



Please consider contributing to our program which gives at-risk children the warmth of supportive relationships through storytime.

Dear Friends and Supporters of Children and Youth,

Through the 3rd quarter of 2016, with the help of our dedicated volunteers and generous supporters, Reading Legacies' has provided 6,922 shared-reading experiences for children and youth throughout San Diego County. 300,000 children in CA alone are the victims of having an incarcerated parent at this time. We need your help to grow our programs.

Reading Legacies depends on support from our friends and supporters, like YOU to help us continue our work. Will you please consider supporting us in our goal of breaking the cycle of failure in children's lives in 2017 by making your tax deductible donation today?

Reading aloud with a child is not only the single most important factor that can be given to prepare them to read and write, it's also an irreplaceable way to strengthen the important bond between the reader and the child.

Reading Legacies facilitates supportive reading relationships for vulnerable children and youth through our two powerful programs: FAMILY CONNECTIONS and COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Both programs offer educational as well as emotional benefits:

**Educational:** Reading forms the foundation for a love of learning. What's more, studies show that reading out loud can actually wire a child's brain to recognize patterns and sequences and predict



*Through our Community Connections program, we provide role-modeling experiences for at-risk youth who learn to read aloud with preschoolers in their own neighborhoods.*



outcomes — cognitive skills that affect all areas of life.

Shared-reading also sharpens listening and conversation skills, sparks the imagination, and expands a child's knowledge of the world around them.

**Emotional:** The intimate experience of shared-reading yields important lessons about behavior, feelings, and the enduring bonds of relationships. Shared-reading is a gift for parents and children alike who may be missing special moments with each other. Our Family Connections program allows absent parents an opportunity to rekindle emotional closeness as well as impart important lessons, ease difficult transitions, heal personal pain, and celebrate family life through the gift of shared-reading.

Reading with young children through our Community Connections program is a unique way to give at-risk high school students an opportunity to give back to their community in a positive way while building leadership experience. In addition to the benefits afforded the high schools students, the young children with whom they read are benefitting from the educational and emotional benefits of shared-reading.

Thank you in advance for **giving generously** toward a bright 2017 for thousands of needy children and youth at [www.readinglegacies.org](http://www.readinglegacies.org).

With Gratitude and Christmas Blessings,



Betty J. Mohlenbrock, M.Ed.  
Founder & President

*Through our **FAMILY CONNECTIONS** program, we encourage bonding and the love of reading in children through shared-reading experiences for children of incarcerated family members.*