

# Tualatin Rotary Supports Peace Corps in Costa Rica

SUBMITTED BY: **JEFF WELSH**

Tualatin Rotary teamed up with Peace Corps to support a literacy project in Costa Rica. A donation of \$500 was made to start building a library at the grade school in the village of Colonia la Libertad, in Alajuela province, Costa Rica.

Andrea Welsh, 2005 Tualatin High School graduate/2009 U of O graduate, is a Peace Corps volunteer serving in Costa Rica. She has been in Costa Rica for 20 months and will finish her service in May of 2012. Home for the holidays, she visited Tualatin Rotary to receive the donation and briefly share with the 'locals' about the needs in her community.

Colonia la Libertad is a small community of about 230 people. The grade school has 48 children in grades K through 6. They have so few books and materials that the children often share one book per ten students. One student reads a passage out loud and the others copy what they hear on paper. It's very slow progress.



This is the school library bookcase. Most of these books are very old and contain out-dated information. In addition to encouraging the love of reading within in the students of the school, a strong piece of this library project will be educating the teachers about how they can use books as a powerful tool in the classroom. Examples include assigning each student their



From right to left: Tualatin Rotary president Cheryl Dorman, Tualatin Rotarian Jeff Welsh and Peace Corps volunteer Andrea Welsh.

own book (instead of sharing one book per 10 students), allowing students to take books home to do homework, carrying out independent reading projects and having students read aloud during class time.



In May of 2011, Tualatin Rotary put on its first annual Wheel of Dreams auction fund raiser. Due to the generosity and support of Tualatin businesses and attendees, Tualatin Rotary raised enough money to support many projects in our local community (Tualatin School House Pantry) as well as look to other areas of the world such as Costa Rica. Next year's auction will be on Friday night, June 1st, 2012 at the Tualatin Country Club.



**Jeff Welsh**, owner of InSource Marketing, is an Internet Marketing consultant. He specializes in helping small businesses 'Get Found' on the Internet. He has lived in Tualatin for 18 years. You can contact him via his Google Places page: <http://get1.us/InSource>, Phone: 503-703-8347 Email: [jeffw@insource1.com](mailto:jeffw@insource1.com)