



News Release

Dallas Police Department

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DPD to Read to Kindergartners “I Like Me”

On the morning of May 6, 2009, the Rotary Club of Dallas will lead its **11th** annual delivery and reading of more than 1,500 individually personalized books entitled “I Like Me!” to kindergartners in Dallas Public Schools. Rotary will be led by District Governor L.B. Showalter, Past-District Governor Linus Wright (also Past-Superintendent of Dallas Public Schools and Under-Secretary of Education), and Dallas Club President Frank Breedlove.

DISD, led by Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa, will provide yellow school buses and drivers to transport 100 to 200 volunteers from [Reunion Arena Parking Lot E \(Memorial and Hotel\) at 9:00a.m. to and from the involved schools. Volunteers will be returned to Lot E before noon.](#)

The Preston Hollow Presbyterian Foundation is a financial partner with the Rotary Club’s Foundation this year. This Rotary-led team has distributed more than 41,000 personalized books to DISD over the last ten years. Other partners include the US Department of Education and Dallas County Schools. [Led personally in the project by Fire Chief Eddie Burns and Police Chief David Kunkle, these Dallas City Departments will provide up to 100 uniformed officers to read that morning.](#) Commitments are also expected from other Rotary clubs, plus Rotary Interact service clubs at Woodrow Wilson, Adamson, and Hillcrest High Schools.

“I Like Me!” was written by Kansas Rotarian Vern Wheeler in an effort to develop self-concept and a joy of reading in kindergartners. Each hard cover, full-color book contains multiple messages to encourage positive and cooperative actions by students. Studies show it to be a doubly powerful tool for literacy and emotional development because the printed text includes the name of the kindergartner plus two best friends, teacher, principal, school, and city. Recipients are amazed that a book is written about them, leading to repeated readings. Fifth graders at repeat schools anxiously tell about these personalized books they received “way back” in kindergarten. The author plans to join the celebration in Dallas on May 6.

Other dignitaries expected to participate this year are Tincy Miller, Past Chair of the Texas State Board of Education, and Larry Duncan, Dallas County Schools’ Board President. For more information, please contact John Buhl, Project Chair, at 214-533-5680.