

District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Placentia, California

Project Title: "Get on the Bus"

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?

Our "Get on the Bus" event took place over a two day period starting on Friday evening, November 1, 2013 and ending on Saturday evening, November 2, 2013. This is a program designed to provide transportation for children of incarcerated men and women with the opportunity of visitation to prison facilities. We took eighteen families which included 23 adults and 25 minors to Solano State Prison in Vacaville, CA. These families have no other means of transportation, and this visitation experience offers them their only means of face to face communication with imprisoned parents. For some children, this was their first personal contact with their father. The families spent the day together building family relationships, and all the families involved expressed heartfelt gratitude to this program and the volunteers for allowing them this time together. The Rotarian volunteers who attended were also beneficiaries of this program and were very moved by the emotional experience of watching the interaction between these children, mothers and the men they were visiting.

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

Eighteen of our club members participated before the actual trip by packing backpacks for the families and volunteers. Two Rotarians and family members of each went on the actual overnight trip from Placentia to Vacaville, CA. Rotarians from 3 Visalia Rotary Clubs were also involved on the second day of the trip.

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

Backpacks were filled with snacks for all the families and volunteers and toys and games for the children who would be making this lengthy bus ride. The Visalia Rotary Clubs provided food, entertainment, and additional backpacks for the children as we made our way back from Vacaville. Our Rotarians and family members rode the bus as organizers for this project and spent the day inside the prison working closely with the families, prison officials, and Get on the Bus staff to help ensure that this visit would be as successful as possible for all.

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

Certainly all the families of the imprisoned men and the men themselves benefitted greatly. They had quality time together eating, playing games, reading, and taking family photos. Reunifying families that have been disconnected is a positive step in all these peoples' lives. These families also benefitted from receiving the care and support of the Rotary Clubs as well as from volunteers from St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Fullerton and Church of the Epiphany in Vacaville. All of these volunteers greeted these families with care and concern and made them feel special on this trip. We all knew that this was an emotional and stressful time for many and wanted this trip to be as successful as possible.

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

We at the Placentia Rotary hope that the long-term community impact of this project will directly involve those families that had this bonding experience. Get on the Bus benefits not only the children but also the mothers and fathers serving sentences on the inside. Prison administrators understand that maintaining strong relationships within the family can significantly reduce recidivism by breaking the cycle of reoffending and returning to prison. Reduced recidivism helps kids too, for when a parent comes home and stays home, the child has a much greater chance at a better life economically, educationally, and emotionally. Wardens seeing the value of this program in state prisons have asked Get on the Bus to include their sites in these visitations.

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

The Get on the Bus organization's involvement was huge. Our contact, Karen van de Laet, did an excellent job of preparing us and keeping us informed as to the process, rules, etc. She met us at the prison and spent the day with us as well. Other Get on the Bus staff were also with us and made this trip possible.


Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!

7. Income	Amount
1. District Grant funds approved by the District	\$2000.00
2. Club contribution	\$2000.00
3. Other funding (specify)	\$0.00
Total Project Income	

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

1. No additional expenses were necessary	
2. Get on the Bus	4000.00
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
Total Project Expenditures	\$4000.00

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 Ronald White  Date: April 9, 2014

Print name, Rotary title, and club Ronald White, President, Placentia