



Lions RAP



(Lions Reading Action Program)

FACT: Sixty-six percent of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

FACT: Twenty-five percent of children in America grow up without learning how to read.

FACT: Nearly Eighty-five percent of the juveniles who face trial in the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate, proving that there is a close relationship between illiteracy and crime. More than 60% of all inmates are functionally illiterate.

In 2012, International President Wayne Madden began the Lions Reading Action Program to improve literacy around the world. In 2013, under the guidance of International President Barry Palmer, it was decided to extend the Lions RAP for an additional 10 years. Every Lions club is encouraged to have an active Reading Action Program in their communities.

How can we do this? A good start is to download the RAP Planning Guide from the LCI website, lionsclubs.org. Simply type RAP in the search box to find the document. It takes you through a process to direct your efforts.

Some ideas for projects include developing a pre-school reading program, perhaps working with your local library. Another is to supply backpacks and school supplies to children in need. For the visually impaired, we can supply Braille books, or books on tape. We can also tutor adults in reading, math, or science. In the near future, include books in your Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets you distribute. (61% of low income families have no books at home to read.) The possibilities are limitless.

Please let me know at josh4bryce@yahoo.com or 410-713-2295 about what projects your club is involved in, so that we may share our ideas together. Keep in mind that if your program is directed toward youth, it can qualify as part of the Centennial Service Program.

Lion Carol Schoonover,
RAP Coordinator