

Yolo Reads : Yolo County Board of Supervisors proclaims November 2024 as Family Literacy Awareness Month

Introduction: On Tuesday, November 5, the Yolo County Library's **Yolo Reads Adult & Family Literacy Services** received a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. Here are some highlights.

“Thank you to everyone who attended and supported Yolo Reads! I’m excited to share Said Mostafa’s testimonial on library literacy with you, along with a few recent written submissions.”

– Nancy Pacheco, Yolo Reads Coordinator

Said Mostafa, West Sacramento, CA: Tutored by Aaron Needles.

First of all, thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself and share my experience with the Yolo Reads program as an English learner. My name is Said Mostafa, and I am originally from Afghanistan. I have been participating in the Yolo Reads program for over a year.

I first connected on Zoom with Becky McMannis, who provided me with guidance and introduced me to my new tutor, Aaron Needles. We started meeting weekly, using an English literacy workbook to complete readings and exercises step by step. These regular sessions greatly improved my speaking, listening, and writing skills, and had a positive impact on various aspects of my life, such as my job, doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and traveling.

My wife also benefited from the Yolo Reads program. It is indeed a valuable resource for anyone looking to learn English as a second language. I highly recommend it to other immigrants with similar needs.

I am sincerely grateful to the Yolo Reads staff, especially Becky McMannis, Nancy Pacheco, and my dedicated tutor, Aaron Needles, for their continuous support and encouragement each week.

Sandra, Winters, CA: Family Literacy Participant, tutored by Leticia Flores (Yolo Reads Family Literacy Coordinator)

Sandra participates in our Family Literacy program, where she learns and shares experiences in workshops. She has two middle school children who inspire her learning journey in reading and writing. One of Sandra's goals is to enhance her communication skills to advocate effectively for her children's education.

Through workshops, she has engaged with presenters and fellow participants about community resources and programs. Sandra emphasizes the importance of setting goals and feels more connected to her community. Seeking a tutor and collaborating with other learners have strengthened her educational aspirations. Advocating for services for herself and her children has motivated her to track her progress, regardless of its size. As she puts it, "It is not easy to knock on

doors for services; it's difficult because there are few opportunities, but opening one door leads to many others."

Sandra plans to attend community college, earn an associate's degree, and pursue further education. Through our program, she has learned about GED resources and college opportunities, aiming to demonstrate to her children that achieving dreams requires bravery and proactive efforts.

Jiwon, Davis, CA: Tutored by Becky McMannis (YC Literacy Assistant)

My name is Jiwon Ahn, and I've been part of the Yolo Reads program for over a year. I've taken classes with Becky McMannis and wanted to share my positive experience. Becky is a passionate and dedicated tutor. I met her shortly after moving to the U.S., and her enthusiasm helped me navigate the language and cultural challenges I faced.

Through our sessions, I learned practical expressions for everyday tasks like visiting banks, hospitals, grocery shopping, car maintenance and finding an apartment. Her support significantly boosted my confidence.

She also improved my reading comprehension by providing books tailored to my level, fostering a supportive and engaging environment.

I am very satisfied with this program and would recommend it to any friends struggling with English as a second language. I truly appreciate Becky's hard work and believe she deserves recognition for her positive impact on her students.



**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 24-147

Proclaiming November 2024 as Family Literacy Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Yolo County has a tradition of commitment to literacy and lifelong learning; Yolo County Library invites you to celebrate National Family Literacy month; and

WHEREAS, literacy is a set of skills that includes speaking, listening, reading, writing, and critical thinking, whose mastery enables individuals to contribute to our economy, democracy, and community; and

WHEREAS, adult learners are our co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family members; and

WHEREAS, over 35,000 of our Yolo County residents, or one in six adults, cannot read or write sufficiently to carry out everyday activities; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads, the Yolo County Library literacy program, offers free one-on-one tutoring and ESL classes for local residents. During FY 2023-24, Yolo Reads volunteer tutors provided 2,314 hours of free literacy instruction to 137 Yolo County adult learners to help them improve their reading, writing, spelling, math, and grammar skills; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County Library literacy services now includes basic life-skills ESL classes for rural Spanish-speaking residents with classes at public libraries in Knights Landing, Winters, and Esparto; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads adult learners completed over 315 goals they set, including preparing for their citizenship test; gaining full-time employment; and helping their children in school during FY 2023-24; and

WHEREAS, Library staff noted, *"One of Sandra's goals is to practice communication skills to advocate for her children's education. Sandra's children have inspired and motivated her perseverance in learning to read and write proficiently. During our family literacy workshops, Sandra shared the importance of setting goals. Sandra says she now has the confidence to find the resources at the library to help meet her goals."*; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads is a community of lifelong learners who, along with their families and tutors, are building a better future and coming together to celebrate their achievements each November.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2024 as Family Literacy Awareness Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of November 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Vixie Sandy, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lucas Frerichs".

Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors