

The time is always right to do what is right. — *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

# Integrity

**Our volunteers, our  
donors, our literacy  
community, our Board  
of Directors, and our  
Staff, are all committed  
to doing the right thing.**

Together, we have built a clear path to our highest need children and families, and have developed a culturally aligned approach when selecting and delivering books to them. Our intentionality takes extra time and is more costly than other book giveaways. Meeting the community where they are with relevant and even

desired resources (i.e. books that reflect the kids' reading them) is the right thing to do.

Passing Science of Reading legislation has been a herculean effort in California. Ed Voice, Assemblymember Rivas, and the CTA negotiated until they had a bill that could be passed, giving us the Statewide Policy we need to help our kids learn to read. It was the right time to do what is right: help our children read.

Our mission: to help all children in our community read at grade-level, and our vision: that all children and adults develop the literacy skills they need to

**in·teg·ri·ty**  
*/int'egrədē/*  
*noun*

1. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness:

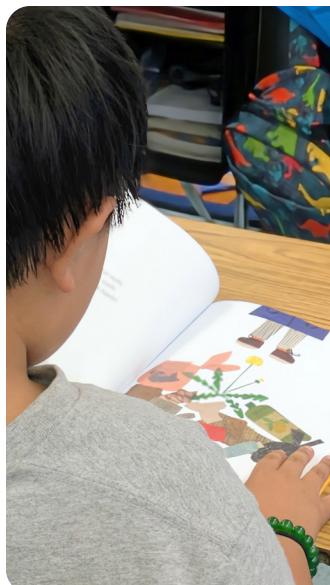
*"She is a respected leader with great integrity."*

fully participate in our economy and our democracy, remains our focus. We are grateful to everyone who has supported children's literacy and believe there is room to grow this movement. Please continue to help us bring literacy to community organizations and businesses.

**Your generous year-end support is critical to advancing children's literacy in our region. Thank you!**

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[www.sacralentoliteracy.org](http://www.sacralentoliteracy.org)

## PLEASE GIVE ONLINE!

While the Government shutdown and recent federal budget cuts have not directly affected the Foundation (yet), we are asking everyone to give through our on-line portal if possible. This will help us avoid potential mail delays. If you prefer to not use PayPal, call our office and we can use our Authorize Net portal to process your credit card contribution.

**Please consider prioritizing children's literacy in your year-end giving. It helps support our continued sustainability!**

2901 K Street, Suite 204  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 836-3540 • [sacramentoliteracy.org](http://sacramentoliteracy.org)

## MISSION

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation's mission is to help all children in our community read at grade-level.

## VISION

Our vision is to have all children and all adults develop the literacy skills they need to fully participate in our economy and in our democracy.

## OUR GOALS

- Put culturally relevant high-quality books in students' hands and homes.
- Support evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs.
- Expand summer reading programing and funding.

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Getz  
*President*

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## FOUNDATION STAFF

April L. Javist, Executive Director

Rigo Tovar, Program Manager

Tamara Robinson, Social Media Intern

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please consult your tax advisor.

Tax ID #68-0029756

# Promise Zone Literacy Initiative:



## Sacramento's Literacy Month

**During the month of September, we participated in four book giveaways and distributed 700 bags or 3,500 books to TK-2nd grade students.** This is less than last year, unfortunately, and something we hope to remedy next year.

We concluded Literacy Month with our Literacy Festival in collaboration with the Food Literacy Center's Oak Park Farmers Market. Twenty literacy focused organizations set up booths with activities and information for kids and parents. Many families from the neighboring community came out to enjoy the festival activities. Festival goers danced to Clean Slate, a live band performing old school Rhythm and Blues, and every child received at least one free book. The festival was appreciated by everyone! ■

## Elk Grove Rotary Partnership

**This Fall, the Rotary Club of Elk Grove is funding our culturally relevant book giveaway program at two Elk Grove Unified elementary schools.**

We are thrilled to align our missions to give 740 TK-2nd grade students at Charles Mack and Samuel Kennedy Elementary Schools a bag of culturally relevant books. Mark Thomas, a member of the Rotary Club of Elk Grove says, "Our club members understand that literacy, especially in [under-resourced] schools, is a major issue impeding their students' future ability to succeed. So many under-resourced students are without books at home to help continue to improve reading skills; whereas more affluent students have these resources."

One of the Rotary's focus areas of work is literacy, and our program is a great way to support positive literacy outcomes. In addition to financial support, Elk Grove Rotary club members volunteer during book giveaways to handbooks to the students. ■

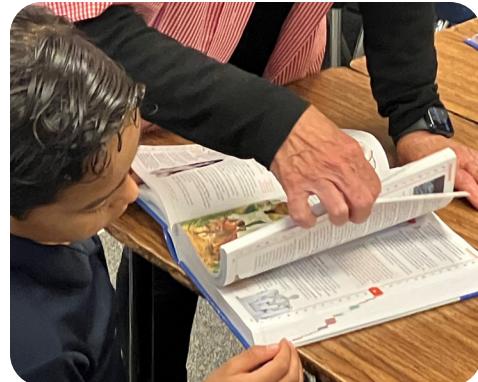


**Rotary Club  
Dictionary  
Give Aways –  
We can help!**

**If your Rotary Club wants to  
donate dictionaries, we can  
facilitate and organize the  
distribution.**

We identify the lowest cost dictionary vendor, set-up a volunteer portal for your Club and directly work with schools to give dictionaries to their students. ■

*If your Club is interested send us an e-mail at [info@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:info@sacramentoliteracy.org).*



# ADVOCACY UPDATE: Science of Reading Legislation (AB 1454) Passes with Unanimous Vote!

**Both houses of the California Legislature voted unanimously for AB 1454 and appropriated \$200M for teacher training and another allocation to develop instructional materials.**

Governor Newsom signed the hard-earned legislation on October 9, 2025. This makes California the 11th State to pass comprehensive literacy legislation. In 2023, we passed Reading Instruction legislation which directs higher education institutions to teach future teachers how to teach the Science of Reading and we passed the Early Screener legislation to help detect reading difficulties in kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades.

## We have legislation, now we need implementation:

Join our literacy advocacy effort! Let's encourage Sacramento County schools to adopt Science of Reading instruction. The Science of Reading bill, AB 1454, is now law. Let's keep our districts informed and push for swift adoption - your participation matters. ■

*Support literacy and sign up at <https://signup.com/go/vABhipS> today!*

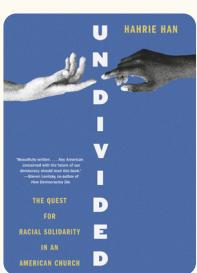


**We are so excited to welcome Hahrie Han, one of 22 MacArthur genius grant recipients in 2025, and author of *Undivided*.**

**March 14, 2026 - Save the Date!**

Hahrie Han was also named a 2022 Social Innovation Thought Leader of the Year by the World Economic Forum's Schwab Foundation. She is excited to meet Sacramento's literacy philanthropists!

**For further information please reach out to April at 916-836-3540 or email [april@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:april@sacramentoliteracy.org)**



## Meet the Board: Cindy Hill



**Cindy Hill is a seasoned marketing and brand strategist with more than 25 years of progressive experience in the hospitality and entertainment industries.**

As one of the early sales and marketing leaders behind the launch of W Hotels Worldwide, she spearheaded marketing initiatives across the globe. In 2019, Cindy founded Grace Marketing Agency, a boutique firm dedicated to helping—particularly women-owned—businesses craft compelling brand stories, launch new ventures, and implement innovative marketing strategies. Cindy's collaborations with renowned brands reflect her creative vision and strategic insight.

As a mother, Cindy's commitment to kids' reading is clear:

*"When kids learn to read early, they gain the confidence and tools to shape their own future. Literacy is the first step toward self-sufficiency—and every child deserves that start."*

Cindy is a board member of the National Association of Women Business Owners and the Sacramento Chapter of 100 Black Women. She enjoys music and making baked goods with her home-grown peaches.

Cindy is working with editors to complete her memoir, *A Race to Grace*, which will be released in December 2025. ■

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at [www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today).

## PARTNER

### (\$20,000+)

Daniel Brunner  
Elk Grove Rotary Foundation  
LifeSTEPS  
The PwC Foundation  
Tequila Museo Mayahuel

## DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

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Robin Netzer and Mark Paul  
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SMUD  
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### (\$100 - \$249)

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Linda Wensrich\*

## IN MEMORY OF

Marilyn McCall  
Major James A. Patrick,  
USMC (Ret)  
Nona Segal  
Sandy Warmington

## IN HONOR OF

April Javist  
Olivia and Carter Loesch

## NAMED ENDOWMENTS

Daniel & Rhea Brunner  
David & Maxine Clark Family Fund  
Jim & Kathleen Deeringer  
Sandra & Steven Felderstein  
Indru & Pramila Kriplani Trust  
Nancy Lawrence & Gordon Klein  
Beth Mullen  
Dennis & Nancy Marks  
Lois Ann Rosenberg

*Contributions received August 1 through October 31. An asterisk, \*, denotes monthly donors who gave between November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025.*



## End of Year Giving Ideas

**With the year-end upon us, you may be thinking about your contribution allocations, and we hope you are considering a gift to the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. No matter where you extend your philanthropy, here are a couple of factors you may not have considered:**

### Giving Appreciated Stock

You can make a gift of appreciated stock and avoid the capital gains taxes you would otherwise pay if you sold the stock.

### Giving Directly from your Retirement Plan

Giving directly from your IRA or qualified retirement fund is a great way to reduce your tax burden. If you are age 73 or older, you are obligated to make annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your retirement fund. To avoid

being taxed on those distributions, funds need to be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to the nonprofit; they cannot first pass through your hands. Check your IRA custodian's website for instructions on how to initiate a QCD.

**If you would like to make a contribution from your IRA, call our office today – we can help you. ■**