

Make Way for Books

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER **JULY 2016**

You help families Make Way for Kindergarten

A new program to ensure children and families transition successfully to school



Did you know that children who enter kindergarten with basic math and literacy skills are more likely to succeed academically, go further in school, and find secure jobs as adults. Being ready for kindergarten matters!

Because of you, we have the chance to create innovative programs that ensure children in our community are ready to read and succeed! Make Way for Kindergarten is part of our Neighborhood School Readiness Project that began in Fall of 2014 with the generous support of The Helios Education Foundation. Make Way for Kindergarten teaches children the skills they need to thrive in Kindergarten. Through focus groups with local Kindergarten teachers, we determined which skills teachers want their new students to have when they begin kindergarten.

Your support means families receive books and literacy resources like Ready4K! Families in Make Way for Kindergarten receive Ready4K! text messages through our partnership with Stanford University. Ready4K! sends texts to help families maximize regular family routines and help prepare young children for kindergarten.

With your support, Make Way for Kindergarten is helping children develop the specific skills that teachers want them to have on the first day of school. Children and families learn about what they can expect in Kindergarten, from daily routines to how to communicate with new school staff. Parents gain the knowledge, resources, and confidence they need to support and advocate for their children in school.

We can't do it without YOU! Your gift of \$30 today means children in our community can attend vital programs like Make Way for Kindergarten, receive books, and start school ready to read and succeed!

Are YOU missing out?

Did you know we share a lot of our news, videos, and beautiful photos of your gifts in action through email, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram? If we don't have your email address, YOU might be missing out on fun events and other exciting news! **If you would like to receive our e-newsletter and stay up to date with Make Way for Books, please go to our website and JOIN THE MOVEMENT!** Or you can email info@makewayforbooks.org or call 520-398-6451 with your contact information!



Read books. Ride bikes.

Now is your time to join the Make Way for Books El Tour de Tucson team! When you raise \$500 as a Make Way for Books team member, you earn a newly designed Make Way for Books bike jersey and we cover your registration for El Tour de Tucson. We are planning practice rides leading up to the big event on November 19th! If you are interested in volunteering to coordinate rides, contact Ally Baehr at ally@makewayforbooks.org. Please visit our website to learn more information and to sign up at makewayforbooks.org/read-books-ride-bikes



Thank you for helping us Make Way for Books!

We rely on contributions from supporters like you to provide quality programs for thousands of children each year! Thanks to the following grantors for their recent grants to Make Way for Books:

Stone Canyon Community Foundation \$6,000

The Ohio Children's Foundation \$10,000

The Marshall Foundation \$25,000

The Stocker Foundation \$50,000

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family \$50,000

You may have seen our latest project while driving by Make Way for Books!

Thank you to the incredible Pam Mitchell and our founder Mary Jan Bancroft for leading the project to create a new mosaic on the side of our building! Special thanks to volunteers from Peace Vanguard as well as servicemen from the U.S. Army and Singapore Air Force who helped with the installation!





You help us reach families in rural communities

Families learn together at a Family Literacy Event in Ajo, Arizona and children have fun trying on glasses while enjoying a storytime featuring the book *Arlo Needs Glasses*.

Sometimes meeting children and families where they are means traveling hours to provide family literacy events, professional development workshops, create book collections at preschools, and more!

Your support enables us to travel to rural communities like Arivaca, Three Points, Ajo, and Amado to provide high-quality programming, support, and books through The Story Project. The project provides coaching and workshops that build the confidence, knowledge, and resources of early childhood professionals in providing meaningful early literacy and language support for children in their care. **This year, 99% of educators gained strategies they can use to better support children and families!**

Because of supporters like you, we provided Family Literacy Events that connect parents and children with literacy resources. Your support has allowed us to provide books in languages such as Spanish, Navajo, Tohono O'odham, and Hopi. By working closely with educators and families, we are able to select books that ensure that children see their own

cultures and language reflected in stories. Families are empowered to share books in their home language. Lending libraries, a valuable resource for families, are established in these communities to allow families to easily check out these books to share at home. One parent shared, **"This program is important because it develops my child's knowledge, greater imagination, and language development."**

According to Eleanor Droegemeier, the former regional director for the First Things First Pima South Regional Partnership Council, The Story Project is building a connection between educators and families, **"The presence of Make Way for Books in these rural communities has provided an exciting opportunity for early childhood professionals to enhance their knowledge of effective practices that support early language and literacy development, but almost as importantly, it has provided a vehicle for engaging and connecting the families of young children to early education programs and other available resources."**

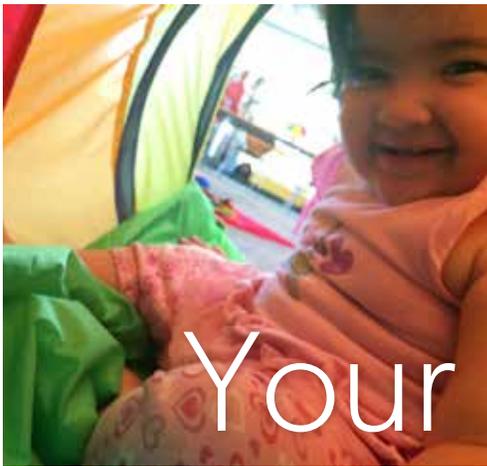
Community by community, we are creating a lasting impact. **You make it all possible!**



Book by book, students create real impact!

A big thank you goes out to Bailey, Gabe, and Sean, along with their mentor Vanessa from Tucson Unified School District's Community Transition Program (CTP). The program provides high school students with disabilities, ages 18 to 22, with a seamless transition from school to life as young adults. By collaborating with nonprofits, students in CTP gain hands-on work and life experience.

This year, Bailey, Gabe, and Sean visited Make Way for Books each week to support our Blue Book House Project by cleaning, categorizing, processing, and stamping books to go back out into our community. In addition to learning valuable skills that will help them in their future work experiences, Bailey, Gabe, and Sean brought so much fun, laughter, and warmth to our office!



Your gifts in action

Baby Time!

The contributions of supporters like you allow us to provide storytime each week in our building. Because of the success of our Story Hour, we now offer Baby Time, an hour of songs, stories, and movement for infants! Special thanks to Stone Canyon Community Foundation for supporting Story Hour!

You're helping raise readers!

Your support this year provided Raising A Reader programming for hundreds of young children and families in Tucson. Because of you, parents gain confidence and resources to be their children's first, best teachers! Congratulations to our Raising A Reader graduates!

Meeting families at the Tanque Verde Swap Meet!

Each week, children and families gather for meaningful literacy activities, interactive storytimes, books, and fun at Cover to Cover! **This year, 99% of families have a reading routine by the end of Cover to Cover! You make it possible!**