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Rotarian
takes books
to Guatemala

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Local Rotarian - Carol Tyger - delivers books to Guatemala

Books are the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind, which are delivered down from generation to generation as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn.



~ Joseph Addison ~

by **Sudie Crouch**
Dawson News & Advertiser

Volunteerism is practically a way of life for Carol Tyger.

The Dawson County resident is involved in many different volunteer projects and community organizations. She is president of the Dawson County Arts Council, active with R.E.A.D, and teaches at the Adult Literacy Center among other activities - many of those pursuits being centered around literacy. But Tyger's involvement with the Rotary Club of Dawson County may be the most rewarding of all her volunteer projects.

Tyger recently returned from her second trip to Guatemala, where she was one of 25 representatives from the United States to participate in a joint project between the North American and Guatemalan Rotary clubs and the



opportunities. The books are given to schools in Guatemala, which rents a set of four books for \$9 a year. The program is self-sustaining as it creates a fund to replace the books.

Tyger was one of the Rotarians who participated in the presentation of the books in Guatemala. She said the presentation was "symbolic," as one child from each class was brought forward and presented with one book for their class. The students also were given two pencils and a pen, as well as different sporting goods like balls for recreation. Tyger found the presentation moving, as "the parents were crying because they knew their kids would have a better future than they did."

The local Heart in Hand Quilt Guild also made five quilt maps of the world for the classrooms that Tyger presented; many of the students had never seen a map of world before.

nonprofit organization, Cooperative for Education (CoEd). The Rotary Club of Dawson County was one of 56 clubs that pledged monies to the project - raising \$2,500 that goes directly to purchase textbooks, library materials and/or computers.

Guatemala has a high poverty rate, which may be contributed to the literacy rate being one of the lowest in North and South America. With more than 90 percent of the secondary schools not having adequate books and tools, students in Guatemala are not being equipped with the basic education skills needed when they graduate. Being able to read, learn and get an education allows the children of Guatemala to pursue a life their parents



Photos courtesy of Carol Tyger

Carol Tyger, left, stands with her Guatemalan scholarship student, Gladys, during her recent trip to deliver books.

could not. The CoEd program and partnerships with the Rotary clubs and Guatemala Literacy Project helps provide these much needed resources and

Tyger also has a Guatemalan scholarship student, Gladys, who she was able to meet during the trip. Gladys, thanks to Tyger's assistance, is doing well in school and looking forward to furthering her education in the future.

The program is not only assisting with education, but helping strengthen the economy of Guatemala. The textbooks are published in Guatemala and shipped from a local warehouse there, providing jobs.

"This is the 14th year this program has been going," Tyger said. "Students who got the first books are now working in the warehouse."

Carol's Trip - in pictures



Local Rotarian Carol Tyger recently traveled to Guatemala to deliver books.

