

September 2008



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Every year on 8 September we gather with our friends and neighbors to celebrate International Literacy Day.

While many of us support literacy projects year round, International Literacy Day provides an important opportunity for us to recognize the vital role literacy plays in our communities and the world. I encourage you to use this day to launch new literacy initiatives in your community and renew Rotary's commitment to literacy.

Indeed, there is no better way to empower a community than to teach people to read and write. These essential skills help people to access information that will make their communities healthier, more prosperous, and peaceful.

Moreover, literacy can save lives and reduce the number of children who die needlessly every day. By educating our mothers, our sisters, and our daughters, we equip them with the basic skills they need to make critical decisions about the life and livelihood of our children, our families, and our communities as a whole.

As you celebrate International Literacy Day this year, I encourage you to consider how your club can help reduce child mortality by supporting literacy both at home and abroad. Our Literacy Resource Group can help connect you with the information and resources you need to carry out these projects and I urge you to contact your district's literacy coordinator today. At the same time, consider working with members of the International Reading Association, www.reading.org, in your community to identify opportunities to support literacy for all and *Make Dreams Real*.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. K. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

D. K. Lee
President, Rotary International