activities also reflect funding received from hundreds of corporations, foundations and organizations, including Rosemead Kiwanis.

The greater Los Angeles area is served by a separate but associated regional agency, RIF-Southern Califor-

nia. Rosemead Kiwanis acts as liaison between Rosemead schools and RIF Southern California.

Each participating school and agency has a RIF sponsor/coordinator. This individual is responsible to coordinate three literacy promotion events during the school year. Each event culminates in the distribution of free books to children.

The titles and age levels of the book distributions vary according to age. There are volumes for preschool-Kindergarten, elementary and middle school children. Each collection is selected by the sponsor/coordinator.

RIF-Southern California participants are also eligible to participate in an annual bookmark contest.

To be effective the RIF program requires not only a sponsor/coordinator, but also assistants in the various schools. This need for volunteers at both levels is a barrier to extending Kiwanis-facilitated RIF programs to Rosemead elementary schools.

The sponsors are helped in their responsibilities by a RIF Coordinators Kit produced by Scholastic Magazines, involved with RIF since its inception nearly forty years ago. They can access a Scholastic-staffed helpline, plus a CD-ROM crammed with activities, print and similar resources.

Persons desiring more information — or wishing to volunteer— should contact our Kiwanis RIF coordinator Jan Mackay at Janmackay@aol.com

Factoid —

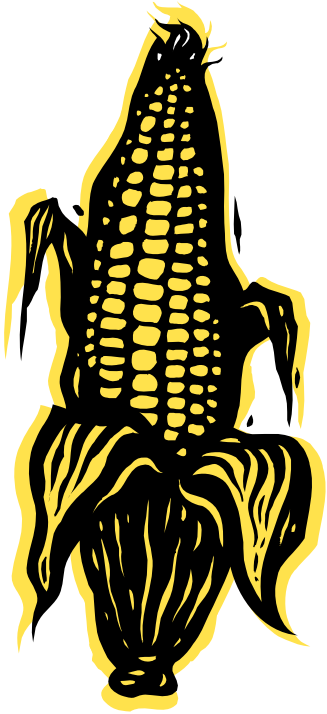
The RIF program has distributed over a quarter billion free books in its 39 year history.

Current Rosemead RIF Schools/Coordinators

Rosemead Kiwanis is pleased to help facilitate RIF operations in the following Rosemead schools (coordinators' names in parenthesis):

- Logsdon (Kathleen Leighton)
- Muscatel (Kiwanians Dean Wharton and Carol Mahoney)
- Temple (Mary Christian and Kiwanian C.P. Cheung)
- Willard (Judy Berger)

ROSEMEAD RIF SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE PROJECTS



*From single
kernels do
mighty
cornstalks
grow.*

Four Rosemead schools have completed plans for the first of their series of three RIF (Reading is Fundamental) projects for the 2005-2006 school year, Kiwanis RIF Coordinator Jan Mackay has announced:

Temple Intermediate: The entire student body will have "sustained silent reading" time for 15 minutes every morning during the month of November. This is in collaboration with the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team.. Students in the Clippers program who read the most books will be honored during a Clippers home game half time event. All students who participate in Temple's 15-minutes-per-day reading event will be allowed to pick a free book.

Muscatel Intermediate: Students in the Special Day Class, the English Language Development group, and Morning Reading Club will join resource students in the first RIF event, from 2:30 - 4:00 on Wednesday, November 9th. It will be Colonial-themed, with Kiwanian Bob Bruesch, dressed as a peasant farmer, reading a story. Other stations will include butter churning, making straw dolls, and playing a colonial child's board game.

Logsdon/Maryvale: The entire school population will participate. They will arrive at 8:00 AM on Thursday, November 10, dressed in warm sweats with comforters and pillows. They will laze about on the gym floor, reading and eating a leisurely breakfast, until 10 AM. All Kiwanians and community leaders, of both genders, are invited to attend. It is requested that those planning to attend first notify Jan Mackay in advance (Janmackay@aol.com) of their intention.

Willard: Willard is cooking up a school-wide round-robin of Pilgrim and Colonial Life events. The events will all take place beginning at 8:30 AM on Monday, November 21. Classrooms and the schoolyard will serve as "stations", and classes will rotate through the stations. One station, of course, will be the book-choosing station. Others will feature costumed storytellers, outdoor colonial children's games, crafts, and food preparation. Many volunteers are needed.

Important note: several local RIF programs still have ample opportunities for parental involvement. In addition to the RIF program, Rosemead Kiwanis supports several other after school co-curricular enrichment activities with opportunities for volunteer support. Please contact our RIF Coordinator, Jan Mackay for inquiries (Janmackay@aol.com or call 626/350-7506).