

Apple Dumpling Book program

Portola Rotary Club

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Program Summary: This Literacy Project was developed by the Rotary Club of Fairborn, Ohio and is centered on a children's picture book featuring, Andy and Elmer, designed to promote literacy, ethics and the Four-Way Test. Note: [The Fairborn Rotary Club was awarded the 2006-7 North American "Lead The Way" Literacy Award from the Rotary International Literacy Resource Group.](#)

Program Focus: The project is approved by the Rotary International Literacy Resource Group and is included in Rotary Reads, a catalog of literacy programs. It has been adopted as an Annual Literacy Project by many clubs throughout the U.S. We're looking to expand internationally. The topic of the book starts out as a simple baking project that quickly turns into a major business venture for the book's hero, Andy. With the help of a mysterious voice providing guidance and support, Andy learns the value of truthfulness, fairness, goodwill, and partnerships that benefit everyone involved. The book promotes the "Four Way Test" as a way to live your life.

The key components to the project are:

- € A&E Hardbound Picture Book
- € A&E Coloring & Activity Book
- € A&E Four-Way Test Bookmark

The story was written and illustrated by Andrew J. Shoup, a local children's book author and illustrator. And the book is jointly published by the Fairborn Rotary Club and TokoBooks, LLC.

How is the program best implemented: Funding must be set aside to purchase the books in the budget or to acquire grant funds to do so. Initially \$100 was designated to start this project. To promote the book to our local elementary school, buy-in was needed from the school principal and his second and third grade teachers. The Club President called the principal and teachers and had them look over the book. They were thrilled about the book and the message it delivered and agreed to have the Rotary Club of Portola provide the books to their students. Rotarians presented over 40 Apple Dumpling Books to the school's second and third grade classes. Club President briefly spoke to the students about integrity and honesty and how he uses the Four Way Test every day. We also provided with each book a Four Way Test bookmark and we also donated an additional 200 Four Way Test bookmarks to the school library.

Additionally, a "pajama party" night was held inviting students to participate. They were read the story by two Rotarian volunteers. The PTA also got involved providing hamburgers and hot dogs. Quite a successful way to promote the book a different setting than regular classroom.

Giving one of these books in lieu of a speaker gift in the name of the speaker is another option with a 4-way test plate on the inside of the book denoting the Rotary Club as

well. Coordination and partnership is needed with local elementary schools and libraries to introduce the book as noted above. Having this book a focus of a story time at the schools and libraries is one method of introduction and a way to involve Rotarian volunteers.

Results: Distribution of the book and associated materials will increase the awareness of Rotary and promote ethical decision making and the 4-way test in a manner easily understandable to the age group. The supplemental activities will further cement the concepts introduced in the book. It will be used as a good moral foundation for youth and as an initial gateway to Rotary programs.

As implemented by Portola Rotary Club, several unintended consequences occurred – the local County superintendent became a member of Rotary. The educators were so impressed with the program; they are looking to promote it county-wide. This too broadened Rotarians involvement but bringing in Rotary clubs of Rotary Clubs of Quincy, Greenville and Chester. New partners were created in the community with the elementary school.