

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Too many people in the world today have not experienced the joy of reading or writing. Without basic literacy skills, more than 800 million people remain mired in poverty and hopelessness – unable to participate fully in the life of their communities.

Every March, Rotarians around the world gather together to celebrate Literacy Month. While many of you are already engaged in significant efforts to promote reading and writing, Literacy Month is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to *Service Above Self* by sharing our talents, skills, energy, and resources to promote literacy.

Today, we have more tools than ever to support literacy. As proven literacy projects like the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) continue to have a tremendous impact, Rotary clubs are beginning to employ computers through the Computer Assisted Literacy Solution (CALs) to empower a new generation of students around the world. Rotary's relationship with the International Reading Association has yielded even more opportunities, including a new jointly developed literacy toolkit called *Every School a Star*, which provides resources and ideas for effective school based literacy projects.

Rarely have we been better equipped to help so many in such fundamental ways. As we focus our attention on literacy this month, I encourage Rotarians everywhere to seize this opportunity to act. Whether you adopt a school, tutor a student, or discuss literacy at your club meeting, the literacy projects we plan today have the power to enrich entire communities and bring hope to our friends and neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

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President, Rotary International

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