

Serving The House Of Tomorrow

VILLA PARK ROTARY OUTREACH INTO THE EDUCATION OF TOMORROW'S CITIZENS

Dr. L. Bartrom-Olsen



Rotarians (back) and students at April workshop



Doughnuts by Interact!

This grant, whose overall goal was to serve tomorrow's world through promoting STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), took place within Villa Park OUSD schools. The beneficiaries were students and their families, and it functioned at two levels:

1. At the high school and middle school levels it transitioned and reinforced Chemistry fundamental concepts for EL (second language learners) by having all materials produced and taught in, both English and Spanish.
2. At the elementary level, for second graders, it introduced science concepts through materials which presented fundamental science vocabulary in a rhyming workbook called A is for Atom, Understanding and retention through brightly colored pages and consonance, similar to the rhyming in Dr. Seuss books. Except this is about science with the sing-song rhyming having a purpose: to gently and enjoyably introduce chemical science concepts! The Serrano Elementary students loved it and the photos pretty much say it all!

Eleven Villa Park Rotarians participated in the implementation of this project. They designed and wrote programs and

the syllabi, recruited learners, served food, secured sites, taught the workshop, picked up supplies, facilitated the workshops, greeted participants, organized materials, advertised the project, and reported it to local media. Four examples: Rotarian Marianne Kopenick worked at all the workshops helping learners feel comfortable and passing out materials; Rotarian Dr. Linda Bartrom-Olsen planned the curriculum and taught the workshops for HS and MS in English; Rotarian Ed Howard (Principal VPHS) recruited learners from HS and MS, interfaced with other administrators and secured the workshop sites. Rotarian Greg Mills, himself a working chemist, facilitated the workshops for Middle School (MS) and High School (HS) by providing concrete examples to learners of chemical applications of theory. Further, Spanish materials were developed by Brenda Ochoa, Chair of VPHS Foreign Language Department and OUSD's Teacher of the Year!

The expected long-term community impacts of the project, painted with broad brushstrokes, include support of Peace and understanding among the highly diverse people in our community, access to avenues out of poverty for our learners, and supporting and supplementing literacy in STEM programs; these are general concerns locally as well in our World Commu-