



## SIMI VALLEY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, INC

2969 Tapo Canyon Road \* Simi Valley, CA 93063 \* (805) 526-1735

DATE

Mr. XXX XXXXX

Simi Sunrise Rotary Allocations

PO Box 11

Simi Valley, CA 93062

Dear Mr. XXXX,

The Simi Valley Friends of the Library Children's Book Week Celebration committee respectfully submits this request to the Simi Sunrise Rotary for a matching grant of \$2,500 that would put quality children's books into the hands of more than 12,000 children in Simi Valley.

From [DATE], the Simi Valley Friends of the Library will be sponsoring its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Book Week Celebration. The Friends will be bringing in award-winning authors to visit 21 elementary schools in Simi Valley as Authors-in-Residence: Joe Cepeda, Kristine O'Connell George, Geri Keams and Amada Irma Perez. Our goal is to raise funds so that *every* public school library can receive a set of books from the visiting authors that would circulate to students. Books would carry a bookplate attributing the source to the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and our publicity would list Rotary as a major sponsor of our Celebration. Our request to you (\$2,500) is half of the full amount needed (\$5,000); the Simi Valley Friends of the Library will be providing matching funds. At 16 books per set per school, this gift of books would add significantly to our schools' library shelves.

We didn't think that the book situation could get worse, but it has. And that's why we are appealing to the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise for assistance. Last year, we told you of a situation in which a school in Simi Valley had a total book-buying budget of \$205 for over 500 children. This year, the budget for local school libraries is zero. Right – zero. According to the California Department of Education, the average cost of a children's and young adult hardcover book in [YEAR] was \$19.31.

This is something we know this for sure: *local school librarians report that once an author has visited a school and met students personally, the circulation rate of those books – and others – increases dramatically.* There is no better way to promote literacy across our entire community.

In addition to the Authors-in-Residence program, the Children's Book Week Celebration committee will also be hosting Family Night @ the Library, themed “*WILD ABOUT BOOKS*,” on [DATE]. This popular community event encourages families to read together. We invite Rotarians to attend this gala evening where we will personally acknowledge Rotary's contribution.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us provide a fully-rounded literacy program for Simi Valley's children through the Simi Valley Library. If you need any further information, please do call. Thank you so much for your consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alexis O'Neill, Chairperson

Children's Book Week Celebration Committee (805) 581-1906