

**Altrusa International, Inc.**

**Letha H. Brown Literacy Award**

**Entry Form**

Name of Club: Altrusa International Inc. of Greenville, Texas

Address: P.O. Box 115

City: Greenville, Texas

Country: USA

Zip: 75403-0115

District: Nine

Date: 22, May, 2007

Club Membership: 57

Project Title: Reading Rodeo

READING RODEO

Nomination for  
Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

May 22, 2007

Altrusa International, Inc. of Greenville, Texas  
2006-2007

P.O. Box 115  
Greenville, Texas 75403-0115  
USA

District Nine

## Reading Rodeo

The Service Committee of the Altrusa Club of Greenville wanted to develop a new service project for our club in 2006-2007. We were already involved in reading with students at Crockett Elementary, a lower income elementary school with little parent involvement. After speaking with the Principal of the school we felt that the students needed encouragement, recognition and a little fun. A one day event was planned where "community heroes" came into the school and read one-on-one with each student. The Greenville Altrusa Club purchased age-appropriate books for the students to have read to them and take home. This need was not being met by anyone else for this campus. Altrusa already had a Books Around Town (B.A.T.) project in place and felt like Reading Rodeo would be a perfect fit.

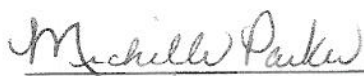
Work assignments were made among committee members which included refreshments, book ordering, and a telephone/email committee. Funds were available from the annual Poinsettia Sale with \$3000 in the budget for all B.A.T. projects. Every Altrusan was called and offered several ways in which they could participate which included reading to students, making cookies, or making contacts to community heroes. Announcements were made at every meeting and newsletter articles submitted to remind Altrusans of the project. We had 30% of our club who read to students, about 60% who provided refreshments and 5% who made contacts for us. We had five members who spent the day at Crockett for Reading Rodeo with an approximate total of 250 service hours.

The school principal was contacted early in the planning stages in August of 2006. March 15, 2007 was set for the event because it was during "Texas Month" at the school. Western attire was encouraged for community heroes, but not required to participate. The school was decorated "Texas Western" and students were allowed to wear western wear instead of the normal standardized dress for the day.

Our community support was amazing. We had policemen, firemen, paramedics, care flight personnel, school board members and administrators, city council members and the Greenville mayor who participated. There was a total of 145 community heroes who attended and read to the 250 students. This number included 63 Greenville High School students and teachers who were bused to Crockett for their

reading times. Cheerleaders, athletes, drill team members, academic teams and service groups participated. Many community members commented on what a great idea this was and why we did not do this more often.

We received a front page picture in the Greenville Herald Banner the next morning as well as a thank you "letter to the editor" from the principal. This project got our club excited about participating in service. Our plans are to carry this over to the Boys & Girls Club with a Reading Around the World international project to be held May 22, 2007. The outlook for next year includes having a Reading Rodeo at another elementary campus in the fall and again at Crockett Elementary in the spring.



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Signature of Club President

## READING RODEO | CROCKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



TRACY CHESNEY / HERALD-BANNER

Greenville Police Sgt. Steve Walden takes turns reading with fourth grader Sarah Hawkins at the Reading Rodeo at Crockett Elementary School Thursday morning. Sponsored by the Altrusa International Club, more than 200 community leaders, first responders, high school students and volunteers read to students during the day.

### Received wonderful gift

To the editor:

On March 15 Crockett Elementary was honored and privileged to receive a wonderful gift from an outstanding group of people. The Altrusa Club of Greenville hosted a Reading Rodeo. This exceptional group arranged for our campus to be flooded with Greenville heroes to read to each and every student one-

on-one and for each and every child to leave that day with a new book. It was a rip-roaring fun time for all who were involved.

The Altrusa Club of Greenville has been a faithful group of volunteers in the past years to Crockett through their work in the HOSTS mentoring program several years ago and most recently volunteering in our library. These ladies have become a part of our family and the students recognize them as fun helpers who come weekly to read to them and with them.

We cannot begin to express our gratitude for their dedication and hard work. All we can do is say thank you. Thank you to Altrusa and to all of our heroes: community members, city leaders, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, school administrators and high school students.

Amy Pool, Principal  
Crockett Elementary