

Teamwork

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead

While small, the Literacy Foundation and the Sacramento literacy movement are growing through teamwork.

In recognition of building collaborations across the community the Foundation has taken on the responsibility of Literacy Convener. We host the Sacramento Literacy Coalition’s monthly check-in and once a year we mount a Literacy Festival at the Oak Park Farmers Market for a little fun, connection with others, and

an opportunity to reach families in the neighboring schools.

This year, the Ed Voice Institute, SCOE, Sacramento County Reads, SMUD, Teach for America, and Murphy Austin are joining the Foundation to host the festival.

As the local literacy convener, we also host the Literacy Map. Our goal is to become a data resource that will support the implementation of the Science of Reading policies and practices in every classroom in California. Sacramento’s Literacy community needs to continue to grow because **in Sacramento County, more kids cannot read at grade-level than can.**

Our staff, board, donors and volunteers are all busy putting books in the hands and

team·work (‘tēm-,wərk)
noun

1. cooperative or coordinated effort on the part of a group of persons acting together as a team or in the interests of a common cause.

homes of our most under resourced kids. This small group of thoughtful (and hard working) citizens are changing the lives of kids who need it the most, one book at a time. The Sacramento literacy community is growing stronger everyday and success will happen if we stick together until the goal of grade-level reading is met for every child.

Your support, every year, makes this work possible – it’s an honor to be on the same team with you. Thank you.

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SAVE THE DATE!

March 8, 2025 | The Kimpton Sawyer

For sponsorship information please reach out to our office by phone at 916-836-3540 or email your interest to info@sacramentoliteracy.org



www.sacramentoliteracy.org



Giving monthly is helpful to our continued sustainability!

Please consider prioritizing children’s literacy in your giving - the result will benefit us all.

SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • September—November 2024

September is Sacramento's Literacy Month

2901 K Street, Suite 204
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 836-3540 • 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 diverse high-quality books in students' hands and homes.
- Support evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs.
- Expand summer reading programming and funding.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Messiah Millares, Fundraising Associate
Rigo Tovar, Program Associate

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



Literacy Festival at Oak Park Farmers Market
Saturday, September 28, 2024
(10:00AM - 1:00PM)

Let's have some literacy fun! Bring some chairs, bring some snacks, and settle in for this year's Literacy Festival at the Oak Park Farmer's Market. This year's family festival festivities will include Clean Slate, a live band performing old school

Rhythm and Blues inspired by Tower of Power, access to food vouchers for the Oak Park Farmers Market (while they last), vendor booths with kid's games, lots of free books, author readings by children's authors and helpful information for parents from local literacy organizations. ■



Promise Zone Literacy Initiative

“During Sacramento's Literacy month (this September) we will reach another 2700 students and will have given more than 100,000 books to 20,000 kids in the last 3 years,” stated Executive Director April Javist, “giving diverse high-quality books to our most under resourced children is a small and big thing – in addition to increasing motivation to read, these kids are developing an expectation of seeing themselves in the books they read. Very powerful.”

We are grateful for support from United Way, the Rotary Club of Elk Grove, the Sierra Health Foundation, and the County of Sacramento for this back-to-school drive. We also need volunteers, so if you have the inclination sign-up for our back-to-school drive at <https://signup.com/go/vwtUOXB> ■

ADVOCACY UPDATE: California Early Literacy Coalition

In 2023, EdVoice Institute, Decoding Dyslexia CA, the California Reading Coalition, Families in Schools and the 21st Century Alliance published a policy brief outlining the current state of literacy outcomes in California and proposed a set of statewide recommendations to implement comprehensive, evidence-based literacy policy that would improve reading proficiency. This led to the introduction of AB 2222 (Rubio) in 2024, a comprehensive early literacy reform bill. While AB 2222 did not move forward in the 2024 legislative cycle, the bill sparked conversations about literacy across the state. In preparation for the 2025 legislative cycle, the newly named California Early Literacy Coalition (comprised of nearly 20 coalition members) will continue advancing early literacy in California by working together to educate legislators. To learn more, and to get involved, please visit: <https://www.californiakidsread.org/> and <https://edvoice.org/> ■



Meet our Summer Intern

We met E Train at an event held by Assemblyman Kevin McCarty who was recognizing nonprofits of distinction.

For E Train, this was a dream come true; he's worked so hard to help kids who need books, so receiving this recognition motivates him to do more! For the Foundation, we are honored to be recognized by Asm. McCarty and thrilled to meet E Train. We were familiar with E Train because of his social media posts and immediately invited E Train to join our team as a social media summer intern. E Train is a thirteen-year-old literacy advocate & founder/CEO of E Train Talks, Inc. When asked what he would like you to know about him, he said, "I'm behind all the foundation's posts and I'm so thrilled to be working with the Literacy Foundation! I'm changing the world one story at a time!" ■



EVENTS RECAP

Foundation supporters attended two author events this month, A Storytime to Remember at the Fairytale Town Story Center and Sacramento Eats at Mulvaney's.

A big thank you to authors, JaNay Brown-Wood, Leticia Ordaz, and Mackenzie Joy, for entertaining the kiddos with their lively book reading.

As well, a sincere thank you to Benjy Egel and Mulvaney's B&L for hosting a delightful conversation about Sacramento restaurants and their recipes to the packed crowd of foodies! ■

Meet the Board: Christine Shelby



Christine, a Sacramento native, holds a Master's Degree in communication studies from Sacramento State. She is a dedicated wife and mother of four and has a thriving career as a Digital Strategist and journalist for the *Sacramento Observer*. Christine has been a passionate supporter of the Literacy Foundation for many years and is excited to further her commitment by joining the board. She is an advocate for literacy and fondly

remembers her childhood visits to the Rancho Cordova Library. Christine is an avid user of Libby (an electronic library resource) and is known to get lost in a book to avoid housework. She has instilled a love of reading in her children, who also avoid housework but she can't blame anyone but herself. Besides her professional work, Christine coaches youth sports, teaching soccer and softball to kids in Sacramento. In her free time, she enjoys reading, watching sports, and spending time with her family. ■

SVP Fast Pitch

Messiah Millares, our Fundraising Associate, and the Sacramento Literacy Foundation have been selected to be in this year's SVP Fast Pitch cohort.

Messiah will be developing a new, 3-minute pitch that the Foundation will be able to use for years to come. Please join us in celebrating Messiah's hard work on November 7, 2024, at the Sophia for the final round of pitches. ■

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today.

PARTNER (\$100,000+)

Patty Slomski

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Contributions received May 7, 2024 to August 7, 2024



BEQUEST SPOTLIGHT: Patricia Slomski

Patricia Slomski was having a glass of wine under her favorite tree on the night she passed. She was celebrating the birthday of her late partner who had passed only 7 weeks earlier.

Patty worked as a paralegal for Ellison, Schneider and Harris, LLP, law firm for the last 35 years and was well respected and loved by her colleagues. "I know Patty really cared about Literacy and it's great that her kindness is living on through her generosity," stated colleague Karen Gunther.

Because her partner had recently passed, Patty had, only a week earlier, changed her IRA designees. The Foundation is tremendously honored to be among the charities she has left her legacy and motivated to re-ignite our endowment efforts.

"Patty was the happiest by the ocean," according to her daughter-in-law. "This photo hung on her Fort Bragg wall for ten years and was one of her favorites, probably because it was of her backside. She was never a fan of photos." ■

Lifting Literacy for Future Generations

If you are reading this, chances are you have been generous in helping the Sacramento Literacy Foundation thrive.

Have you ever thought about who will take your place to become the literacy champions of the future? You will be relieved to know that you can - by adding a Legacy Gift for the Sacramento Literacy Foundation in your will or estate plan. Foundation donors who have made this commitment are honored as members of our Legacy Circle for ensuring that this community has the resources to help all kids read at grade-level. We applaud their generosity and invite all donors to consider leaving their own mark on the future in such a meaningful way.

Legacy Giving does not have to be complicated or even necessarily

involve your legal and financial advisors. You can simply change the beneficiary form of your life insurance plan or Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to reflect a fixed amount or percentage you'd like to dedicate to the Foundation. If you have a living trust or will, it can be as easy as adding one sentence to the document to make a simple bequest:

I hereby devise [description of particular asset] OR [the sum of \$_____] OR [____% of the gross estate subject to disposition under this instrument] to the Sacramento Literacy Foundation, Federal Tax ID 68-0029756.

To learn more, please call our office at 916-836-3540 and we will put you in touch with one of our planned giving experts. ■