

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free. —Frederick Douglass

Sustainability.

Reading and not reading is correlated with nearly every positive and negative life outcome, respectively. We cannot create a sustainable future with a workforce that cannot demonstrate the #1 skill demanded by the information age: reading. Being able to read is critical.

Pre-pandemic, 54% of third graders and 51% of third – 12th grade students were below grade-level reading. Post-pandemic, these embarrassingly low proficiency rates are projected to plummet another 10% - 20%, a perilously low achievement rate for a skill most needed in this information age: reading. We cannot build a sustainable future for everyone with the results this data shows.

Without delay, we must implement evidence-based curriculum and direct instruction into kindergarten – second grade classrooms and provide interventions for older readers that offer effective programs that advance decoding skills and language comprehension. Twin Rivers Unified School District is training 300 of their educators in the Science of Reading and both Oakridge Elementary and Sol Aureus Prep School from the Sacramento City Unified School District are integrating the Science of reading into their early grades. Accelerated reading achievement has begun in Sacramento.

sus·tain·able
| sə-ˈstā-nə-bəl |

Adjective

1. Able to be used without being completely used up or destroyed
2. Able to last or continue for a long time

Equipping our entire population with the necessary reading skills is the path to a sustainable future and a compassionate future. Your generous support is helpful and allows us to continue to push forward initiatives that get us closer to ‘all children reading.’ **Thank you.**

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Authors
on the Move! 2023

March 11, 2023 | 5-10pm
Kimpton The Sawyer, Sacramento



Authors on Move 2023 will host award winning author Angie Cruz and her just released novel, *How Not to Drown in A Glass of Water*.

According to Natashia Deón from the LA Times, “*How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water*,” will have you laughing line after line, even when you wonder if you should be. (The answer is always yes!)”

Please save the date and join us this spring for Sacramento’s premier literary event!

Sponsor tables are available now!

SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



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Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 836-3540 • sacramentoliteracy.org

MISSION

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation's mission is to improve lives by collaborating with organizations in our community to advance literacy skills.

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 Promise Zone 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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NEWSLETTER LAYOUT
T.Dogg Studios

Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • October—November 2022

Promise Zone Literacy Initiative in Twin Rivers

The Promise Zone Literacy Initiative continues.

At the end of July, we completed our promise to put five diverse high-quality books into the hands of every kindergarten, first and second grade student in the Promise Zone. Promise Zone students from Twin Rivers Unified School District not only received the books but also have or will have the amazing experience of meeting authors JaNay Brown-Wood and Leticia Ordaz, at their school. Funds raised at Authors on the Move, were used to purchase the more than 20,000 books. Because the book giveaway received such positive feedback, we will continue the effort in 2023.



CALIFORNIA
READING
COALITION

California Reading Summit

November 2, 2022

Join California Literacy Educators and Advocates to share successes and struggles and help chart the course to move our state forward.

Featured speakers include:

Alberto Carvalho
Superintendent, LAUSC

Kareem Weaver
Oakland FULCRUM NAACP

Gary Payton
NBA Champion, Dyslexia Advocate

Participation is free but space is limited. Register today at [www.CAreads.org!](http://www.CAreads.org)



Thank you to all our Walk 4 Literacy sponsors, walkers, and festival participants

for making the Walk 4 Literacy and Walk 4 Literacy Family Festival amazing. Check out our webpage and annual report for fun pictures.

MurphyAustin
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SACRAMENTO STATE





DECEMBER 1943 – AUGUST 2022

The Legacy of Nancy Lawrence

Nancy Lawrence graced the Literacy Foundation with strong leadership for more than a decade. We are both deeply saddened by her passing and keen on continuing her legacy of sustainability to achieve full literacy. This entire issue of the READER, the theme of which is Sustainability, is our tribute to Nancy.

When Nancy agreed to be the Board president in 2009, she had one thing in mind, which was making the Foundation sustainable. And indeed, through Nancy's support, persistence, and willingness to understand the entire operation, she achieved her goal. Nancy's support for libraries and literacy was rooted in her Sacramento memories. She recalled walking into the library at Bret Harte Elementary School as a child. "It was a lovely, tranquil light-filled space filled with books on low shelves just right for children. Students could approach the shelves and find what they wanted - the ones with pictures being the best. At one of the tables, Charlotte's Web was introduced to everyone."

As we devoted our efforts to achieving measurable results that helped all children read, Nancy warned, "Literacy is clearly the basis for a sustainable and satisfying life. People who cannot read cannot function in school and certainly will have great trouble

holding jobs or being the kind of informed citizens a democracy demands." Nancy had great compassion for those who struggled. "Imagine being a child who sits in kindergarten and is clueless about alphabets and the vocabulary of other students. The child who is below grade level in reading faces a struggle every day. Where does he find the will to continue the struggle? Low literacy is a continuing issue that will not go away. The children of this region need our help and our commitment to their future. Those children are our future. We are all in this together."

Nancy recently returned to the Foundation board because of her continued interest in finding sustainable approaches to integrating reading curriculum with proven results, alongside arts programming, into all elementary schools. Her dual interests; education and the arts, are the combination she believed are necessary for a healthy, vibrant community.

Nancy has been a beacon of community leadership in so many ways – we are blessed to have been part of her philanthropic life. This Foundation found sustainability through Nancy's commitment to kids' reading, coupled with her understanding of how to make a difference. Nancy showed us what philanthropy could look like: generous, friendly, and fun. **With great sadness, we go forward without Nancy but are grateful for the legacy Nancy has left.**

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

READING COUNCIL (\$5,000+)

Golden 1 Credit Union
Sacramento Housing
Redevelopment Agency

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Anthem Blue Cross
Howard Family Fund

SUSTAINER (\$500 - \$999)

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IN MEMORY OF

Betty Lou Honaker
Roger Kirkland
Nancy Lawrence

IN HONOR OF

Bill Pieper

NAMED ENDOWMENTS

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

*Contributions received July 10, 2022,
through September 9, 2022.*

Is an Endowment Gift Right for You?

An endowment is a perpetual fund that pays out a defined portion of its value each year for a specified charitable purpose. The annual payout is set at a level great enough to provide a meaningful benefit to the charity but low enough to enable the fund to continue indefinitely.

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation currently maintains two endowment funds, its Children's Literacy Endowment and its Operations Endowment. Numerous donors who wished to make a gift to the Foundation have chosen to contribute to one or both of these endowments. Why might you want to join them?

- First, an endowment gift ensures that your gift will benefit the Foundation and its mission *in perpetuity* rather than only during the current fundraising cycle.
- Second, a substantial endowment gift gives you the opportunity, if you wish, to designate a particular purpose for which annual distributions will be made.
- Third, you will experience the satisfaction of knowing that you have left a legacy that perpetuates your values and your priorities.

An endowment gift can be structured in various ways, depending on your situation and your wishes. You can make a lump sum contribution in the current year (and spread out the income tax deduction over up to six years, if necessary to make full use of the deduction). You can make an at-death donation to an endowment through your will or trust. Or you can create a split interest trust that returns a defined amount to you each year, either for a term of years or for your lifetime, with a remainder gift to the Foundation.



If you would like to learn about our existing endowments, please contact us. And if you are considering an endowment gift, we urge you to consult with your legal and financial advisors to be sure you are structuring the gift in the most advantageous way.