

LEGACY OF LITERACY

District 6000 donated \$30,000 in 2000 when Ray Muston and Dale Belknap were District Governors to help launch Stories 2000, a special project of First Lady Christie Vilsack. Now in 2006, as Governor Vilsack prepares to leave office, the First Lady is donating an equivalent amount to **Reach Out and Read Iowa** program as a literacy legacy gift. Once again District 6000 Rotarians are stepping forward to support literacy by raising \$30,000 to match the First Lady's contribution and help expand **Reach Out and Read Iowa**. (Pictured from left to right, Sandy Horton, president of Ames Morning Rotary, Diana Reed, District 6000 Governor Elect, and Christie Vilsack visit at the First Lady's Reach Out and Read press conference.)



Diana Reed, District 6000 Governor-Elect and a member of the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines, represented Rotary at First Lady Vilsack's press conference at Blank Children's Hospital on October 28, 2006. These were her remarks.

"I am pleased to be here today as the official representative of Rotary District 6000. Rotary District 6000 is made up of 63 Rotary clubs across the lower half of the State of Iowa. We have a membership of 4454 individual Rotarians within the District. We are a part of Rotary International, the world's first service club, with clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical regions. Our members form a global network of business and professional leaders who volunteer their time and talents to serve their communities and the world. Our focus is on Humanitarian needs such as the eradication of polio, providing water wells for clean drinking water, medical care for those in need and disaster relief where ever it is needed.

Another part of our humanitarian focus has been the exciting dream of being able to promote literacy throughout the world. Where else to see this dream become a reality but in our own state of Iowa? To this end, Rotary District 6000 was privileged to be a part of First Lady Vilsack's Iowa Stories 2000 and we are again both pleased and privileged to be able to be the first cooperating organization to respond to Christie Vilsack's challenge to support early literacy through **Reach Out and Read Iowa**.

\$30,000 to match Christie Vilsack's Iowa Stories 2000 Foundation contribution to **Reach Out and Read Iowa**.

We appreciate this opportunity to unite with **Reach Out and Read Iowa** in support of greater literacy, in order to create a brighter future for children, families, and communities in Iowa."



Pediatrician Mary Ann Abrams, M.D., Coordinator of the Iowa Reach Out and Read coalition, accepts a \$30,000 check from First Lady Christie Vilsack.

There are already 30 Reach Out and Read sites in Iowa. Rotarians helped to establish the ROR site at McFarland Clinic in Story County and provide ongoing leadership, funding and volunteer support. Sue Wuhs (left) and Jerri Heid (right), members of the Ames Morning Rotary Club, visit with First Lady Vilsack about how their club supports Reach Out and Read and literacy through club activities and contributions.



District 6000 is launching a "Rotarians for Reading" campaign to raise the pledged \$30,000. Informational programs about Reach Out and Read will be given to the 63 clubs in the district during November 2006 and March 2007. Individual Rotarians and Rotary clubs are invited to make contributions to this district-wide campaign.

When Rotarians give the gift of literacy, there are many benefits.

- More membership, recognition and an enhanced reputation for Rotary
- A community that better understands the importance of and supports early literacy
- Better educated children and future workforce