

# Sparking Literacy



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM READ TO ME PROJECT! DECEMBER 28, 2023

## LAST CALL! Ring in the New Year with HOPE

- H** - Help
- O** - Our community's disadvantaged
- P** - Preschoolers to succeed. Give them an
- E** - Equitable start in school and hope for a bright future.

Our only fund raiser of the year ends at mid-night, December 31st.  
[montereycountygives.com/read](http://montereycountygives.com/read)



Students tell us what they like about the Read to Me Project:

*I feel like i am doing something important in her life.*

- Brianna in King City is reading to her 3-year-old niece.

*i love about read to me project that i have learned how to be pashon [patient] with little ones and i also learn that u can encourage*

As an advocate for early literacy, you recognize the importance of Read to Me Project's annual request for help with the continuing effort to close the literacy gap among thousands of children in disadvantaged, low literate families.

Expert educators say illiteracy is preventable. Remedial support programs are not designed to address the root cause of what has for decades been called a crisis. Among the estimated 550 4th-6th grade classes in Monterey County, 461 are low performing, defined by 50% or more students in a class who do not meet grade level standards.

The Read to Me Project emerged in 2011 as a proactive response, initiated by a speech and language specialist who had witnessed the distressing reality of young children beginning kindergarten with a significant deficit in fundamental literacy skills. The lack of early literacy was hindering their capacity for learning to read.

Every child, regardless of their background, deserves an equitable start in school. Yet, in Monterey County alone, a staggering 70% of children enter school at least two years behind in basic vocabulary, language skills, and cognitive development – all pivotal prerequisites for mastering the art and science of reading.

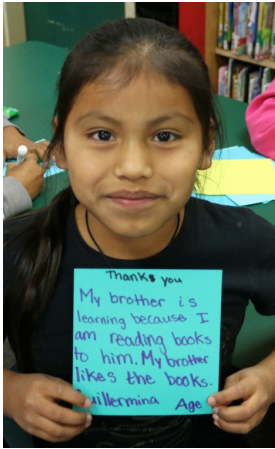
With your help, the Read to Me Project will continue to:

- Prepare more pre-school aged children in low-literacy households to start school on par with their peers, primed for learning to read, while student participants improve their reading skills.
- Deliver crucial training to parents with limited literacy skills, equipping them with tools and information to foster their

them to be a good

reader.

- Linda in Salinas is reading to her 2-year-old brother.



young child's literacy development.

- Invest in age-appropriate books and educational materials essential for program implementation among students, preschoolers, and parents.

When you donate through the Monterey County Gives! Campaign, your contribution will generate an additional 10 – 15% match. Will you please help by donating in one of the following ways?

- Donate online by going to [Montereycountygives.com/read](https://montereycountygives.com/read).
- Mail a check made payable to "Community Foundation for Monterey County/MC Gives" with a note specifying it's for the Read to Me Project, sent to 2354 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
- Wire & ACH: Initiate your donation by visiting [Montereycountygives.com/read](https://montereycountygives.com/read) and providing your donation information, where you'll also receive guidance on the subsequent steps. For further assistance, please reach out to the Community Foundation for Monterey County at 831.375.9712 during normal business hours.

If you haven't already donated this year, please support the important work being done to close the literacy gap and empower children to do well in school, become proficient literate adults, and ultimately successful contributors to society.

You have our sincere appreciation and we wish you a very...

# Happy New Year!

**MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!**  
Joining Together for Big Ideas

**Donate**

Donations received now through December 31st will raise a percentage match from Monterey County Gives! Campaign Partners.

***Every child entering kindergarten prepared to succeed.***

**Website**

