

Hello to our faithful sponsors and supporters:

2020 will be a year not easily forgotten, the pandemic has forced many changes to our lives and our society as a whole. Perhaps the most devastating result of this virus is the damage done to the education of our children, especially those in the early grades. We believe the most important skill our children need is the ability to read.

For many years the Dick Hillier Tutoring program has addressed the problem of students who cannot read by the completion of the third grade. Students and teachers working in the classroom together has proven to be successful. Our data has shown how effective the program has been. Unfortunately, with the implementation of remote learning we found that reading tutoring is difficult and proving to be ineffective. Now that the school year is half over the Rotary Club of Rio Rancho has made the decision to suspend the program for the remainder of the school year.

The students who would have benefitted from additional help provided by their own teacher will be further behind next year when normality returns. They will be joined by many other students whose educational progress was negatively affected by the pandemic. Rotary's motto is "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" and our tutoring program is an example of how we live this creed. These students are our future and these teachers are to be commended for their commitment to this project. Our task next year to help all these students will be dramatic. As Rotarians we do not flinch from adversity, we double our efforts and will succeed.

The Dick Hillier Tutoring program's goal is to expand the program for the 2021-2022 year to address the needs of more early grade students. We thank those of you who have sponsored the program in the past and ask those who see the importance of reading to join and support us. We are planning for the expansion of the program to more schools and more students, with a goal of compensating for the problems that remote learning has presented us this last year.