

The BOOKMARK

Newsletter of the Redwood City Library Foundation

Volume 12, Number 2 • Fall 2012

When Teens Tutor Kids, Both Benefit

Loss of State Funding Threatens Program

Project READ's Kids in Partnership (KIP) program has been exceptionally successful in improving literacy rates for Redwood City children. This after-school program teams underachieving teens (tutors) with "at risk" first through fourth graders (learners) for a year or more. Amazingly enough, both groups see their reading skills improve by up to three grade levels in a year!

Each pair works from an individualized tutoring plan based on each student's goal. Project READ administers a Bader Reading and Language Assessment to tutors and learners upon entry to the program and reassessments every six months. This long-time program meets weekly in the Downtown Library. The program currently serves over 500 learners and manages over 480 volunteer tutors each month.

Unfortunately, State Library Literacy Funds that in the past have supported the KIP program have been cut by \$130,000 this year. To insure that the program will continue, the Library Foundation has agreed to raise \$65,000, half of the loss.

"We are very grateful that the Library Foundation has committed to covering the costs of educational materials, a program assistant, tutor trainings, and children's activities linked to the school district's reading curriculum/standards," said Kathy Endaya, Project READ Director.

Many teens who benefited from the program as children are now volunteer tutors. Every tutor who participated in the program since its inception has graduated from high school and most have gone on to college.

For participants, KIP is more than a program to improve reading. Michelle, a teen tutor said, "Project READ helps us see how little things mean a lot to kids. Just having someone older that they can talk to about their day helps them be more social and teaches them how to have conversations."

You, our dedicated supporters, will be our major allies in keeping Kids in Partnership alive. We are pleased to report that through the support of generous donors, we have raised \$35,000, more than half of our goal of \$65,000. We respectfully ask for your help in closing the gap of \$30,000.



Ashley & Mariela speak about their experiences with Kids in Partnership, a Project READ program.

**Help Raise the Final \$30,000 for
Project READ's Kids in Partnership**

**To Close this \$65,000 Campaign
We Need You!**

The Library Foundation has committed to raise \$65,000 to help cover the loss of State Funding for this exemplary program (see story above). We have already raised \$35,000. You can put this campaign over the top. Your end-of-year donation will make a difference. Many thanks to these generous donors:

Lead Donors:

Cargill

Redwood City Library Foundation

Early Supporters:

Kaiser Permanente

Provident Credit Union

San Mateo Credit Union

Please send your donation in the envelope included or donate online at www.redwoodcitylibraryfoundation.org.

"Baby & Me at the Library" Class Sparks Interest

Waiting List for New Pre-Literacy Program

Being able to read is an essential skill for all learning and school success. Studies show that reading begins at birth when parents and caregivers read to their babies. By age two, the brain has developed all the language capability needed for life. Therefore, it is crucial to provide good language experiences during the child's earliest years.

The ideal way to do this is through an early literacy program that encourages parents to read to their babies, beginning at birth. Reading to babies introduces concepts such as stories, numbers, letters, colors and shapes and gives them information about the world around them. It builds listening, memory and vocabulary skills.



The new "Baby & Me at the Library" program provides babies, ages birth to 18 months, and their parents, with experiences geared to increasing the parents' awareness of their child's development with an emphasis on language enrichment and pre-literacy skills.

The six-week program began at the Downtown Library in early October with 20 babies with a parent, and a waiting list. Due to demand, a second class was begun the following week. The hour-long program includes unison book reading by parents, nursery rhymes, songs, parenting information, the construction of handmade toys, and free books to start building a home library.

Jan Pedden, reading specialist says, "The most important reason to read to a baby, though, is the positive connection that is formed between a parent, the baby, and books. It sends the message to the baby that reading is a skill worth learning."

According to Library Director Dave Genesy, the program will expand to other libraries to meet community need. The Fair Oaks Library likely will be next to have the program.

Benefactors' Circle Membership Grows

13 New Supporters Added This Year

Investing in the future of Redwood City is how Stefanie Boicelli sees membership in the Benefactors' Circle. "The future of our community is our children and literacy is the foundation of their success," she said, "I am excited for this opportunity to support the Library Foundation and to assist in raising funds needed to maintain library programs so that we can continue to support the literacy needs of our community."

Stefanie, an operations manager of Young Dreamers Network, is one of 13 generous donors joining the Circle this year. Other new members are Alicia Aguirre & Peter Liebengood, David Amann, Bob Bell, W.L. Butler Construction, Cargill, Cash America, Chavez Supermarket, Tom & Judy Cronin, Hector Flamenco, Diane & Steve Howard, Sims Metal Management, and Towne Ford Sales.

Benefactors donate \$1,000 or more annually to support the work of the Foundation. For more information on the Benefactors' Circle, please contact Georgi LaBerge, Executive Director, at (780)780-4075 or glaberge@redwoodcity.org.



Stefanie Boicelli is introduced as a new member of the Benefactors' Circle at the annual reception.

Latino Festival Delights Fair Oaks Residents

”Kermes & Dia del Niño” Raises \$20,700 for Library

On a perfectly beautiful, windless Sunday in April more than 1,000 children and adults came to the Fair Oaks Library parking lot to enjoy festival delights and raise funds for children’s materials for the library. The day included games and activities for children, music and dance performances, sale of food, and booths with information on local non-profits.

The event was co-sponsored by the Latino Community Council of Redwood City (LCCRC) and the Library Foundation. Through sponsorships and proceeds from the festival, a net of \$20,700 was realized and was used to purchase children’s books, videos, and CDs for the Fair Oaks Library. This was the second year that the LCCRC took the lead in raising funds for children’s materials. Last year’s Kermes netted \$16,000.

Library Foundation members expressed gratitude to the LCCRC for their continuing efforts to upgrade the children’s collection at the library. They also thanked Kaiser Permanente and the Friends of the Redwood City Library for their donation of children’s books. More than 1,000 new and gently used books were given away to children from the neighborhood, many of whom have few books at home.

The third annual Kermes is planned for April 28, 2013.



Boys hoping the spinning wheel will reward them with good prizes.



Foundation’s 15th Anniversary Approaches Celebration Date is March 2, 2013

You are invited to Sparky’s Hot Rod Garage in San Carlos on Saturday, March 2, 6 to 10 p.m., to celebrate the Library Foundation’s 15th anniversary. Dress will be casual and there will be entertaining opportunities to support our current fundraising campaign, Project READ’s Kids in Partnership program. There is no admission fee, but reservations are required.

When the Redwood City Library Foundation received its non-profit status in 1998, it was already working on its first initiative – to raise funds to establish a School Readiness Program that would bring trained volunteers to read stories to children at preschools and day care centers in Redwood City. The highly-regarded program, now called Traveling Storytime, continues today with 60 volunteers sharing stories at 70 child care facilities. Since its beginning, this program has reached more than 185,000 children.

With the support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and community groups, the successes continued. Since its inception, the RCLF has raised \$2.3 million which provided support for a new Teen Homework Center, a significant increase to the collection at the Fair Oaks Library, and the entire collection for the new Redwood Shores Library. Among literacy programs receiving support have been storytelling in the libraries, summer reading program, Dad and Me in the Library, and Family Author’s Night in the Schools.

Come share this nostalgic evening with us. You can make reservations by email or phone. If you wish to receive a printed invitation, please include your complete mailing address. Contact information: glaberge@redwoodcity.org or (650) 780-7045.

Summer Reading Program Excites Community

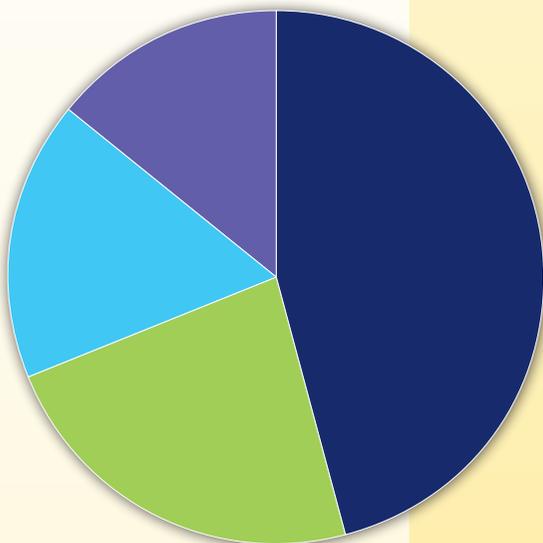
More Than 10,000 Children & Adults Take Part

For years, the Friends of the Library have funded the well-attended Summer Reading Program held in June and July. In recent years, the program has become even more popular as local schools have cancelled summer sessions. This year, the Library Foundation stepped in to extend the program until school opened in late August. More than 10,000 adults and children participated in the program this summer!

Studies show that students who don't read over the summer suffer "summer reading loss." The gap is even greater with students from low-socioeconomic families who on average lose two months of reading achievement. By the end of fifth grade, these students are three grade equivalents behind their more affluent peers in reading ability.

Redwood City Public Library's summer program provides outstanding books for reading at the library or at home, story times, performances for children, and reading incentives to keep families reading and engaged in the library.

What Your Donations Supported in 2011-2012



- Fair Oaks Library Collection = **\$40,450**
- Storytelling in Four Libraries = **\$20,000**
- Summer Reading Program = **\$14,745**
- Piano for Redwood Shores Library = **\$12,734**

TOTAL = \$87,929

Save the Dates!

Upcoming Events

Reception for Piano Donors

Saturday, December 8, 2012

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Redwood Shores Library

RCLF 15th Anniversary Party

Saturday, March 2, 2013

6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sparky's Hot Rod Garage

Kermes & Dia del Niño

Sunday, April 28, 2013

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fair Oaks Library

Correction: In listing the major donors to the Fair Oaks Library book campaign in the spring newsletter, we neglected to include the **Sand Hill Foundation**, one of our earliest donors to the campaign. *Thank you!*

Redwood City Library Foundation

1044 Middlefield Road • Redwood City, CA 94061
www.redwoodcitylibraryfoundation.org • (650) 780-7045

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**Redwood City
Library Foundation**

More than just books.

www.redwoodcitylibraryfoundation.org