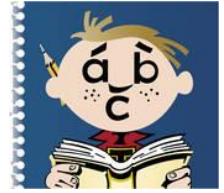


# SOUNDS, RCPE and US Peace Corps partnership flourishes



The Rotary Club of Pretoria East initiated the SOUNDS project in March 2011. Contact was established with Peace Corps Volunteers almost immediately, but the training of volunteers was only started in 2012. Recently the 11<sup>th</sup> group of volunteers have undergone their training. Every year, two groups of volunteers arrive in the country, and in total 139 volunteers have been trained and 145 new sets of SOUNDS letters handed out.

The Peace Corps volunteers are encouraged to hand their sets onto a community member (counterpart). It is expected of such an individual to be capable of continuing the literacy teaching by using SOUNDS so that the community may continue to benefit. In those instances where this cannot be achieved, the volunteer is encouraged to return the set to their HQ for re-cycling. This process is now functioning very well.

The last group of volunteers to receive training was 12 young people who are based principally in Limpopo. The group received training from Robin Jones and his wife, Edie, in how to use SOUNDS in crèches, Grade R, Grade 1 and as a remedial tool for all kids at the schools who have reading difficulties. This training occurred on 9 October when all the 12 arrived by Uber at Robin and Edie's home.

The outcomes of this project are difficult to pin down because its footprint is so wide, but some special cases do exist.



One volunteer based between Bronkhorstspuit and Groblersdal was able to position sets in 11 different crèches.

Each volunteer left the training session with the necessary skills, a **SOUNDS** set, a writing board, a **Rotary Illustrated Dictionary** and details of the **Books in Homes** programme.

