

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

Appreciation.

As we come to the end of 2024, we are incredibly appreciative of the advances we have been able to make this year.

We have experienced the appreciation of the students, principals, teachers, and parents who are benefiting from our work.

This year, our book giveaway program has reached 6,100 of Sacramento's poorest children across 27 elementary schools. The program helped introduce us to parents, guardians, principals and their early education teaching staff, and inspired 120 volunteers to help put books in children's hands and homes.

In September, Sacramento's Literacy month, dozens of community organizations and hundreds of families joined us at the Oak Park Literacy Festival. Organizations met neighboring families and provided them with resources to help their children read, while having fun activities for kids to do.

Our expansion has also brought us several new partnerships with private foundations, service groups and government agencies and are all opportunities for further collaboration and growth. We are very appreciative to all of our new institutional donors, in particular the Kelly Foundation, who gave us an operating grant to hire a program associate, Rigo Tovar. That

ap·pre·ci·ation

/əprēSHĕˈāSHən/
noun

1. Recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone or something.

"I smiled in appreciation"

"Appreciation can make a day, even change a life."

- Margaret Cousins

support was a critical factor in our ability to grow our book drive, dedicate more time to fundraising, and build a strong volunteer base.

Your contributions will be put to work immediately. Your generous year-end support continues to be critical to advancing children's literacy in our region. Thank you. ■

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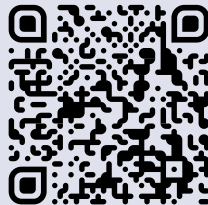
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Authors on the Move! 2025

March 8, 2025 | The Kimpton Sawyer

We are so excited to welcome Tommy Orange, author of *Wandering Stars* which has been named a Best Book of the Year so far for 2024 by *The New York Times*. For more information call 916-836-3540 or email april@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



Promise Zone Literacy Initiative



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.



Sacramento's Literacy Month ReCap

During the month of September, we participated in several 'back-to-school' nights and distributed 2700 bags (that's 13,500 books) to TK-2nd grade students. Last week, we received this e-mail from a 2nd grade-teacher, "Thanks again for the visit to Bell Avenue [Elementary] School. One of my students who wears a hijab – and a fantastic reader - shared with me, "I never get to see people like me in books!" She was holding up her new book, *The Proudest Blue*.

We concluded Literacy Month with our Literacy Festival in collaboration with the Food Literacy Center's Oak Park Farmers Market. Twenty literacy focused organizations set up booths with activities and information for the kids and parents. More families from the neighboring community came out to enjoy Festival activities, which was a primary goal. Festival goers danced to Clean Slate, a live band performing old school rhythm and blues, and every child received at least one free book. The festival was appreciated by everyone! ■

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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

United Way Partnership



United Way California Capital Region partnered with the

Literacy Foundation to put books in the hands of every Tk-2nd grade student in the Robla Unified School District. Because the RCA Community Fund had already funded Glenwood Elementary in the Robla District, our partnership included the remaining four schools. United Way is one of several new funding partnerships we have built this year, and we are grateful for the new relationship. ■



Rotary Club of Sacramento Dictionary GiveAway

The Literacy Foundation partnered with the Rotary Club of Sacramento to give out 1,000 dictionaries to 3rd graders at elementary school sites where we are currently delivering our book giveaway program. The Rotary is committed to their dictionary giveaway project and the Foundation is committed to bringing the most under-resourced kids books, so working together made good sense. We encourage local Rotary clubs to reach out to us to join in the effort to deliver dictionaries to as many local 3rd graders as possible. ■

SCOE Science of Reading Resolution

The Sacramento County Reads Initiative at SCOE introduced and resolved SACRAMENTO COUNTY READS BOARD LITERACY RESOLUTION NO. 24-18.

The resolution recognizes that a person needs to be fully literate to participate in our society and our democracy.

The resolution also recognizes that reading and not reading is correlated with nearly all positive and negative life outcomes. And finally, the resolution supports “evidence-aligned reading instruction and coherent systems of support, grounded in the science of reading, which is proven to significantly enhance reading and literacy skills.”

Thank you SCOE! ■

A Science of Reading Roadmap



These eight essential practices serve as a critical roadmap for implementing the Science of Reading.

They were developed by FULCRUM, an Oakland-based nonprofit committed to advancing evidence-based literacy practices. FULCRUM aims to empower leaders and educators to improve student reading outcomes, driven by the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to learn to read.

Eight Science of Reading (SoR) Essential Practices:

1. Foster a culture for SoR to thrive
2. Empower a literacy chief
3. Adopt high-quality curriculum aligned with teacher prep time
4. Hire SoR-trained teachers
5. Provide ongoing SoR professional development
6. Mandate universal screening
7. Employ “safety nets” / multi-tiered systems of support
8. Require data-informed decision making

FULCRUM’s essential practices are inspired by Oakland NAACP’s Administrative Petition to Improve Literacy Scores Among Oakland Public School Students. ■

End of Year Giving Ideas



With year-end upon us, you may be thinking about your contribution allocations, and we hope you are considering a gift to Sacramento Literacy Foundation. No matter where you extend your philanthropy, here are a couple of factors you may not have considered:

Giving Appreciated Stock

You can make a gift of appreciated stock and avoid the capital gains taxes you would otherwise pay if you sold the stock. Your current income tax deduction will be based on the current fair market value of the stock - no matter what you originally paid for it. To initiate a stock transfer, simply call our office and we will help you initiate the transfer.

Giving Directly from your Retirement Plan

Giving directly from your IRA or qualified retirement fund is a great way to reduce your tax burden. If you are age 73 or older, you are obligated to make annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your retirement fund, and the only way to avoid being taxed on those distributions (which are treated entirely as ordinary income) is to contribute directly to a nonprofit such as the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. This

is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Here are some rules to keep in mind:

- The maximum total amount of QCDs an individual can make in 2024 is \$105,000.
- You can start making QCDs at 70 ½ years of age
- Distributions to nonprofit organizations need to be received by December 31 of that year.

Funds need to be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to the nonprofit; they cannot first pass through your hands. Check your IRA custodian’s website for instructions on how to initiate a QCD.

If you would like to make a distribution to the Sacramento Literacy Foundation, call our office today – we can help you. ■

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

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(\$20,000+)

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Contributions received August 8 through October 28, 2024

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Board Spotlight: Dr. Sobha Kollipara

Dr. Sobha Kollipara's professional career has been dedicated to caring for children with special conditions. Dr. Kollipara practiced at UC Davis Medical Center and retired from Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento.

She moved to the United States in 1973 after graduating with honors from Osmania Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad, India. She received her postgraduate medical training in Pediatrics at DC General Hospital, Washington, D.C., and then a fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology at UC Davis.

During her career, Dr. Kollipara has been involved in all aspects of children's health and well-being. In 2001, she and her team at Kaiser created educational camps for children with Type 1 Diabetes and spearheaded an educational program for the prevention of Type 2 Diabetes in children. These programs continue today, helping children with Type 1 & 2 Diabetes. Sobha and her team were awarded the much-coveted Sidney R. Garfield Exceptional Contribution Award for these innovative projects.

Sobha strongly believes children's overall well-being is tied to their literacy. As a Sacramento Literary Foundation board member, she hopes to help improve childhood literacy by connecting the medical and literacy communities. Sobha's hobbies include writing stories/poetry and fusion cooking. ■