

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

## Make a Difference.

### Making a difference is exactly what the Science of Reading has done for Mississippi's 3<sup>rd</sup> – Grade students.

With 4th grade reading proficiency at 22% in 2011, Mississippi reacted by enacting the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) in 2013 to institute the science of reading in all grades. This year, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced that, despite pandemic disruptions to learning, 85% of Mississippi 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade reading assessment after final retests for the 2021-22 school year. The LBPA made a clear difference.

Compare that to the California Department of Education's 2021-2022 ELA results which shows only 41.6% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders achieving grade-level reading. That's less than half the rate achieved by Mississippi. According to EdSource, "California imposes no requirements on districts regarding how to teach reading. Each district can decide how and what to teach, even if they use ineffective strategies and curriculums that can set back whether a child learns to read."

To make a difference in Mississippi, it took passage of LBPA and a focus ensuring everyone was on the same page regarding the importance of implementing evidence-based curriculum. That of course is harder in California than Mississippi but also

### make a difference

1. To have some effect on something; to cause a change.
2. To have an impact, especially in a positive way.

more imperative. Governor Newsom boasts that California has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. As other States initiate reading policy focused on grade-level reading, California falls further behind – our entry level workforce will be left behind too.

**Now is the time to come together, make a difference and get all children reading at grade-level.**

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The local convener for the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading in Sacramento.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Authors on the Move! 2024




**On March 9, Authors on the Move 2024** will be held at the Kimpton Sawyer. We are so excited to welcome Rabilh Alameddine, author of *The Wrong End of the Telescope*, which won the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

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



## Authors on the Move 2023 Re-cap

### Our twenty-first Authors on the Move was a tremendous success!

The night started with a champagne reception hosted by Fizz Champagne and Bubbles Bar at our new venue, Kimpton, The Sawyer. Twenty-three California authors, and one New York author, circulated the room while a gourmet three-course meal was served with specialty wines. Auctioneer Pat Hume helped us raise enough funds to purchase 13,000 diverse children's books which will find their way into children's homes this spring and next fall. Beth Ruyak gave the audience an insider's view of Angie Cruz' literary path as well as Angie's delightful and sometimes pointed thoughts about her book, *How Not to Drown In a Glass of Water*.



board of directors who all helped make this night spectacular. And finally, a gracious thank you to the literacy philanthropists who took part in Authors on the Move this year.

**Your support is truly appreciated and will make an immediate difference in kids' lives.**

A special thank you to our talented authors, incredible volunteers, and



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 diverse high-quality books in Promise Zone students' hands and homes
- Support evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs
- Expand summer reading programing and funding

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## Big Day of Giving was a BigDAY!



**The Big Day of Giving (BigDAY) brought great energy and raised over \$13,800,000 for community nonprofits in the region.** Support received

by the Foundation on the Big Day of Giving will advance the Foundation's strategic vision to have all children and all adults develop the literacy skills they need to fully participate in our economy and in our democracy.

To understand our results, we analyzed the BigDAY results by comparing mission categories. The Foundation is in the Education category which has 93 nonprofit organizations (or 12%) in it's category and received 5% of all funds raised on the BigDAY. Looking closer at the Education category, there were seven nonprofit organizations (or 1%) focused on early childhood literacy, and they received 1.3% of all funds raised. This shows a philanthropic gap in literacy funding, particularly considering the deep literacy deficits our children face.

The Foundation is grateful to the 120 donors who helped us achieve \$17,470 in support on the Big Day; your support makes a difference. And we want to acknowledge the philanthropic gap in literacy as both an opportunity and a challenge. Reading and not reading is correlated to nearly every positive and negative life outcome. **Increased investment in early childhood literacy could mean more children and their families benefiting from the positive life outcomes correlated with a child's ability to read including educational and career attainment.**

# Promise Zone Literacy Initiative

**Once again, we are hoping to give 4,000 kindergartener, 1st and 2nd graders a bag of five high-quality diverse books.**

Right now, we have secured enough funding to reach 2,750 kids and we have already distributed 1,600 bags of books to the Twin Rivers Unified School District students. Your continued support will help us reach the remaining children next fall.

## Summer Reading Grant Recipients Announced

The Literacy Foundation is excited to make its third annual distribution to local summer reading programs and initiatives. This year, we received a broad range of requests and were able to invest \$53,335 in summer reading programs with the help of the Ritz & June Naygrow Foundation. As part of the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative, we are pairing our support for summer reading with our initiative to put five high-

quality diverse books in the hands of 4,000 kindergartener through 2nd grade students in the Promise Zone.

Grantees include: Breakthrough Sacramento, Escape Velocity, La Familia, LifeSTEPS, the Center (SCCSC), and United Way (UWCCR). Over the next year we will be highlighting the programs we are supporting so that you can better understand the literacy work happening in Sacramento.

## Sacramento Chinese Community Services Center

The Sacramento Chinese Community Services Center (the Center) is a non-profit organization that provides Expanded Learning programs at over 85 schools across Sacramento County. With literacy as a key focus of the organization's impact, the Center hosts the AARP Foundation Experience Corps program at select schools in Sacramento. As a nationally renowned partner in literacy, AARP Foundation Experience Corps is a community-based volunteer program. It engages highly trained people over 50 as tutors to help students become better readers by the end of third grade. It is a proven "triple win," helping students to succeed, older adults to thrive, and communities to grow stronger. The program has a

proven track record of helping children attain literacy proficiency by the end of the 3rd grade. By providing both educational and mentoring support at a critical juncture in the lives of young students, the program helps to break the cycle of poverty particularly in high-need communities where opportunities have been lacking. Since 2016 the Experience Corps Sacramento program has served over 1,300 struggling readers through the service of over 150 community volunteers.

**To learn more about the program or to join the volunteer team visit <https://sccsc.org/experiencecorps/>**



*AARP Volunteer tutoring Sacramento children.*

## Free Literacy Conference

**The California Elementary Literacy Conference: *Everyone Has the Right to Read* is June 14 & 15!**

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 exciting keynote addresses from renowned literacy advocates, Lacey Robinson and Emily Hanford. Thank you to SCOE, CDE, and the CA Collaborative for Excellence in Education for putting this together! Registration is required: [education-speakers-network.com/elsb-conference](https://education-speakers-network.com/elsb-conference)



## MEET THE STAFF: Messiah Millares

**Messiah is thrilled to join Sacramento Literacy Foundation as a new Fundraiser Associate.**

A recent graduate of University of California Davis in Political Science, he is excited to join the non-profit workforce as a steward for equitable change. Throughout

his journey at Sacramento Community College and UC Davis, his interests in community development, organizing, and relationship building have helped guide him into the fundraising and literacy world. Prior to his work with the Foundation, he performed various volunteer roles in grassroots organizations such as the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals and political campaigns. When not at his desk, he can be found exercising, laughing with friends, or hiking on a new adventure.

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

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