



District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Lakewood

Project Title: Backpack and School Supplies – P5711

Progress Report  Final Report

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

*The Rotary Club of Lakewood partnered with the City of Lakewood and Project Shepherd, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to solicit community donations for backpacks and school supplies to support Lakewood students in need. Supplies went beyond basic items like pencils and crayons. Middle and high school students requiring specialized calculators for advanced math courses received these essential tools, which can be a significant financial burden for some families.*

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

*45 Active Members of the Rotary Club of Lakewood contributed to this meaningful community project.*

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

*Each club member contributed by either making a monetary donation or providing backpacks and/or school supplies to the cause. This project was an all-hands project with club members also joining community members, local businesses, elected officials, and volunteers from other service organizations to help fill backpacks with grade-appropriate supplies for students.*

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?

*Since 2010, the Rotary Club of Lakewood has supported Project Shepherd's Backpack Program. Each August, residents and businesses in the community come together to donate backpacks and school supplies for recipients in the program. In 2025, volunteers packed and distributed 478 backpacks for school-age children and teens. Recipients are always grateful to start the school year prepared with new supplies.*

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

*Providing backpacks and school supplies to students in need delivers lasting benefits that extend beyond the classroom to families and the broader community. When students have essential tools, they can focus on learning, leading to stronger academic outcomes and increased confidence that builds over time. This support also eases financial stress for families, fostering trust and deeper engagement with schools and community partners. Collectively, these efforts strengthen schools and communities by helping students feel supported and valued, which increases the likelihood they will grow into engaged, contributing adults. While a backpack alone does not eliminate poverty, consistent support helps reduce educational inequities in meaningful and lasting ways.*

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

*Project Shepherd is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Lakewood, California, operating since 1972 in partnership with the City of Lakewood and the Rotary Club of Lakewood. It provides year-round assistance, including emergency food, utility bill support, and seasonal programs like holiday food/toys and backpacks for school, primarily serving low-income Lakewood residents. The non-profit takes the lead in organizing and coordinating the backpack program drive collecting donations from the community and is the single organization that organizes registration for families to receive the assistance.*


**Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!**

7. Income	Amount
1. District Grant funds approved by the District	\$1,519
2. Club contribution	\$1,519
3. Other funding (specify) – City of Lakewood’s Project Shepherd Program	\$124.41
<b>Total Project Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,162.41</b>

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached

1. School Supplies (pencils, pencil sharpener, pencil pouch, scissors, rulers, pocket folder)	\$ 553.46
2. Backpacks	\$ 2, 608.95
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,162.41</b>

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the district. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI’s sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.

Certifying Signature  Date: February 24, 2026

Print name, Rotary title, and club Valarie Frost, President of the Rotary Club of Lakewood