

# The Future Readers Of Garland Reading Program

The FROG Reading Program

Nomination for Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

May 27, 2008

Altrusa International, Inc. of Garland, Texas

Post Office Box 460025

Garland, Texas 75046

U.S.A.

District Nine

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award  
ENTRY FORM

*Please type or print. (If you need additional room, please add separate sheets of paper to the entry form.)*

**District:** Nine

**Name of Altrusa Club:** Altrusa International, Inc. of Garland, Texas

**Address:** Post Office Box 460025

**City:** Garland

**State/Province:** Texas

**Country:** U.S.A.

**Zip/Postal Code:** 75046

**Contact Person:** Laura Trainor

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**Date (day, month, year):** May 27, 2008

**Club Membership (as of entry date):** 26 members

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**Project Title:** The Future Readers Of Garland Reading Program (FROG)

Statistics published in Texas revealed a 40% drop out rate for Spanish speaking students in high schools. One rationale behind this dropout rate is students cannot read well enough in English to be successful in high school classes. Our goals were to encourage the students to read and comprehend English, pass their TAKS tests and establish good reading habits to benefit their future school careers.

We expanded our FROG Reading Program this year to Heather Glen Elementary and continued it at Daugherty Elementary School. The FROG program is a four phase program which began in October, 2007 and ended on April 20, 2008 and benefits a primarily Spanish speaking population. In phase one, members read books aloud to 300 Kindergarten and first graders each week at both schools for a total of 181 volunteer hours.

Phase two of the FROG Program utilizes Heifer International's Read to Feed Program where volunteers teach low income families around the world to use farm animals as a source of income to improve their own well being. Several members initially heard about this program from the Oprah Winfrey Show and were impressed that people in low income areas were learning how to help themselves. After further research our club members thought it was a great reading incentive program. After meeting with the school principals, the second, third, fourth, and fifth grades from Daugherty and the third graders from Heather Glen participated in this program. They watched a video about the program and received a brochure to share with their families about Heifer International and how reading books would contribute to this program. Altrusans signed up to participate in specific phases and tasks for the project. The students were monitored by the library resource aids, who e-mailed the community service and project chairs, updated point and book tallies each six weeks which were reported to the club at

meetings and in the monthly newsletter. The 366 students read 17, 521 books, passed 13,898 tests to earn \$1,740.00 of the \$2,150 budget. The students voted by grade level on groups of animals to fit their budgets. They were able to purchase three water buffalos, five goats, one trio of rabbits, three honey bee hives and twelve flocks of chickens to be delivered by Heifer International. Special recognition prizes will be given to the top three readers at each grade level at their end of the year award ceremonies. A local company donated 15 reading medals and certificates to the 15 top readers. Each grade level will receive a certificate with their Read to Feed animal choices to display in the school library.

In phase three the Annual FROG Fair was held May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Daugherty Elementary and on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Heather Glen Elementary. Kindergarten through fifth grades participated at Daugherty with 400 students and Kindergarten through third grades participated at Heather Glen with 440 students. Each of the 840 students received a cookie, a frog reading pal and their own book. Local grocers and girl scout Moms donated the cookies and Half Price Books donated the gently used books. We had a FROG Fair budget of \$300 and actually spent \$80.00 on the FROG reading pals.

In phase four we added TAKS tutoring for students in the FROG program this year. Three Altrusans who are retired teachers spent 74 hours of math and reading tutoring time with 17 at risk of failing, third graders. 90% of these students passed their TAKS tests.

Members not able to participate at school scheduled three book pick up dates from Half Price Books and sorted and labeled books and solicited donations for cookies. We had 92% club participation for the FROG project with a total of 401 member service hours. We had a total of

124 hours for ways and means for the poinsettia sale which helped fund the FROG project. We also received a \$500.00 grant from International. The 840 participating students each received their own book and Half Price books donated an additional 270 books at Christmas time for Daugherty's second through fourth grade students for a yearly total of 1,110 books. The 366 students in the Read to Feed Phase read 17,521 books. Overall there were 840 students helped by this project and 24 International families received the animals. These families are required to pass on offspring and training to more families in their villages so a cycle of learning and giving will continue. We received positive feedback from teachers and parents to continue and expand this reading incentive program next year. We had a press release in the Garland News, Dallas Morning News and in the Garland Federation of Clubs Newsletter. We also received the Club of the Year Award from the Garland Federation of Clubs for our reading projects.



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Signature of Club President