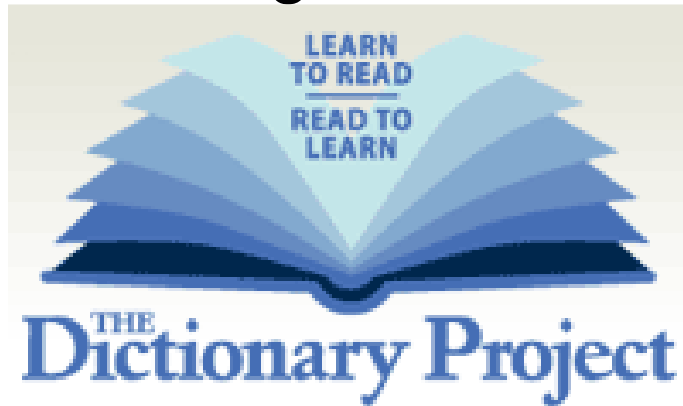


Petersburg Lodge 237 Distributes Dictionaries and Drug Awareness Literature



Petersburg Elks #237 distributed 502 Dictionaries and Drug Awareness literature to seven elementary schools in the communities of Petersburg and Dinwiddie County. The following schools participated in the three day events: Ettrick, Matoaca, Sunnyside, Dinwiddie, Midway, Southside, and Sutherland

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1995 by Mary French of Charleston, SC. Its primary focus is to promote literacy to children in third-grade as they transition from learning how to read to identify and use information. Over the course of the program nearly 15 million third-grade students have received dictionaries including about 2.5 million dictionaries donated in 2009.

Elks joined this movement in 2004 and nationwide have donated more than 1.2 million dictionaries to third-grade students and their teachers as sponsors of The Dictionary Project over the last 6 years. There are 600 lodges that actively participate in the program.

The Elks National Drug Awareness Program strives to teach all children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. As the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the United States, the program relies on state, district and Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle. By taking pride in America's communities and youth, the program takes action against youth drug use through education and inspiration.