

Bell rings for Rotary club

Bee Regional Staff

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Back row, from left, parent Timothy Caldwell, Assistance League President Katie Kunz, Point West Rotary President Doug Weill, Doris Hanson and Bud Ackerman with Timothy Jr., left, and Porschavy Caldwell. Special to The Bee

The Rotary Club of Point West has been awarded the National Assistance League's Operation School Bell Award.

The award was given for the club's dedication and commitment to Operation School Bell, an Assistance League program that supplies new uniforms or new suitable school clothing, shoe vouchers, hygiene kits, backpacks, book bags and books to schoolchildren in need. Point West Rotary President Doug Weill and President-elect Bud Ackerman accepted the award from Assistance League President Katie Kunz and immediate past President Doris Hanson.

The Rotary Club of Point West has selected Assistance League of Sacramento as its Brewfest Charity Partner for the past two years, donating more than \$15,000 to the Operation School Bell program. About 2,200 children were served last year by Operation School Bell in four school districts: Folsom Cordova Unified, Rio Linda Union Elementary, Sacramento City Unified and San Juan Unified. Through the funds raised by Point West, school clothing for more than 500 Sacramento-area children has been provided.

"I am grateful for the Assistance League's Operation School Bell program, which provided new school uniforms and shoe vouchers for my children," said parent Timothy Caldwell, who has two sons at Dyer-Kelly Elementary School.

With 162 members, Point West is the second-largest club in District 5180. Rotary International has more than 32,500 clubs worldwide with more than 1 million members in more than 165 countries.

Jonas Salk High Tech Academy and Encina High School are areas of focus for local contributions of money and time. Members are involved in mentoring and tutoring programs at both schools on a weekly basis.