

March 17, 2007

Contact: Bob Wolf, Chairman  
Community Service Projects  
201-306-7484

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club Donates Dictionaries**

More than 700 third-grade students in 35 classrooms in Ridgewood, Glen Rock and Ho-Ho-Kus will receive personalized encyclopedic dictionaries in the coming weeks courtesy of the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club. The presentations represent an undertaking by the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club to address literacy locally and beyond. The dictionaries are a gift to each student from the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club to use at school and at home for years to come.

Third graders in Ridgewood's Hawes and Somerville Schools will be the first recipients of the dictionaries on March 27 (at 1:00 p.m. and 11:30 a.m., respectively). Third graders at Ridgewood's Orchard and Ridge Schools will receive their dictionaries on March 29 (8:50 a.m. and 9:15 a.m., respectively). The next presentations will be made at Glen Rock's Byrd, Central, Coleman and Hamilton Schools on April 5 (9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m., respectively). Third graders at Ridgewood's Willard and Travell Schools and in Ho-Ho-Kus will be presented with dictionaries on dates to be selected in April.

A dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool that a child can use to expand his or her vocabulary and become a better writer, a more active reader and a more creative thinker. A command of the language is essential to success in school, at work and in all aspects of life. A personal encyclopedic dictionary placed in the hands of a young reader can have an immeasurable impact on that child's life and the life of others who come in contact with him or her. The dictionaries being presented by the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club are titled "A Student's Dictionary." They include not only a comprehensive dictionary section, but also The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, maps of the continents, information about the 50 states, biographies of the presidents and facts about the planets.

The Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club decided to embark on this community service project when Bill Boyd, the President of Rotary International, established a Literacy Resource Group to raise awareness of literacy issues and encourage Rotary clubs to undertake literacy projects at home and abroad. The Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club is making the dictionary presentations now to coincide with Rotary Literacy Month which is celebrated by all Rotarians in March of each year. Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in

the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

The idea of presenting dictionaries to third graders originated with a South Carolina-based non-profit organization known as The Dictionary Project, which has seen personal dictionaries distributed to more than 4.8 million children in cooperation with Rotary clubs and other community service organizations. The Ridgewood club has partnered with The Dictionary Project to obtain the dictionaries, which cost a modest \$1.45 each, and is considering expanding the project next year to include a donation of dictionaries for the use of third graders in a nearby urban community and a donation of an appropriate dictionary to third grade students in need in a foreign country.

Additional information about the Ridgewood A.M. Rotary Club can be found on its website [www.ridgewoodamrotary.org](http://www.ridgewoodamrotary.org). Further information about The Dictionary Project is contained on its website, [www.dictionaryproject.org](http://www.dictionaryproject.org), and on the Rotary International website, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

###