



The **Achievement Beyond Obstacles (ABO) Program**, started by Reno South Rotary, and recently joined by the Rotary Club of Reno, Reno Central Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Sparks. It is an innovative scholarship program dedicated to students usually overlooked by other programs. Counselors from **every** high school in Washoe County—currently 20, including charter and private high schools—nominate one or more students for this program. These students have overcome major obstacles in their lives and will be continuing their education. These students usually do not qualify for other scholarships which are typically based upon grades or school participation.

The following is what the Rotary Clubs in Area 8 do but can be modified to fit your Club and Community. We would be pleased to talk with you about how you could make this program work in your area. To learn more about this and a program run by the Sebastopol RC do visit our webpage on the District website under Service (last item on pull down menu).

Once nominated, students attend an intensive 18-hour weekend Leadership Academy designed to equip them with new skills to succeed in school and in life. In addition, they can attend a Financial Literacy Workshop, where Rotarians and staff at Truckee Meadows Community College help them complete complicated forms that are often a barrier to their obtaining additional assistance. They also learn about the actual costs of college and trade schools, and are given information about how to plan and budget. Babysitting and translation are also provided for family members who wish to participate.

In addition, the Achievement Beyond Obstacles Program has begun a Mentoring component, which utilizes the Dean's Future Scholars program at the University of Nevada Reno and Truckee Meadows Community College. Activities in this portion of the ABO Program include meeting with successful college students and ABO alumni.