

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

Compassion.

According to the Greater Good Science Center, “Compassion literally means ‘to suffer together.’” Among emotion researchers, compassion is defined as “the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another’s suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering.”

The Literacy Foundation is compassionate about kids who have not learned, or struggle to read and we are extremely motivated to help every child achieve grade-level reading. In September, during the *Right to Read* movie showing, we heard from teachers, parents, students, advocates, community leaders, and state and local administrative leaders who discussed the roadblocks to literacy success. We shared our collective commitment to helping all of our children succeed and we agree, the ability to read is the path to success.

We all recognize that children who are not learning to read are suffering. Children who are not able to succeed in the classroom, a place where they spend 4-7 hours a day, are likely discouraged, frustrated, and upset with the limitations they experience. We agree, there are solutions we can and will implement to help all of our kids achieve grade-level reading.

Your compassion for kids reading and your generous support remain critical to advancing literacy in our region.

We will continue to invest your contributions in diverse high-quality book giveaways, bringing literacy stakeholders together, and supporting summer reading programming to our most under resourced kids.



“There is no better compass than compassion.”

—Amanda Gorman, Poet

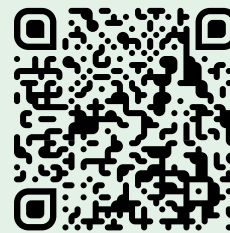
com·pas·sion
[kəm'pɑSHən]
noun

1. Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others



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www.sacramentoliteracy.org

Giving monthly is helpful to our continued sustainability!

Please consider prioritizing children’s literacy in your year-end giving. During the Big Day of Giving approximately 1.5% of funds raised went to early literacy. **The solution will require more generosity —the result will benefit us all.**



Promise Zone Literacy Initiative

September is Sacramento's Literacy Month and we celebrated, advocated, and collaborated to help all children in Sacramento read at grade-level. We met new literacy friends from our State and County Education institutions, and we met parents working to bring literacy to their children and the children in their communities.

During the month of September, we participated in four 'back-to-school' nights and distributed 530 bags or 2,650 books to TK-2nd grade students. We also gave away free books at community events at Leataata Floyd Elementary School, at the La Familia Health Fair, and at our own Literacy Festival.

The Literacy Summit commenced on September 28th, when more than 150 people gathered at the Guild Theater in Oak Park to watch *The Right to Read; The Greatest Civil Rights Issue of our Time*; a film executive produced by LeVar Burton. Educators and parents alike attended and

participated in a lively discussion about when and how reading curriculum will be changed statewide and what can be done between then and now.



Teach For America

Next, we co-hosted a Literacy Luncheon with Teach for America where education leaders from nine of the thirteen school districts in Sacramento County and local nonprofit literacy leaders listened to Kareem Weaver, Dr. Tenette Smith and Dr. JaNay Brown-Wood talk about leadership strategies to integrate the Science of Reading into our kids' classrooms and provide culturally relevant materials to our students.

We concluded the Literacy Summit with our first Literacy Festival in collaboration with the Oak Park Farmers Market and we had fun! Festival-goers danced to Clean Slate, a live band performing old school rhythm and blues, every child received a free book or more, and emcee Leticia Ordaz kept the festival moving.



Summer Reading Grant Opportunity for Local Literacy Nonprofits and Schools

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation will open its grant application period on February 1st for children's literacy organizations and programs that are conducting summer reading programs within Sacramento County in 2024. The grant funding comes from our Children's Literacy Endowment combined with direct gifts to summer reading programs.

"We are encouraging organizations that are providing summer reading programming for Sacramento County youth ages birth through 18 to apply," says April L. Javist, Executive Director of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. "We would especially like programs and projects that include collaborative partners, and result in more books in children's homes."

Grant applications will be accepted through April 4, 2024. Grantees will be announced on the morning of May 2, 2024, the Big Day of Giving.

More information and applications will be available February 1, 2024 at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/summer-reading-grants

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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 programming and funding

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Please consult your tax advisor.
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Teaching a Child to Read is Complicated








Some of our brains learn to read no matter what, but most of our brains require tools to help us learn to read. Right now, the literacy crisis throughout the United States is gaining attention because of the hundreds of educators and activists working diligently to help every child access their right to read. It has become clear through practice and positive results that it is possible to teach 95% of all brains how to read using an approach coined, The Science of Reading. Or as some say, evidence-based instruction, or deliberate, explicit, and direct instruction. The Science of Reading encompasses a huge body of research that began fifty plus years ago.

In 2000, the National Reading Panel (NPR), formed by the US Congress, released a meta study that reviewed thousands of research papers about reading and made recommendations for future reading instruction. Among the conclusions was that children need to be taught scope and sequence, the Five Pillars of Literacy: 1. phonemic awareness, 2. phonics, 3. fluency, 4. vocabulary and 5. comprehension.

Most brains need help to learn to read. Unlike walking and talking, reading is a skill we must learn through instruction and practice. Teaching a child to read is complicated which is why it is crucial to implement structured and evidence-based solutions.

The graphic below defines each of the Five Pillars of Literacy and suggests activities that parents, teachers, tutors, and mentors can do to support each pillar.

 <p>PHONEMIC AWARENESS</p> <hr/> <p>The ability to hear, identify, and manipulate sounds in spoken words.</p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>When you say a word to your child, sound out the word letter for letter: c-a-t and then rhyme it with a few others: h-a-t, b-a-t, s-a-t.</p>	 <p>PHONICS</p> <hr/> <p>Recognizing the relationship between sounds and letters, letter combinations, and words</p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>When in doubt, sound it out! Sound out a word your child is struggling with and show them how it's done.</p>	 <p>FLUENCY</p> <hr/> <p>The ability to read with speed, accuracy, and appropriate expression.</p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Ask your child to read to you and then talk about what they read.</p>	 <p>VOCABULARY</p> <hr/> <p>Understanding words, their definitions, and their context.</p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Try and introduce new words to yourself and your kids every week.</p>	 <p>COMPREHENSION</p> <hr/> <p>Learning to understand and make meaning of a wide variety of texts</p> <p>— TO DO —</p> <p>Read to your child as much as you can and find opportunities to put books in their hands.</p>
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Authors on the Move! 2024

SAVE THE DATE!

Featuring Rabih Alameddine, author of *The Wrong End of the Telescope*, winner of the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

For sponsorship information, please call 916-836-3540 or email aom@sacramentoliteracy.org

MARCH 9, 2024 | Kimpton Sawyer Hotel

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Board Spotlight: Carlos Marquez III

Carlos Marquez III is currently a full-time candidate for the California State Assembly. Prior to launching his campaign, Carlos served as the inaugural Executive Director of ACLU California Action where he advanced the statewide advocacy and policy objectives of California's three ACLU affiliates in the State Capitol. While on the campaign trail, Carlos is actively advocating for children's literacy.

Prior to joining ACLU California Action, Carlos represented public education and healthcare stakeholders as Founder and Principal of CM3 Advocacy LLC, a Sacramento-based government affairs consultancy. He served as Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Political Director for the California Charter Schools Association before that, where he negotiated a major overhaul to the Charter Schools Act and helped secure a \$300 million block grant for low performing students.

Carlos' career in advocacy has spanned leadership across the LGBTQ equality movement, labor movement, and education equity movement. Other past roles include serving as Government Affairs Representative for SEIU Local 221; Deputy Political Director, Western Region for the LGBTQ Victory Fund & Institute; Executive Director of HONOR Fund, a sponsored initiative of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF); and Public Policy Fellow at United Way Worldwide.

Carlos holds a B.A. in Political Science & Journalism from San Diego State University. He was named "40 under 40" by the Sacramento Business Journal in 2019.