

Service Above Self: Rotarians Share their Talents



Rotarians from Barrington Breakfast Rotary and the Rotary Club of Chicago O'Hare collaborated to support Sunny Hills Elementary School.

ROTARY CLUBS BENEFIT SUNNY HILL SCHOOL

ON APRIL 11, TWO ROTARY CLUBS—Barrington Breakfast Rotary and the Rotary Club of Chicago—presented a heartwarming and useful gift to students at Sunny Hill Elementary School. The Rotary Club of O'Hare's 'airline surplus items' project was made known to members of the Barrington club, and some of its members, Steve Hollis, Mary Holcomb, Jack Caldwell, Lew Parks, Mike Martinez, and Narayan Murarka, picked up the merchandise from a warehouse near the airport. Thanks go to Rotarians Patricia and Jack Ranttila who helped make this possible. The two Rotary Clubs gathered at Sunny Hill to distribute the blankets, vanity kits, pencils, and more to appreciative students.



SUMMER EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS PROGRAM IS UNVEILED



Randy Lewis, Rita Rippentrop (BYFS), and David Waring (Rotary) announce the Summer Employment Transitions program at a recent Barrington Breakfast Rotary at The Garlands.

ON FEB. 23, DAVID WARING, chairman of the Barrington Breakfast Rotary's Program Committee, introduced an initiative new to the Barrington area, but one that has seen great success in Canada, and in large corporations. Randy Lewis is a Barrington based innovator, author, and activist through the NogWog Disabilities Initiative, and a recent keynote speaker for the Barrington Area Community Foundation (BACF). Here, Lewis talks about the "SET" program:

"Dave heard me speak about the program at the BACF gala in December 2015. Dave and I knew each other through church and he approached me about how we could get started in Barrington. Barrington "Summer Employment Transitions", which we borrowed from the originating agency in Sarnia, Ontario, has been doing it for 20 years with over 80 students per summer. By providing paid summer employment opportunities for students with disabilities, students will gain important skills and experience that will help them secure permanent employment when they

enter the workforce. Plus, it will expose local employers to the talents of an untapped workforce which should increase future employment opportunities."

Waring is serving as the community and business liaison to recruit employers. Rita Rippentrop at BYFS will oversee day-to-operations, recruit students with disabilities, and recruit the college job coaches to partner with the students. Lewis' role is to oversee the overall structure of the program and shepherd it through this initial year of startup.

This month, the SET team completes the recruitment of employers, students, and job coaches and will begin to match them up for the best employer and student experience. Job coaches begin their training the first of June, and each will be paired with students to begin working in mid-June for six weeks. U

To learn more or to participate, visit www.barrington-set.org.