

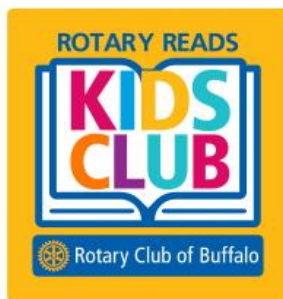


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ROTARY CLUB OF BUFFALO ANNOUNCES MAJOR GRANT WINNER - Buffalo Branch Libraries



Rotary Club of Buffalo Announces Major Grant Winner

City of Buffalo Public Library Branches Are Recipients

(Buffalo, NY), June 27, 2018 – Children and families who use public library branches located in the City of Buffalo will benefit from a \$116,675 grant awarded today by the Rotary Club of Buffalo for **Rotary Reads – Kids Club** projects. The announcement was made at the Niagara Branch Library on Porter Avenue in Buffalo.

Rotary's Major Grant funds will be used toward creating warm and welcoming children's spaces ranging from updated branding to kid-friendly furniture and wall hangings in the Crane (Elmwood Ave.), Dudley (South Park Ave.), East Clinton (East Clinton St.), East Delavan (East Delavan Ave.), Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. (Jefferson Ave.), Niagara (Porter Ave.), North Park (Hertel Ave.) and Riverside (Tonawanda St.) branches.

"Solving real problems takes real effort, commitment and vision," said 2017/2018 Buffalo Rotary President Mike Sendor. "With one in every three Buffalo residents functionally illiterate, the Rotary Club of Buffalo recognizes the need for spaces where children can learn and grow. **Rotary Reads - Kids Club** spaces will fulfill this need by encouraging children to read and strengthen their skills while creating a welcoming place for young people, families and students."

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski said, "We are excited to officially kick-start the planning and design phase for the community's new **Rotary Reads – Kids Club** spaces in the Buffalo Branches. Summer is a busy time in our libraries. Children are on break from school and looking to discover, learn and explore. That's exactly why we're here! At this time next year **Rotary Reads - Kids Club** spaces will be open and the Rotary Club of Buffalo will be participating and supporting literacy and literacy activities across our city."

The Rotary Club of Buffalo has dedicated itself since 1911 to improving lives throughout Western New York. One of its critical causes is supporting education; throughout the years Rotary has given grants to local organizations that inspire learning at all ages, particularly in our children.

"Past grants have helped nonprofit groups to annually distribute 6,000 free books to Buffalo's most at-risk children, enhance after-school programs with digital literacy training and have even enabled city pediatricians to 'prescribe' books for their young patients for a full year," added Sendor.

2018/2019 Rotary Club of Buffalo President-elect Bill Larkin said, "When you teach somebody how to read, they have that skill for a lifetime. It ripples through the community, one by one. That is why, for the last 28 years, we have been committed to a mentorship program with elementary schools in the City of Buffalo. Now, with the **Rotary Reads - Kids Club**, the Rotary Club of Buffalo will promote lifelong reading and learning for hundreds of children across Buffalo."

About the Rotary Club of Buffalo:

The Rotary Club of Buffalo is where neighbors, friends and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders and take action to create lasting change. Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. Founded in 1911, the Rotary Club of Buffalo's members have used their passion, energy and intelligence to make Western New York a better place to live. Since 1989 the Club has awarded grants totaling more than \$1.9 million to Buffalo Niagara community organizations.

About Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries:

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System has more than 3.2 million materials available including books, eBooks, DVDs, music and more. Free library cards (traditional and eLibrary) are available to residents of Erie County, NY as well as to those who work and/or attend school in Erie County. For more information on Summer Reading programs call 716-858-8900 or visit <http://www.BuffaloLib.org>. Follow the library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) and the new podcast "[All Booked Up!](#)"

For More Information:

Katharine Smith, Rotary Club of Buffalo, 716-839-3696
Joy Testa Cinquino, Library, 716-858-7182

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Buffalo & Erie County Public Library * 1 Lafayette Square * Buffalo, NY 14203 * (716) 858-8900 * Fax: (716) 858-6211
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