

THE COMPUTER ASSISTED LITERACY SOLUTION  
Rotary's newest project to help children or adults with reading deficiencies

**I. What CALS is**

- A. A computer based program which teaches foundation skills for reading
- B. A method whereby children (or adults) who can't read can be given individualized help.
- C. A self paced teaching program which teaches, assesses and motivates the student. ( A supportive mentor for each student can also play a role).
- D. A program that was field tested before being adopted by Rotary

**II. What CALS can do**

- A. Take a student (or adult) who can't read due to failures to master the basic foundation skills for reading --- and enable that person to acquire those skills.
- B. Enable a child who has fallen behind by a grade level or more to catch up.
- C. Enable a dyslexic child to overcome the first and most basic barrier to reading.

**III How students are found and signed up**

- A. The Rotary club appoints a member to serve as the local CALS sponsor
- B. The sponsor finds local partners who can identify children (or adults) in need of CALS and who can provide high speed internet access for the children.( or adults).
- C. The local partner signs up individual students and facilitators
- D. The local Rotary club sends \$80 per student to the provider of the
- E. The student spends 10 to 50 hours on the computer developing the basic reading skills which were lacking.
- F. When the student has completed the learning process the local partner reports the results to the Rotary club.

**III. Where CALS can be used**

- A. In a school setting
- B. In a public library
- C. In an adult literacy program
- D. In a program offered by any community group such as the Boys and Girls Club, a local church, the Salvation Army, or the YMCA.
- E. In a jail, prison or juvenile detention facility
- F. In a private home (e.g. for a home schooled child with dyslexia)

#### **IV. What the local Rotary club does**

- A. Finds a local partner to identify the needy students and provide high speed internet access for each student.
- B. Appoints a club member to serve as the sponsor

#### **V. How the local Rotary club can get started**

- A. To find out more about CALS, contact the RI Literacy Resource Group's advisor for CALS, Vince Walter. His contact information is:

Telephone: 905-737-0144

E-Mail: [vcw@idirect.com](mailto:vcw@idirect.com)

- B. In planning your CALS project determine the number of needy students the club is able to sponsor. The cost is \$80 per student. The club can be the sole sponsor of a student. Or outside groups can participate as co-sponsors.
- C. Once it is clear that the club will sponsor one or more students, contact should be made with AutoSkill, the provider of the computer program used in Rotary's CALS project. The contact person is Peter Cleary. His contact information is:

Telephone: 800-288-6754 ext 227 (North America)

E-Mail: [peter.cleary@autoskill.com](mailto:peter.cleary@autoskill.com)