

Press Release  
Immediate

Heidi Larkin-Reed  
President  
Orange Rotary Club  
949-829-8213 hm  
[Larkinreed@yahoo.com](mailto:Larkinreed@yahoo.com)

## **The Orange Rotary Club to Assist Orange High School with Library Project**

(Orange, CA) – The Orange Rotary Club, ninety-five members strong, is making Orange High School the focus this year for their hands-on project, beginning with the library.

“Orange High school is the oldest school in Orange and it shows,” said Heidi Larkin-Reed, President of the Orange Rotary Club. “The school opened in 1964 and 49 years of use has taken its toll.”

Last month Orange Rotary Club members toured the facility, guided by Principal Ernest Gonzalez. About fifteen club members participated in the tour and were saddened to see the condition of the school.

“Unfortunately, the school has not received funds to keep up with the wear and tear and the students, the neighborhood and the community are suffering for it.” said Larkin-Reed.

After the tour, the Rotarians decided to take action. They met with the Superintendent Michael L. Christensen and Principal Gonzalez and hammered out a plan. Under the leadership of Orange Rotary Club Past District Governor and current Community Service Director for the Orange Rotary Club Chair Cliff Nelson and President Larkin-Reed, the club decided to tackle the library – the center of activity for the high school.

“Our intent is to upgrade our local Orange High School's to the 21st Century starting with the old, well-used library,” said Nelson. “Computers over 15 years old, broken chairs and tables, damaged carpet, poor window blinds all mean safety issues and poor conditions for all users.”

“Funding will come from a grant from Rotary International for \$5,000. Our club also plans on donating an additional \$5000 from the club’s fund raising efforts to complete the project. We are working with the school to replace the carpeting and assist with painting,” said Nelson.

In addition to the dollars, club members will donate about 1200 to 1500 Rotary man and woman work hours. They plan on starting the work in December of this year.

To fund further projects at the school, the Rotary Club is planning a fundraiser with part of the proceeds going to the Orange High School project.

“We are currently in the planning stages of our fundraiser,” said Larkin-Reed. “Club member are very energized and excited about this event. We have already heard from community members who want to support our efforts.”

The Rotary Club members have discussed making Orange High School a multi-year project.

The school’s kitchen is serving twice the students it was designed for. There is not enough outside seating for the students, the bathrooms are falling apart, the science room is from the 70’s, the window coverings don’t function, and the classrooms are not very functional. All these items add up to a challenging learning and working environment.

“We can make a slight dent in what is needed with this project, but we need to have the entire community get behind the effort,” said Larkin-Reed. “There are bigger needs within the Orange Unified School District schools.”

Larkin-Reed, who is the former Orange Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, also hopes the Orange Chamber of Commerce will be part of the effort to improve the schools.

“A few board members toured the school and were very concerned about what they saw,” said Larkin-Reed. “The quality of our schools play a role in the decision making process of companies deciding to locate in the community. We need excellent schools if our community is to survive and prosper.”

If you are interested in assisting the Orange Rotary Club or would like more information, please email President Larkin-Reed at [orangerotary@yahoo.com](mailto:orangerotary@yahoo.com) or Orange Rotary Club, P.O. Box 5882, Orange, CA 92863-5882