

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

Accountability.

Accountability is one of the cornerstones of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. Accountability to our children, our parents, our teachers and our donors. As a professional fundraising organization, it is our obligation (and great privilege) to maintain systems that account for the donor support we receive on behalf of children's literacy. We apply that support in ways that create positive and sustainable results.

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The Foundation is finishing its first strategic plan focused on all children achieving grade-level reading. We have identified our primary goals: diverse books in the hands and homes of our most under resourced students, advocacy for the Science of Reading, and investment in Summer Reading Programs. On June 30, 2024, we end our fiscal year, and will review what we have learned as we plan for the next few years.

We also want others in the Literacy and Education communities to be accountable. We continue to host monthly literacy workshops that bring the literacy community together to connect and learn. We continue to broaden the Community Literacy Map data which details exactly where in California 3rd graders are reading at grade level and where they are not. The map is a resource for state advocates and policy makers working to create legislation in support of the Science of Reading. The map is an accountability tool that supports the entire literacy and

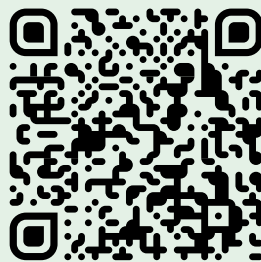
ac·count·abil·ity noun

1. the quality or state of being accountable;
2. an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions

education community in accessing the data necessary to advance literacy.

And finally, our Endowment fundraising efforts ensure long-term support for the future of Sacramento's Literacy Foundation and the work being done to advance literacy for all our children. Being accountable today will show positive outcomes with active citizens and educated workers building the economy of tomorrow.

The Foundation staff is grateful to be working with our partners in the literacy community, who day-in and day-out, collectively, and independently, help all children achieve grade-level reading. Your support is making our work possible. Thank you.



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.



Promise Zone Literacy Initiative Community Events



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 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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Rigo Tovar, Program Associate

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At the La Familia's Día del Niño/Día del Libro and CASA de ESPAÑOL's Floricanto Street Fair, we gave away more than 700 bilingual, Spanish and culturally relevant high-quality books, allowing every child 1-17 to choose their own book. *When a child chooses a book to read, they are more likely to read it.*

Books for the Summer

Once again, we are giving TK, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders a bag of five high-quality diverse books to take home for the Summer. Our book giveaway program is growing this year from 17 schools to 32 schools. We are grateful for the partnerships of the RCA Community Fund, Sierra Health Foundation, the Rotary Club of Sacramento, and the Kelly Foundation, all of whom have supported growing this program. In May and June, we gave 3,200 students a bag of books and will match that effort in September. The children we are reaching are attending one of the 52 elementary schools that have a 90% or greater Title I rate – a poverty measurement.

Summer Reading Grant Recipients

The Literacy Foundation is excited to make its fourth annual distribution to local summer reading programs and initiatives. This year, we received a broad range of requests and were able to invest \$70,000 in summer reading programs. As part of the Promise Zone's Literacy Initiative, we continue to fund summer reading programs within and near the Promise Zone.

Grantees include: Aspire Public Schools, Escape Velocity, LifeSTEPS, the Center (SCCSC), Teach for America, and United Way (UWCCR).

Your continued support is the foundation we need to keep growing these programs.



MEET THE STAFF: Rigo Tovar

Please welcome Rigo Tovar to the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. Rigo is very excited to be joining the team as our new Program Associate responsible for coordinating our book giveaway program. In 2021, Rigo graduated summa cum laude from the University of California, Davis, with a Sociology degree. He loves sociology because he has learned how to identify problems and develop solutions to the inequalities he faced

growing up in South Central Los Angeles. After graduation, Rigo worked as a substitute teacher with aspirations to become a full-time teacher but shifted gears when he saw that the lack of school resources and support severely limited his ability to teach. This is what brought him to the Foundation. Rigo sees the potential in this new role, "I can help bridge the literacy gap among low-income youth in my community and can help educate parents and teachers on the importance of implementing the Science of Reading into their school's curriculum!" When Rigo is not working, he is editing videos, playing the guitar, or watching scary movies.



The Foundation is grateful to the 110 donors who helped

us achieve \$26,000 in support on the Big Day.

Your support makes a difference!

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.

Again, this year we analyzed the Big Day results by comparing mission categories and we still see a philanthropic gap between the reading crisis we are all facing, and the support given to remedy the problem.

This year, the Education category had 99 nonprofit organizations (or 12%) and received 8% of all funds raised on the Big Day. Of those 99 nonprofits, six nonprofit organizations (0.72%) are addressing early childhood literacy and received 1.5% of all funds raised. Last year's data was nearly the same; although, there was a 17% increase in total funds received for early childhood literacy (from \$168k to \$196k.) This shows a continued philanthropic gap in literacy funding.

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.

We will continue to bring children's literacy to the forefront and advocate for the resources needed to get all kids at grade-level reading.

Authors on the Move Recap



Our twenty-second Authors on the Move was fabulous and fun! Guests were greeted with a champagne reception hosted by Fizz Champagne and Bubbles Bar and twenty-three California authors, and keynote, Rabih Alameddine. Auctioneer Pat Hume helped us raise enough funds to purchase 14,000 diverse children's books which are finding their way into children's homes this spring and next fall. As usual, Beth Ruyak took us directly into the delightful and pointed reflections of Award-

winning author Rabih Alameddine as he shared the meaning of his book, and book title, *The Wrong End of the Telescope*.

A special thank you to our talented authors, incredible volunteers, and Board of Directors who all helped make the night spectacular. A huge thank you to all 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 these kids' lives.

Next year's Authors on the Move will be held on March 8, 2025. Save the Date!



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Advocacy Update: California Legislation

On February 7, 2024, Assembly member Blanca Rubio introduced AB 2222, Science of Reading. This bill would have addressed California's Early Literacy Crisis by legislating the implementation of the Science of Reading in all schools. On April 11, 2024, Speaker of the House, Robert Rivas, killed the bill without a hearing by either of the committees it was assigned: Education and Higher Education. Rivas said in a statement to EdSource, "I want the Legislature to study this problem closely, so we can be sure stakeholders are engaged and, most importantly, that all students benefit, especially our diverse learners..." referring to English learners. Speaker Rivas' Assembly district shows that only 23.8% of 3rd-graders in his district can read at grade-level.

Lori DePole, Co-State Director of Decoding Dyslexia CA, one of the supporters of the bill, stated, "It is shameful that when more than half of CA kids aren't reading at grade-level that our legislators are okay with the status quo, and they have killed this literacy legislation without even allowing it to be heard."

There are approximately 500,000 kindergartners entering school in California each year. For very year legislators wait to implement the Science of Reading, an additional 300,000 kids, at a minimum, will fall behind in reading.

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

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