

**Date:** June 22, 2023

**Country:** United States

**Project:** Raising Readers

**Focus Areas:** Basic Education and Literacy

**Summary:**

Raising Readers in Wyoming encourages parents to read to their children by providing new books as part of their well child health care visits to build a lifetime of literacy. The books are distributed by healthcare providers who 'prescribe' age appropriate books (for children between the ages of 2 months up to 5 years) for the parents or guardians to read for at least 15 minutes each day. Well child health visits are the doctor's chance to stress the importance of reading aloud and the effect it has on brain development for each child, as well as provide key suggestions to parents on how to read with their child.

This grant will be used for the purchase of books, marketing, and advocacy of the Raising Readers program in Laramie County. The books are purchased by the program at cost (approximately \$2.00 per book). \$80,000 is needed each year to serve Laramie County alone which currently is only enough to serve about half of the population between the ages of 2 months to 5 years.

For nearly 8 years, Cheyenne Community Rotaract (sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cheyenne) has supported the program by receiving, sorting, and distributing the books to providers across Laramie County. This grant will expand Rotary's partnership with the program and increase local Rotarian involvement. Furthermore, it is a goal of the grant to expand the number of healthcare providers participating in the program and reach other populations across Laramie County that typically don't go to clinics.

Link to Raising Readers in Wyoming: <http://raisingreadersinwyoming.org/>

**Cost of Project: \$9,000**

Rotary Club of Cheyenne \$5,000.00

District Funds \$4,000.00

Books 4,000 x \$2.00 per book=\$8,000

Marketing at current medical clinics=\$1,000

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Babson & Associates                | Cheyenne |
| Cheyenne Family Medicine           | Cheyenne |
| Healthworks                        | Cheyenne |
| Cheyenne-Laramie Cnty Health Dept  | Cheyenne |
| Cheyenne Plaza Primary Care Clinic | Cheyenne |
| Dr. Carol Fischer                  | Cheyenne |
| F.E. Warren AFB Clinic             | Cheyenne |
| Univ of WY Family Practice         | Cheyenne |
| Willow Creek Family Medicine       | Cheyenne |

**Estimated number of people helped:** Over 5,000 children each year in Laramie County

**Requesting Club members responsible:** Lori Garrison and Jera Likely, Rotary Club of Cheyenne

**Funds to be issued to:**

Rotary Club of Cheyenne

In memo line: Raising Readers

P.O. Box 511

Cheyenne, WY 82003

Attn: Scott Fox, Treasurer