

### District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club

Project Title: Josh the Otter Program at RH Dana Elementary School & Buddy Bench for RH Dana Elementary School

☒ Progress Report ☐ Final Report

Josh the Otter:

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries

*On May 26, 2023, members of the club will present to students in grades 2nd-4th at RH Dana Elementary School, a presentation on water safety through the Josh the Otter program. The presentation will include interaction with the Josh the Otter mascot (a member in a mascot costume), reading of the Josh the Otter book, giving out books and coloring books to students, and teaching the students the Josh the Otter song. There will also be a discussion on water safety.*

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project? *We plan to have at least 5 Rotarians participate in the project.*
3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples. *Rotarians will pass out books, interact with the students, present material to students, and dress up in the mascot costume to get students excited about water safety.*
4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project? *At least 150 students along with students' teachers, parents, and siblings will benefit from this program.*
5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project? *Because of an increase in awareness on water safety, through the Josh the Otter program, there should be fewer drownings in kids ages 2-11 within the RH Dana Elementary School population.*
6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role? *Josh the Otter / Joshua Collingsworth Foundation provided the program and books.*

Buddy Benches

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries

*Buddy Bench: During the latter part of May of 2023, a "Friend Bench" will be installed at RH Dana Elementary school. Originally, the MBSR Club had intended to install a "Buddy Bench" which is a worldwide program that provides students with a place to sit when they need a buddy or friend. After doing more research on Buddy Benches, we found research suggesting adverse effects to students who use Buddy Benches for this purpose suggesting, "Increased visibility of these students' difficulties could damage their peer status and make them less attractive for real friendships, which would serve to protect them from bullying. The bench could also signal vulnerability to a broader group of students who bully but had not previously noticed these kids, such as if they didn't share classes (Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Australia)." We therefore plan to install a "Friend Bench" where friends may go to talk.*

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project? *We plan to have at least 4 Rotarians participate in the project.*
3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples. *Rotarians will help install the bench in the school yard as well as paint the bench to be more appealing to students..*
4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project? *Teachers, teacher-aides and parents will also be able to benefit from the project as the bench will provide a place for students, teachers and parents to sit.*
5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project? *The project will provide a long term place for students, teachers and parents and other community members to sit, fostering increased communication.*

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role? *Treetop Products will provide the benches.*

**Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!**

7. Income

Amount

1. District Grant funds approved by the District	400
2. Club contribution	400
3. Other funding (specify) – donations from 2 members	915.42
<b>Total Project Income</b>	<b>1715.42</b>

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

1. Rotary Partner Packets with Books, Coloring Book and Sticker	503.75
2. Friend / Buddy Bench	1211.67
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>	<b>1715.42</b>

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



Date: 4/13/23

Print name, Rotary title, and club

Heather Gillon, Acting President, Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club