

ALL ABOUT ROTARY READERS:

The San Marino Rotary Readers program was originally founded in 2000 as *Reading-by-Nine* in partnership with the *Los Angeles Times* and Rotary International. Celebrating its Tenth Anniversary and now called Rotary Readers, the program has been expanded from its original K-3rd grades to encompass K-6th grades with the Rotary Club of San Marino in partnership with Scholastic Books Publishers.

In the program's ten-year history, San Marino Rotary members have donated approximately 16,000 books among twenty-one different elementary schools in the western San Gabriel Valley. In 2010, the San Marino Rotary Readers program provided over 2,000 books to elementary schools in Pasadena and Alhambra, including Longfellow, Cleveland, and Emery Park elementary schools.

The Rotary Readers program was founded ten years ago because a 1999 study determined that a major impediment to reading proficiency in the early elementary years was a lack of classroom reading books. At the time, the average number of casual reading books was only five in Los Angeles County elementary schools, and projections show it is getting worse with the economic recession and California deficit affecting schools and school libraries.

The San Marino Rotary Readers program has made a significant contribution to elementary schools in

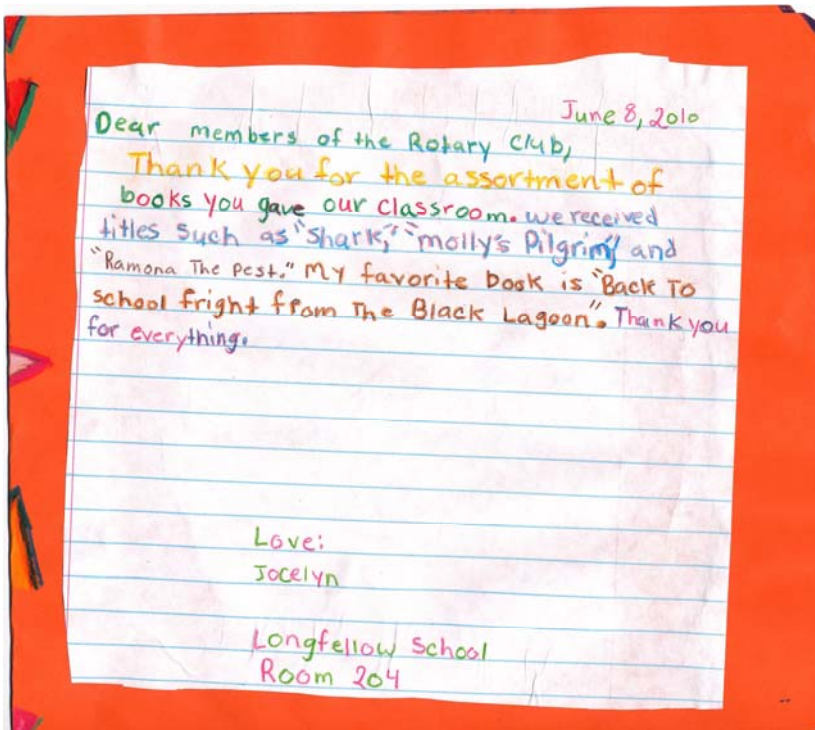
our surrounding areas that need extra help, and Rotarians who are already providing community service volunteer hours to individual public schools, liaison with the school principals to provide them with Rotary Readers grants to purchase books through Scholastic Books.

HERE'S HOW ROTARY READERS WORKS:

Our Rotary Readers Committee acts as liaison with local elementary schools. The Rotary Readers Team makes a visit to elementary schools in the area upon referral from Rotary members, and evaluates their book needs.

Age-appropriate books for each grade are selected by school personnel from the Scholastic Books catalogue and then purchased by donation from the San Marino Rotary. Scholastic Books, a major book-publishing house, provides at least a 45% discount from regular retail prices, so many more books can be donated as a result.

When the books arrive, donation bookplates saying they have been donated by Rotary Club of San Marino, are affixed to each book. Rotary-sponsored middle and high school clubs Mideract and Interact clubs at Huntington Middle School and Southwestern Academy assist in this activity. The books are then delivered, packaged for each classroom, and presented to the children in school assemblies.



Please visit our website at:
www.sanmarinorotary.org or
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ROTARY READERS Bringing Books to Elementary School Children K – 6th Grades



Longfellow Elementary School, Pasadena, California, June 2010

A Community Service Program Sponsored by
The Rotary Club of San Marino
And the San Marino Rotary Foundation
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