

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

Support.

We all do better when we feel supported. Support can come in various forms and support can be given in various ways. The Literacy Foundation is working on building pathways of support that lead to more children reading.

Through our Children's Literacy Endowment, we are able to financially support summer reading initiatives annually and are excited about this year's grantees. See inside story on page three.

Through the support we received at *Authors on the Move*, we are able to support 4,000 kids with five diverse books in their hands and homes. We believe that if students see themselves on the pages of high quality books, they will be more likely to feel positive about reading. We also know that reading five books is enough to hold onto previously achieved reading levels.

Through our collaborative work with the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative, we have been recognized by the National Civic League and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading as a national literacy leader. Our hope is that this recognition for Sacramento's collaborative work in literacy will attract larger funders interested in systemic change.

As we close in on our fiscal year, we have achieved a significant level of financial support from our donors which we are truly grateful for in this first year of executing a broader mission to help all children read.

Today we are asking you to support our efforts to put diverse books into the hands of students who rarely see themselves, if at all, in a book and who may not have a book in their home. **Your support really does matter.**

support \ sə-'pɔrt \

noun

1. the activity of providing for or maintaining

verb

1. to uphold or defend as valid or right



Donations help support our efforts to improve children's literacy in Sacramento.

Visit us at sacramentoliteracy.org to give online, or mail a check to:

Sacramento Literacy Foundation

PO Box 160547
Sacramento, CA 95816.

Your support matters.

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YES TO SUMMER READING! The Foundation just awarded six summer reading grants to local organizations (see pg. 3)

SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



2411 Alhambra Blvd, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95817
(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

- Increase philanthropic literacy funding toward the goal of all children reading at grade-level
- Insert reading sciences into the community literacy and education systems
- Advocate for a fully literate community

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Tax ID #68-0029756.

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT
T.Dogg Studios

Free Literacy Conference

The California Elementary Literacy Conference:

Everyone Has the Right to Read! is June 16! This is a free, online conference all about evidence-based practices in elementary literacy. There will be 100+ unique sessions on a wide variety of topics, plus keynote addresses from all-star educators. Thank you to SCOE, CDE, and the CA Collaborative for Excellence in Education for putting this together!

REGISTER TODAY: educationspeakersnetwork.com/elsb-conference

LITERACY SUCCESSES:

Early Reading Initiative at Twin Rivers Unified School District

With a goal of a 95% high school graduation rate, Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD) has established an Early Reading Initiative that is systematically introducing the science of reading into the early grades.

What's become clear to Dr. Lori Grace, Associate Superintendent of School Leadership, and her instructional team is that TRUSD students need to have the quality of curriculum and instruction so that they can meet Superintendent Thurman's goal of all 3rd graders reading at grade-level by 2025.

Director of Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development at TRUSD,

Kirsti Schroeder, says that "we need all students reading. We understand that different students need different support and we feel the science of reading meets that." More than 85% of TRUSD students are experiencing poverty which makes implementing evidence-based curriculum imperative and difficult.

In the 2022-2023 school year, 16 elementary schools will be impacted. More than 300 educators and all 32 principals in the district have received professional training through the Online Elementary Reading Academy through CORE. TRUSD is making a great effort to get some of our most disenfranchised kids reading.

MEET THE BOARD: Neill SooHoo



Neill SooHoo, stylist and owner-operator of SooHooStyle.com, has been active in the Sacramento Region's Arts and

Culture communities for decades. Invited to the Board of Directors at the Attendance Institute in 2017, his involvement there deepened his understanding about education and the fact that attendance is one of the top three indicators of

reading success. "I joined the Board of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation because all children reading is a simple mission that everyone can agree on," said Neill.

When asked where he thought the Foundation was pointed, he answered, "Our future will hinge on finding the resources and partners needed to move challenged readers forward." Neill's previous commitment to committee and commission work here in the region, and his alliance with the LGBTQ community, make him a good fit with the Foundation and its goals.

Sacramento Named All-America City Finalist

National Civic League recognizes Sacramento as one of Top 20 Civic Models in the Nation for Innovative Community-Based Literacy Initiative

The National Civic League and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading have named Sacramento as one of 20 city finalists in its annual All-America City awards for a unique public-private collaboration aimed at improving student literacy in Sacramento's Promise Zone. Since 1949, the All-America City Award has been given to the top 10 communities across the U.S. that are leveraging civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation to address local issues.

Spearheaded by the Sacramento Literacy Foundation and the Sacramento Promise Zone, which is directed by Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), Sacramento's nationally-recognized project – the Promise Zone

Literacy Initiative – is aimed at bringing literacy interventions to the community with one-to-one early reader tutoring, summer reading programming to affordable housing communities, a GIS mapping tool that shows literacy rates at each public school, and more. The goal of the project is to get all children in the Promise Zone reading at grade-level. Pre-pandemic, only 46% of 3rd grade students in Sacramento County were at grade-level reading and only 36% were at grade-level in the Promise Zone, an example of the disproportionate impact on historically marginalized communities (Community Literacy Map).

“The Promise Zone Literacy initiative is a perfect example of Sacramento using

inclusive civic engagement to address a critical issue,” said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. “Our children have faced incredible challenges during the pandemic, and this partnership between the Sacramento Literacy Foundation, SHRA and the City of Sacramento is vital to improving student literacy in Sacramento. I am glad to see this program receive the recognition it deserves.”



Big Day of Giving Recap

The Big Day of Giving brought great energy and raised over \$13,000,000 for community nonprofits.



A big thank you to the Sacramento Region Community Foundation - the day provided a fantastic

opportunity to share our message of wanting all children to read. The Foundation is grateful to the 69 donors who helped us raise \$16,198. Support received on the Big Day of Giving will advance the Foundation's strategic vision to improve children's literacy and be invested in the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative. We are grateful for your support.

Summer Reading Grant Recipients

In 2014, the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation voted to establish an endowment for Children's Literacy, with the intent to provide direct support for summer reading programs. Summer reading, kindergarten readiness, and school attendance are the top three factors impacting a child's ability to read at grade-level. According to research, reading five age-appropriate books is what a student needs to hold onto previously earned reading skills.

The Literacy Foundation is excited to make its second annual distribution to local summer reading programs and initiatives. After conducting an environmental scan of summer reading opportunities in Sacramento County, we received a broad range of programming and were able to invest \$63,000 in support. As part of the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative, we are pairing our support for summer reading with our initiative to put five diverse books in the hands of the 4,000 kindergarten through 2nd graders in the Promise Zone.

Grantees include 916 Ink, the Center, Sacramento Cottage Housing, Hmong Youth and Parents United, LifeSTEPS, and United Way.



Interested in volunteering to help put books in the hands of 4,000 students?

Sign up here:
signup.com/go/ibjvaFR



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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

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