

Every Child, Every Seat, Every Day – P-1451

Project Description

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did the project activities take place and who were the beneficiaries.
 - The projects focus is to get more kids in school each and every day. The schools that we focus on are low income schools. The parents often work long hours at more than one job. Every day you will see kids in the 2nd and 3rd grade walking to and from their school. Several years ago we started a program that gave away 1 bike every six weeks to one boy and one girl who had perfect attendance. The school indicated that they started seeing an increase in attendance. As the years progressed the school said that the kids would probably benefit from a tablet more than a bicycle so we started giving away two tablets every six weeks and attendance steadily increased.
 - On one instance school was going to get out early. The school was not going to supply a lunch to the kids because it did not meet the hourly requirements to supply a meal. When our club found out that these kids were going to go home hungry we stepped in and served 800 meals to the kids prior to them going home for the day.
 - As you know schools have severely cut the amount of exercise time that these kids have. My 5th grader gets 20 minutes to exercise each day. To expect kids to sit still and learn for 8 hours is not a productive arrangement. The school came to our Club and indicated that the students had taken it upon themselves to form their own soccer club with individual teams. They did not have any way of differentiating between teams. They did not have any decent soccer balls, goals or safety equipment. Our club purchased jerseys, goalie gloves, shin guards, cones for marking the field and 8 soccer balls. We were also going to buy some soccer goals but once we realized that the goals were going to cost \$6,000 to \$8,000 for the pair we had to find an alternative. One of the members in our club had a friend who is a master welder who donated his time to build these goals for us. The goals are full size for their age group at 18' long by 6.5' tall by 6.5' deep. It takes 8 men to move them.
 - The beneficiaries were the 800 kids at the elementary schools. We are pretty sure that the teachers have benefited too due to less absenteeism.
 - Grades and testing has increased across the board.
2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?
 - Approximately 40
3. What did they do?
 - The Rotarians acted as figures within the community that showed these kids that someone cares about them and their success.
 - We gave support to the administration staff as well as the teaching staff
 - We passed out tablets to two winners of perfect attendance every 6 weeks
 - We fed 800 kids.
4. How many Non-Rotarians benefited from this?
 - We estimate that 900-950 Non-Rotarians benefited from this project.
5. What are the expected long term community impacts of this project.
 - The expected long term impacts are to create good habits in these kids that will carry them through the rest of their lives. They see what just showing up and being eager to for school can manifest.
6. If a cooperating organization was involved what was its role? No other organizations were involved.