

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1992

Dear Ms. Gardner,

Thank you so much for sharing with me the sample of your literacy program that the James I. Gibson Library and Rotary International have jointly sponsored. What a wonderful way to encourage young parents to read to their children. Reading truly puts the sum knowledge of all mankind right at your fingertips -- especially if you are near a well-stocked library.

My very best wishes to you and your staff and to the wonderful members of Henderson Rotary Club. What would this country do without organizations like Rotary International who provide vaccine to children on a world-wide basis and still have the time, energy, and resources to support literacy programs, along with their many other public service programs. You couldn't have a better partner.

With all best wishes,

Warmly,



Ms. Carroll Gardner
Librarian
James I. Gibson
Public Library
280 Water Street
Henderson, Nevada 89015



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Senate

RAISE A READER

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a unique partnership that has been developed between the Henderson Public Library, the Henderson Rotary Club, and St. Rose Dominican Hospital. Working together, they have formulated the "Raise a Reader" project, an innovative program designed to encourage parents to begin reading to their children at an early age.

Recognizing that literacy is a national concern, Henderson Rotarians are working on becoming leaders in the development of a community reading program that addresses literacy at a very young age, while children are infants.

While meeting informally over dinner, Carroll Gardner, director of the Henderson Public Library; Jack Childs, Rotary vocational service director; and Marcia Hawkins, marketing director at St. Rose Dominican Hospital began talking about providing newborn babies with their first library card. Fur-

ther discussion led to a plan that would provide infants, and their families, with a packet of materials that would include the baby's first book, information about special services offered by the library, an application for a library card, and a booklet on how to raise a reader.

The Henderson Public Library and the Henderson Rotary Club know that literacy is a great concern in this country, and that parents can foster a habit of reading and a love of learning if they share books with their children. All of us who read know that books can take us to faraway lands, to historic places, and to realms of discovery. This program will ensure that even more children will have access to the opportunities awaiting them in books.

I congratulate the Henderson Rotary Club, the Henderson Library, and St. Rose Dominican Hospital for this great program. I hope it will be a model program for communities across the country to follow.●