

## **District Grant Application**

| See attached budget and cost-per-backpa   |   | bute \$4,280 with matching grant of \$2,333.                            |      |
|---|---|---|------|
| 4. Grant Funding: (How much will clubs be contributing? Club(s) Contribution \$ [4,280] | ub contributions must be equal or greate  District DDF  \$ 2,333                    | er than the amount requested from the Distr<br><b>Total</b><br>\$ 6,613 | ict. |
| 5. Participating Clubs: (If other clubs will be participating in this pre               | roject, list each club and its contribution   | 1.)   |      |
|   |   | \$  |      |
|   |   | <u>\$</u>   |      |
|   |   | \$  |      |
| (What other in-kind contributions, discounts 50 back packs will be donated by a Club F  |   |   |      |
| 7. Other Involvement: (What other group participation letter                            | ps or organizations will be involved and<br>ers from any non-Rotarian organizations |   |      |
| La Habra Rotarians will work arm-in-arm v   | with the Keystone Club of La Habra Bo   | ys and Girls Club to assemble the backpac                               | ks.  |
|   |   | will participate and what will they do?)                                |      |
| 8. Club Participation:<br>(Show active involvement of the Rotarians                     | in your club. How many club members   | mm paraospato ana imat ima inoy ao.                                     |      |

250 extremely needy young students, grades 1-6, in need of basic school supply essentials. Proper school supplies will assist them in being better prepared for their daily class requirements and reduce the peer pressure experienced by not fitting in.



# **District Grant Application**

#### 10. Lasting impacts on the community:

| esteem of each awarded student is immeasurable.  |
|--|
| 11. Rotary Area of Focus: (check all that apply)  Peace and Conflict Resolution Disease Prevention and Treatment Mater and Sanitation Maternal and Child Health Basic Education and Literacy Economic and Community Development  12. Funds Stewardship: (Describe how funds will be safeguarded and tracked. If funds are to be distributed to an international partner for burchase/use in another country, who will be responsible for the funds? How will transfers of funds to international partners be handled?)   |
| All monies are placed in a separate bank account handled by a fellow Rotarian and vice-president of the bank. All expenditures require duplicate check signing and a budget is strictly adhered too.   |
| 13. Publicity: (How do you plan to publicize your project? Check all that apply)  Press Releases  Local Newspapers  Community Newsletters  Magazines  Ads  Cable TV  Social Media  Banners & Flyers  Speakers  Partner Organizations   |
| 14. Additional Comments:   |
| This "worthwhile" endeavor has lasting impact for the needy student, as well as, their immediate family. Education is the only way for many of these students to advance from the below level poverty environment to which they currently endure. Their ability to advance through school and to become good citizens in their community will benefit themselves and reduce crime and assistance from government and local organizations. Please review the attached documents, including testimonials from the local school superintendents, and photographs of deserving students. |

#### La Habra Rotary Operation Backpack Project Overview

Operation Backpack supports academic success of youth in the La Habra community by distributing 250 backpacks filled with basic school supplies to students in the La Habra City School District and Lowell Joint School District that are from low-income households.

The need in our community is great. According to the most recent data available for the La Habra City School District, 79.1% of the more than 5,600 students qualify for federal free and reduced meal program, which indicates that these families are near or below the poverty level. 13.4% of families in the City of La Habra are identified as living below the federal poverty level. 36.7% of students in the District are English Language Learners, and 21.7% live in single-parent households. 26% of parents did not graduate from high school, 29% have only a high school diploma and an additional 24% have attended some college. The median family income is La Habra is \$61,702 compared to \$71,983 for Orange County (LHCSD, kidsdata.org, 2010 Census, OC Community Indicators 2014). In the Lowell Joint School District, 35% of the more than 2,400 students qualify for federal free and reduced meal program. 35% of students in the District are socioeconomically disadvantaged and 65% of the students are Hispanic. Please refer to the attached letters of endorsement from the Lowell Joint School District Superintendent, Bonnie Bell, and Susan Belenardo, Superintendent of the La Habra City School District.

A backpack filled with basic school supplies seems like a very simple thing for parents to furnish for their children. In many homes, this is simply not the case. The most basic needs of food and housing are barely met and anything beyond that is often impossible. Distributing backpacks and school supplies is an opportunity for our Club to assist the families with the greatest need. Children who do not have these items can experience anxiety and immediate feelings of "not fitting in" which is so important to their success in school. It places strain on the student, teacher, parents, schools, and ultimately the community. Giving these children the very basic items that they need to be successful in school is the ultimate goal of Operation Backpack.

Rotarians participate in several ways on this project. Club members make monetary contributions, assist with vendor purchases, assemble and distribute the packs to students Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who receive the packs are identified by school administration and teachers as having the greatest need. They are identified as "winners" of the very cool packs and not as students who cannot afford school supplies. The packs include a letter of encouragement from the Club.

The Keystone Club and Torch Club (teen leadership clubs) from the Boys & Girls Clubs of La Habra assist the Rotarians with the assembly of the packs. This is an opportunity to interact with groups of students and teen leaders in the community on a personal level and share the mission of the Rotary Club.

Rotarians are invited to attend special school assemblies and functions to distribute the packs. The project receives coverage in local newspapers, community events, Rotary website, and Facebook page.

Since 2008, Operation Backpack has distributed more than 1,750 backpacks and become very important to many families in our immediate community. We are proud of our contributions and desire to continue meeting the needs of the youth of La Habra.

# LA HABRA ROTARY OPERATION BACKPACK 2015-2016

#### INCOME

Club Participation

\$4,280.00

District Match

\$2,333.00

**Total Income** 

\$6,613.00

#### **EXPENSES**

250 Backpacks @ \$26.45 ea.

\$6,613.00

**Total Expenses** 

\$6,613.00

**BALANCE** 

\$0.00

Note: Cost breakdown per backpack is attached

## COST PER BACKPACK

| <u>Item</u>                  | <u>Cost</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Backpack                     | \$5.25      |
| 3 Ring Binder                | \$1.00      |
| (2) Pocket Folders           | \$0.60      |
| 100 Count Filler Paper       | \$1.00      |
| 100 Count Construction Paper | \$1.00      |
| (2) Spiral Notebooks         | \$1.50      |
| Pencil Box                   | \$1.00      |
| (4) Pens Blue/Black          | \$0.40      |
| (4) Pencils                  | \$0.40      |
| (2) Pens Red                 | \$0.30      |
| Set Dry Erase Markers        | \$3.95      |
| Dry Erase Eraser             | \$0.50      |
| 48 pk. Crayons               | \$1.50      |
| 12 pk. Color Pencils         | \$1.50      |
| Scissors blunt tip           | \$2.00      |
| Large Eraser                 | \$0.50      |
| Glue Stick                   | \$1.00      |
| (4) Erase Caps               | \$0.40      |
| Pencil Sharpener             | \$1.00      |
| Hand Sanitizer               | \$1.25      |
| Tissue Package               | \$0.40      |
|                              | \$26.45     |



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May 21, 2015

#### To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the La Habra Rotary Club's annual 'Backpack Project'. We greatly appreciate this generous donation of backpacks filled with supplies for our students. There are many families in our District who do not have the resources to provide their children with the basic supplies for school.

The backpacks donated by the La Habra Rotary Club provide these students with some basic supplies as they begin school. They also help them blend in with other students which builds their self-esteem.

The generosity of the members of the La Habra Rotary Club to care for our neediest children is heartwarming.

Sincerely,

Susan Belenardo, Ed.D.

Lusin Belenacho

Superintendent



### LOWELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### A Tradition of Excellence Where Every School is a California Distinguished School

11019 VALLEY HOME AVENUE, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA 90603-3098 (562) 943-0211 FAX (562) 947-7874 www.ljsd.org

Bonnie Bell, Ed.D. - Superintendent of Schools

June 11, 2015

Mike Downing, President La Habra Rotary Club La Habra, CA 90631

President Downing and Members of the Rotary Club:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Lowell Joint School District, I would like to extend a special thank you to the La Habra Rotary Club for sponsoring the School Backpack Project again this year. The number of students in our community who come to school without school supplies is unfortunately increasing each year, and your generous efforts help so such in support of our students.

A total of 250 backpacks were donated to the La Habra City School District and the Lowell Joint School District last year. The backpacks donated to the Lowell Joint School District have been distributed among the six schools and are already being put to good use by our students. The students who receive the backpacks are selected by their teachers or the principal based on need. Many of these families are living with other families, in motels, or are homeless. The generosity of the La Habra Rotary Club gives our students the sense that school is important and they can now come to school prepared, just like all the other students. Just to see their smiling faces when they receive their backpacks is priceless!

Thank you again from the Board of Trustees of the Lowell Joint School District. Your continuing support of the youth of our community is overwhelming and greatly appreciated. You have touched the hearts and minds of our youth in the Lowell Joint School District.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bell, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools