

READING TO KIDS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions AND Answers that you may encounter while you are fundraising. If there is a question you cannot answer, please feel free to contact us at info@readingtokids.org or (310) 479-7455. For more FAQs, check out the *Reading to Kids* website: <http://readingtokids.org/Help/FAQ.php>

What is *Reading to Kids*?

Reading to Kids is a grassroots organization dedicated to inspiring underserved children with a love of reading, thereby enriching their lives and opportunities for future success.

How did *Reading to Kids* get started?

Reading to Kids began in 1999 at Gratts Elementary School with a group of volunteers, administrators, and teachers who were organizing periodic carnivals at the school. Looking to start an additional program with the school that would emphasize learning, the volunteers, teachers, and administrators came up with the idea of the "Gratts Reading Club." This reading club began in May 1999 and its success led to the formation of *Reading to Kids*. In March 2000, *Reading to Kids* expanded its program to Esperanza Elementary School, and in March 2001 expanded again to Magnolia Elementary School. In 2006, *Reading to Kids* expanded to Hoover and Politi Elementary Schools, in 2007 they expanded to White and Los Angeles Elementary Schools, and in 2008, they started at Alta Loma Elementary. In 2016 they expanded to MacArthur Park Elementary. In the future, *Reading to Kids* hopes to expand this successful program to other elementary schools in the LAUSD.

What schools do you partner with? How many kids participate in the program?

Reading to Kids partners with eight elementary schools just west of downtown Los Angeles: Alta Loma, Esperanza, Gratts, MacArthur Park, Magnolia, Los Angeles, Politi and White. All students from our partner schools are invited to attend the reading clubs, held on the second Saturday of each month. Prior to the pandemic an average of 275 to 365 volunteers, 500 to 800 kids, and 100 parents participate in our reading clubs each month. Since we began using Zoom in May 2020 while our partner school campuses are temporarily closed to outside groups, we average 234 kids and 87 volunteers each month as 32 teachers host via their Zoom accounts.

What are some of your accomplishments?

Since 1999 more than 23,169 volunteers have donated their time at our Saturday reading clubs, we've distributed more than 235,000 books to children, parents, and teachers, and donated more than 33,650 hardcover books to the schools' libraries.

How can I sign up for a reading club?

For the time being while we use Zoom to read aloud to the kids, only those who have volunteered with us at least once before may sign up to volunteer. Interested new volunteers can subscribe to our email updates at www.readingtokids.org to be informed when we can allow new volunteers to read with us.