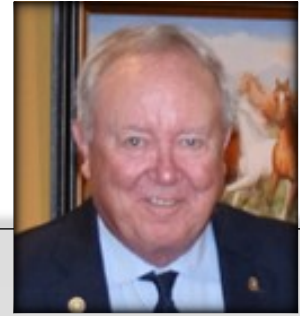




**Rotary Roots to Wings**  
Roots to grow & wings to soar



## The Dick Hillier Tutoring Program

The Rotary Club of Rio Rancho has been involved with the tutoring of students since 2010. It began with first through third grades and now targets third grade students that are underperforming in reading. Dick Hillier, a thirty year Rotarian, was the principal driver of this program and was responsible for growing the program from one school to four Rio Rancho elementary schools. Dick passed away in 2015 and because of his passion for the program, the Rotary Club named the tutoring program in his honor.

The Dick Hillier Tutoring Program recognizes that certain students fall into a category not currently supported by any special state or federal program. These students are close to achieving grade level performance, but will benefit from additional help. The Dick Hillier Tutoring Program pays teachers a small stipend to participate. This program allows participating teachers to have a maximum of six students from their own class. These students will be tutored before or after the instructional day to help them reach reading proficiency.

This program has received positive reviews from educators, parents and students. Not only have the tutored students increased their reading skills, they have improved in other areas as well. They showed increased confidence and began to participate in class discussions and in some cases started helping other students with the class activities. The teachers have said that the program has made the students' classroom experience better.

Currently there are six Rio Rancho Elementary schools with twenty teachers who each have five to six students participating in the program. Our goal is to expand even further. The eventual goal is to include all elementary schools in Rio Rancho and to reach out to schools within Sandoval County. These students will advance to the next grade with a firm grasp of reading. It is anticipated that with these strong academic roots, the students will thrive as they progress through their educational experience.

Other elementary schools are aware of this program's success and have requested the program for their underperforming students. Sponsorships help us to continue to expand the Dick Hillier Tutoring Program, which enables us to provide the benefits of the program to children in other schools and communities.



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