



A Project with Rotary International District 7070 and Partners

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Has your club contacted the Early Years Centre in your community and developed a relationship?

Information is available at www.ontarioearlyyears.ca

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Honourary Director

Pauline Hill

Contact Us

http://www.rotarydistrict7070.org/healthy_begin_06

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The Imagination Library Program

Putting Books in the Hands of Children and Families who Need Them



Healthy Beginnings has facilitated two pilots of the Imagination Library Program. One in a First Nations Community and the second in four high 'need' areas in Toronto. Thanks to the support of the Rotary Club of Toronto. Photo: Our First Nation Partners; Dolly Parton; Chris Snyder - president, Jackie Davies- board member, Frances Buczko- executive director Healthy Beginnings.

It sounds almost too simple to be true, but by reading regularly to newborns and throughout those critical first five years of development, a child has a significant advantage toward a successful education, and ultimately an improved quality of life.

Imagine if every child born in your community had this advantage by receiving an age appropriate book every month from birth until their fifth birthday. Imagine how this might create literacy and love of learning in those children once they arrive at school. Imagine communities supporting each other to make that happen. The Imagination Library program supports children's language and literacy and prepares them for school by gifting every child enrolled in the program with a free, age-appropriate book every month until the child turns five.

Your club can make this happen:

1. **Decide on the community reach.** How many children in your community do you want to benefit from this program?
2. **Determine where/how parent's can subscribe to the program.** We recommend you work with the Early Years

Our focus is on creating awareness about the early child development issue through you and your clubs, and ensuring it is being addressed and supported in your neighborhoods.

Together we can make a difference through:

1. Public Awareness
2. Leadership and communication
3. Improving Service Delivery & Increasing the Investment
4. Building Partnerships

Where there are holes, Healthy Beginnings wants to work with you and other Rotarians to fix them, through advocacy, sweat equity, financial support and/or whatever other action makes sense.

Did You Know?

A child's mind is an open book. Prepare a young mind for tomorrow. Read together today.



www.canadahelps.org

Charitable Registration Number
88570 9212 RR001

Centre in your community.

3. **Raise/commit funds.** Solicit a community sponsor? Club shares cost with community sponsor?

Cost: \$63.00 Canadian per year per child.

Administration: handled by Dollywood Foundation.

Why Get Involved:

You will be doing something about literacy in your community.

Did you know....

Anywhere from 18% to 38% of youth, depending upon the region of the country, do not attain minimum literacy proficiency levels.



Contact Frances Buczko at francesbuczko@sympatico.ca or 416.884.6663 for more information.

Congratulations to the 2006 Fiona Nelson Award Winners....

The Fiona Nelson Award is presented annually by Healthy Beginnings to an individual(s) in the geographic area of Rotary District 7070 that have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the development of children from preconception to age six. This year's winners were the Hon. Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP, PC and Pauline Hill. Dr. Bennett has been a devoted advocate of high-quality early learning and child care programs. Pauline Hill created the Canvass Bag program at the Toronto club that gets needed items to underprivileged mothers through 14 social service agencies in the Toronto area.



Dr. Bennett accepting her award from Chris Snyder and Pauline Hill.



Pauline Hill with Chris Snyder and Jackie Davies.