

STATE BY STATE

These people are American heroes. What they have in common is that they are energetic, and they want to use their energy and the gift of each day to enrich the lives of other people. We are grateful that they are part of this project. This year 1,458,522 children received a dictionary from The Dictionary Project and here are some of the people whose made that possible.

Congratulations to **Hawaii!** This is the second state where all of the third grade students received a dictionary. Mary Gallagher and Dahmen Brown introduced The Dictionary Project in Kauai, Hawaii in 2002, after reading the story in *The Wall Street Journal*, and they have continued it since. This year Gloria King heard about our program and implemented it through her Rotary Club in Honolulu. She had so much fun she wanted other clubs to become involved, so she visited every Rotary Club in District 5000 and encouraged them to adopt a school and give dictionaries to the third grade students. By Christmas she had half the Rotary Clubs involved in the Dictionary Project and by the end of the year she reached her goal--- all third grade students in Hawaii had a dictionary. This is amazing! This project is something that she believes in and she had a profound effect on her state.

If you think that is amazing, then you haven't talked to Deborah Gropper. We featured Deb in our last newsletter because she had reached 80 percent of the third grade students in **South Dakota** by getting the American Legion Auxiliary involved in The Dictionary Project. That was the first year they participated in The Dictionary Project. We are happy to report that Deb's cancer is in remission thanks to many prayers and the doctors at the Mayo Clinic. She didn't let the breast surgery and cancer stop her from making sure that the children in South Dakota received dictionaries again this year. Over 81 percent of the third grade students received a dictionary from the American Legion Auxiliary this school year! You go girl!

In **Vermont** and **New Hampshire**, most of the third grade students have a dictionary because Tom Stevens started the Vermont Dictionary Project and he has contacted someone in every town in the state to find sponsors to buy dictionaries for the children in Vermont. He leaves no stone unturned. If you live in Vermont and you have not heard of The Dictionary Project, Tom will be in touch with you. David Boynton is quiet, organized and determined to make sure that every third grade student in New Hampshire has a dictionary. We told you about him before, he visits banks and asks them to sponsor a Dictionary Project. We all know that there is a bank in every town and that they have money, so it the beginning of a good relationship for the children and the bank to offer a gift of words. The Granges have adopted The dictionary Project as a national project because they recognize that reading is the starting point for all economic and social opportunities.

In **Utah**, Wally Brown is determined to find a way to give a dictionary to every third grade student in the state. He never stops asking Rotary Club members in District 5420 to donate dictionaries to the children in their community, and he drives hundreds of miles to deliver them. These people are relentless and determined. No one will stop them from ensuring that the people where they live make the best possible use of their resources.

Noah Webster was born October 16, 1758. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut. This year the state of **Connecticut** wants to proclaim October as Dictionary month. Last year more than half of the third grade students received a dictionary. We would like to try to find sponsors in the other half of the state where the children did not receive dictionaries. If you know someone who lives in Connecticut ask them to get involved. We would like to give all of the 45,000 third grade students in Connecticut a dictionary to celebrate Noah Webster's birthday.

Program Effectiveness

From time to time we are asked to show the effect The Dictionary Project has had on improving test scores. We can't, because we don't have the resources to field test this program. However we do know that a child cannot do his or her best work without a dictionary. How can you cut paper without a pair of scissors? Children need the proper tool to accomplish a task. A dictionary is the ultimate learning tool that will forever be a part of a child's education and their lives. A dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool that a child should own. Its usefulness goes beyond the spellings, pronunciations and definitions it lists. It is also a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or her reading, writing, and creative thinking abilities. Students benefit from an increased self-reliance and resourcefulness inspired by the maxim, "look it up."

A dictionary is an essential tool for a quality education. Together we can make sure that every child benefits from the power of words, because that is the only way they can share their innate gifts, become self-reliant, and compete in the global economy. English is the language of commerce. In this age of technology it has been suggested that the online dictionary will replace the paperback dictionary. We know that is not the case. Children and books are the best of combinations. Give children books and they are shown the doors to their own independence, creativity and life-long learning. Give them a dictionary, though, and they are given the key to unlock those doors.

The Dictionary Project • 3rd Graders in USA

State	3rd Graders	% Covered by TDP	State	3rd Graders	% Covered by TDP	State	3rd Graders	% Covered by TDP
AK	10,141	1.7%	LA	65,266	29.6%	OK	46,250	73.8%
AL	61,345	29.7%	MA	81,759	91.3%	OR	43,989	66.3%
AR	35,625	73.4%	MD	73,345	70.3%	PA	155,193	43.8%
AZ	79,855	60.4%	ME	15,213	41.0%	PR	45,028	13.3%
CA	535,625	13.8%	MI	137,623	22.4%	RI	13,375	63.9%
CO	59,661	40.8%	MN	66,659	32.9%	SC	55,873	100.4%
CT	47,187	54.8%	MO	74,239	37.4%	SD	10,190	81.3%
DC	6,484	100.0%	MS	41,434	38.3%	TN	75,239	15.7%
DE	10,734	84.4%	MT	11,035	17.0%	TX	340,031	14.1%
FL	232,048	43.2%	NC	111,861	47.4%	UT	38,016	106.4%
GA	124,397	34.8%	ND	7,729	3.1%	VA	96,058	34.9%
HI	16,374	104.7%	NE	23,309	15.4%	VI	1,259	312.6%
IA	36,965	50.0%	NH	16,625	53.9%	VT	7,277	64.1%
ID	19,431	27.9%	NJ	114,011	74.4%	WA	80,429	38.3%
IL	182,408	15.1%	NM	26,308	59.5%	WI	70,319	10.3%
IN	86,242	16.2%	NV	32,628	33.5%	WV	21,629	71.7%
KS	36,825	42.6%	NY	238,454	31.1%	WY	6,032	37.4%
KY	52,725	24.1%	OH	153,084	36.6%			

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This periodic newsletter is produced for donors and friends of The Dictionary Project.

Dear Dahmen and Mary,
May I take this means of expressing our sincere appreciation to you for your generous donation of dictionaries to our 3rd grade students. They were so excited! I wish you could see now how they carry their dictionaries around with them. They use the dictionaries often and proudly. In fact, one of the boys, who is not a strong reader, let me know that he'll be reading the dictionary during Sustained Silent Reading and after he finishes the Hawaii State Assessment and is waiting for the others to finish. Your gift has truly made a positive difference in their lives!

Thank you for caring, thank you for sharing, and thank you for making such a wonderful impact on our children's lives.
Much aloha,
Carol Shikada / Kauai, Hawaii

Hi,
Both of my sons have now received dictionaries from you. They are thrilled with them. My older son, Matthew, still actively uses his that he received two years ago. My younger son, Ian, used his the first day to look up words from songs he likes. He is really into music. Oddly, we never could clearly define the word 'sublime' for ourselves before. (It isn't in Matthew's dictionary.)
Anyway, I am one more mom that wants you to know that your gift is noticed and appreciated. Thank you very much.
With Respect and Aloha,
Felicia / Kilauea, Kauai

WORDS BY THE NUMBERS
3,820,517 - Dictionaries distributed since 1995
4,575 - Individuals and or groups made donations last year
\$2,041,233 - Total donations for 2005
1,458,522 - Dictionaries donated in 2005

Dear Elks Members,

I am writing to thank you for the dictionary. We have studied homophones, entry words, guide words, and correct spelling, and I use the dictionary when we are working on these things. We have no dictionary at home so it will be great to have one. I have learned so much. Thank you for the dictionary.

Sincerely,
Arianna
Charles City, IA

Dear Nice Ladies,

Thank you for the cool dictionary. I use the dictionary you gave me every time I have to write a story. My class and I have had a lot of fun looking up words. Eventually I will use the dictionary to learn about words I don't know.

Sincerely,
Haley
Ninety Six, SC

Dear Jamie Walzer,

I am writing to thank you for the dictionary. It helps me a lot when I'm reading and I do not know what a word means. If I do not know how to pronounce a word my dictionary helps me with that too. My dictionary always has the word that I am looking for. Since one word can have more than one meaning, I will be able to see that I am using the word correctly in a sentence. Thanks for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Samantha
Mayo Elementary School
Ninety Six, SC

Dear Jamie Walzer,

Thank you for our "dictionary" they help with our spelling and they are so cool! I remember the 5 things you can learn in it. It tells you about syllables, it tells you the meaning, it tells you how to spell a word, it tells you if it's a noun, verb or plural. I love the color, how the words are written, and I like how they give you the cursive letters and not cursive letters. Thank you very much for the dictionary.

Your friend,
Morgan

THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

SUMMER 2005

Over 3,820,517 children have received a dictionary thanks to the generosity of sponsors who have participated in the Dictionary Project to provide a dictionary for the children in their community each year, so they can enjoy the benefits of a large vocabulary. 1,458,522 dictionaries were given to students in the 2005-2006 school year as a gift from people who live in their town.

The Dictionary Project is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. The goal of this program is to assist all students to complete the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing the students with their own personal dictionaries. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come.

Reading is the most important skill of all. It is the starting point for all the economic and social opportunities this world has to offer.

The success of The Dictionary Project has been through the tireless efforts of the people who have made a personal commitment to improving literacy and the quality of life in their community. Our volunteers are the breath of life of The Dictionary Project. We spend 93 cents of every dollar we receive to buy dictionaries.

Nothing but individuals have changed the world. The great thing that built America was ordinary people, not the Hollywood stars and the athletes who get huge salaries, but the dedication of people who are doing what they believe in and passing it on to the next generation. I want you to meet the people who are the driving force behind The Dictionary Project.

Don Hostetter is 90 years old. He runs the Ressler Mill Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides educational and social services to children throughout Lancaster, Pennsylvania. For the past four years he has given 6,500 dictionaries each year to the third grade students. A total of 26,000 dictionaries and he has more energy to do more projects to reach more children. I hope he lives to be 100!

Ormonde Smith is 86 years old and the children of Houston, Texas have been blessed through his efforts to raise money to give dictionaries to over 3500 third grade students for the past three years. He started out reading to students in an elementary school and now he is visiting all of the schools in thin the district with his wife Margaret to make sure that each third grade student has their own dictionary.

The Dictionary Project lost a friend and advocate when **Stanley Dixon** died on his 80th birthday. He joyfully raised the money to buy dictionaries through the Rotary Literacy Foundation that he started three years ago. Over 87,000 children have received a dictionary from Stanley. He not only preached the importance of literacy in order to be a productive member of society, he wanted the children to know that their name is their most important asset, so

he took the time to write their name in each dictionary.

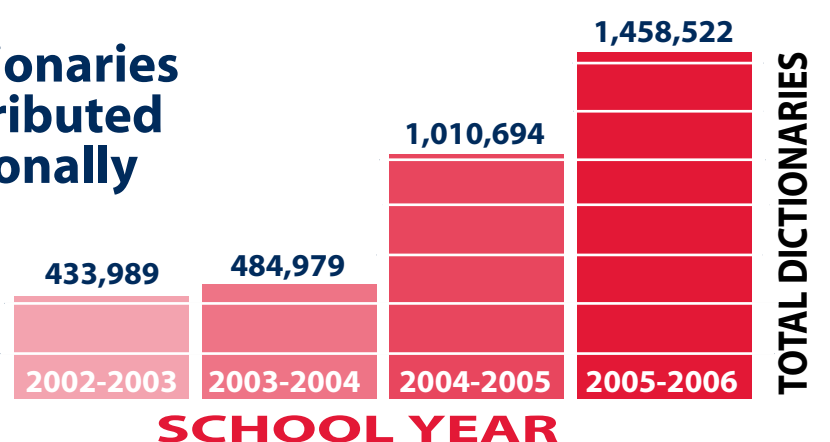
The state of Georgia lost a good friend when **Betty Williford** died in January, she was 81. She started a program that provided books to newborn babies in every hospital in the state. She wanted to expand on that idea by doing what she could to see that the children in Georgia continued to receive a book each year as they grew older. She encouraged everyone she met to participate in The Dictionary Project. The sponsors throughout Georgia helped her implement her vision.

Ted and Zula Bryan live in Kelso, Washington. They are members of the Pleasant Hill Grange and they tell everyone they meet about The Dictionary Project. It is amazing that by doing that they have inspired members of civic organizations throughout their state to start their own Dictionary Project. This ripple effect has provided dictionaries to over 42,000 children. Their motto is: "The first three years of school you learn to read, the rest of your life you read to learn."

Some people never cease to amaze me because they always want to give more! **Richard Wallace** heard about the Dictionary Project six years ago and all of Rotary District 7470 has benefited from his vision to include more children in The Dictionary Project each year. This year he wanted to include the children at the Rwanda School. He calls this project the "Rotary Passport to People Project". We are proud to be part of his work.

Pam and Bill Thorton have the same vision in Chile, South America. After giving dictionaries to all of the third grade students in Chico, California, they are visiting the schools in Chile to present dictionaries to the children, to promote goodwill between the two countries by giving the gift of words.

Dictionaries Distributed Nationally



Word from the Web (2006)

We would like to thank everyone who made it possible for our website to grow. We have received emails and letters showcasing your projects from all over the country, and we have been adding them all to our National Projects page. Choose your state and see all of the local projects and efforts implemented by people like you – people who are eager to build a better future for their children and their community by improving education.

We have added a Video of one of the Dictionary Projects, thanks to Hal Wochholz from the Rotary Club of Sun Lakes, Arizona. His presentation will help you with ideas to present your own project, and you can see how happy the children are when he presents them with the simple gift of knowledge. You can find it, by clicking on the 'National Project' link on the menu on our website.

We have received interest from people who have implemented International Projects. We are hearing from people who want to donate to Africa, India, and Costa Rica. We would like to find a way to provide dictionaries to children all over the world. If you have any connections or would like to help us include children anywhere in the world, please send an email or give us a call. We are excited to see the Dictionary Project growing outside of the United States, and would like to get any help or opportunities to reach out to more children anywhere in the world.

We recently revised our website to make it easier for you to donate dictionaries. To sponsor a Dictionary Project, please visit our website: www.dictionaryproject.org. Click on "Get Involved" on the left side of the page, then on "Sponsor a Project" and go on from there. We have implemented a 'wizard' that will walk you through the steps and help you. As always, our online process is secure, reliable, and will not take more than 5 minutes of your time.

We have added a new feature called School Donation information. Please provide the names of the schools where the dictionaries will be given to the children so that we can map our progress and identify the areas where we need to find sponsors, so that we can include those children in The Dictionary Project. Our mission is to get a dictionary into the hands of each third grader in all fifty states, and we can only do this with your help, so please keep that in mind when filling in the school donation information.

If you need any help, please give us a call at 843-388-8375. For any comments or suggestions on our website, please email the Webmaster @ webmaster@dictionaryproject.org. We strive to make our website better each year, and we always love to hear from you on what you want us to include next, so feel free to do so!
God bless, M. Ansari

The Gift of Words

Birthday Gift As a lifelong lover of words and their power, Westerville, Ohio resident Harriet Carter marked her 100th birthday with a gift of dictionaries to all third- through fifth-graders at two area schools.

The dictionaries were given to students at Pointview Elementary School in Westerville and Fair Alternative Elementary School in Columbus. The donation was made in Carter's name by her grand-niece, Cherie Boone.

'It's unbelievable. It's magical,' Harriet Carter said of the gift. 'It's going to be their own personal copy, to keep.'

Ms. Boone, who is a teacher in West Palm Beach, Florida, said she first learned of The Dictionary Project through her work with a Kiwanis Club in Florida.

The dictionaries donated will include a label honoring Harriet Carter. Cherie Boone said the books are the perfect statement on her great-aunt's life work as a librarian and reading mentor.

'I really believe the way we're going to have a fully literate society is to have kids who can read, but who also can put their experiences into words,' Boone said. 'I hope it gives them an interest in words and writing.'

Harriet Carter was a student at Fair Avenue School from 1913 through 1918. In her career in Chicago, she said she worked mostly with adult literature, but later reached out to children through a reading program in the Westerville City Schools. She continues to give to the students at age 100.

Retirement Gift As a young man, Donald Kelley habitually jotted down each new word or phrase he didn't understand.

'I know how important a dictionary can be,' Mr. Kelley said when he announced the creation of an endowment that will provide a dictionary for every third-grader in the Columbus, Ohio schools. 'Every time I ran across a word I didn't know, I wrote them down. I formed my own dictionary.'

'It helped me be more articulate and increased my awareness. Instead of letting a word go by, I looked it up to understand it.'

Mr. Kelley is an appraiser and real estate developer. He thinks a dictionary will improve the future of the school district.

The school district has 4,670 third graders enrolled this year. The school board embraced the project, called the Robert J. Weiler Endowment for Education, in honor of board member Weiler.

Mr. Kelley, whose 25 grandchildren go to Catholic schools, will work with Rotary Club of Columbus to distribute the books. He will donate about \$125,000 to the endowment.

'The first thing that the student must do is to put their name in it so that they know it is theirs to personally keep and to use,' said William H. Matthews, Rotary past-president. 'This is to ensure that every third-grader will receive a dictionary every year as long as there are students being educated in our public schools.'

Mr. Kelley said it was the best way to honor Mr. Weiler, his business partner of 40 years, and to help children.

'I think they'll gain a lot of self-respect from it,' he said

Christmas presents Susan White, sent us this letter, "A number of years ago, a Christmas card arrived in my mailbox, just after a freeze here in Houston. It stated "In order to celebrate our friendship, a blanket has been donated to a homeless person in your name." Not only was I blown away by the concept, but was thrilled to know someone had received that blanket just in time for a blast of cold weather. That gesture was so meaningful to me—and, truly, what do most of us need for Christmas gifts? Not much! So I began looking for opportunities to donate in the names of my clients. So far, they've received pigs and cows and chickens from Heifer International, and DICTIONARIES. Each client received a Christmas letter informing them of their gift—each had a duplicate sticker attached – the same sticker was placed inside each dictionary, so that the student can know that name of their benefactor. Each dictionary after having received its benefactor sticker was gift wrapped and then delivered to Katy Elementary School for distribution. Almost immediately after mailing the Christmas letters, calls began to come in to my office—the people were thrilled and touched and wanted to know more.