

Because of pandemic restrictions, the Children's Outreach Concert of the Whittier Regional Symphony (Project P-3925) could not be held in January. In its place, the Whittier Sunrise Rotary Club has redirected the District DDF grant of \$1,347 and our club matching funds of \$1,653 to Amigos De Los Rios.

Amigos De Los Rios is a nonprofit organization whose "mission is to create an "Emerald Necklace" natural infrastructure network of green spaces (parks, trails and green schools) in underserved areas throughout the Los Angeles Basin, connecting the Mountains to the Sea, offering equitable access to nature, protecting our environment and protecting urban communities from the threats of climate change." For the past several years, our club has worked with Amigos De Los Rios to plant trees in the Whittier Narrows Regional Park and in school green areas.

Over the past year this partnership has expanded to creating butterfly gardens at local elementary schools in which several of our members were able to participate, and a garden is now being planned at California High School in Whittier with our Interact Club at that school. Separately from the grant funds, we have provided financial support in this effort by providing supplies for the construction of these gardens along with the Whittier Rotary Club which has been the lead club in this project.

In previous tree planting events, our club has been the lead and have included members from the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs and Whittier Rotary clubs along with most of our own members. Amigos De Los Rios has provided all of the trees and tools for these events and provided the milkweed plantings for the butterfly gardens.

We have not previously made a monetary contribution to Amigos, and it is time we paid back for the support they have provided and the opportunities for service they have provided our members. Redirecting our grant will not fund a specific project during this Rotary year, but it will contribute to a valuable, ongoing relationship of ours and other Rotary clubs with an organization whose purpose is very much in line with Rotary goals.