

## Read to a Child Spring & Summer Happenings



Happy summer! It's been a busy past few months for all of us at Read to a Child, filled with end-of-year celebrations for our young readers, a successful online fundraiser, and a number of changes to our National Board of Directors.

During our online fundraiser in March, we beat our \$100,000 goal and raised an incredible **\$103,457** to 'Help Kids in Need Love to Read,' supporting Read to a Child's programs all across the country.

This year's campaign boasted six corporate sponsors, forty individual fundraising pages, and hundreds of individual contributions. It also coincided with our Book Bracket Challenge. As a way of celebrating National Reading Month, Facebook users voted on their favorite children's book. The winner of the first Annual Book Bracket Challenge was *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman.

We are deeply grateful to New York Times bestselling authors James Patterson and David Baldacci, both of whom publicized the online fundraiser and Book Bracket Challenge on Twitter and Facebook.

There have also been a number of changes to the National Board of Directors. In mid-May, Chris Thomas of Fontinalis Partners stepped down as Chair. We are incredibly thankful for his years of leadership, service, and support, and we're pleased that he'll remain committed to Read to a Child by serving on the Detroit Regional Board of Advisors. Joan Pierre, who has left American Express and moved to St. Thomas, has

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also stepped down from the National Board. We thank Joan for her wise counsel and advocacy, and wish her the best in her next adventure.

Previous Vice-Chair, Mark Tarini, was unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Board, and we are extremely pleased with the selection. Mark, a partner at Arclight Capital, brings a wealth of financial and business experience to the role, and is also a volunteer reading mentor at the Tobin School in Boston. Congratulations to Mark from the entire Read to a Child family!

Additionally, Desiree Ivey has been elected to the National Board. Desiree, Director of Teacher Training at the renowned Shady Hill School in Cambridge, MA, brings a wealth of experience from the education sector and we are thankful for her service.

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## Boston

### The Mayor Reads

In March, Mayor Marty Walsh of Boston read aloud to the children of Samuel Adams Elementary School in East Boston. Mayor Walsh read the Dr. Seuss book *What Pet Should I Get?*, which sparked a lively discussion among the kids. One youngster suggested that readers were supposed to "infer the ending" - impressive vocabulary usage and literary analysis from an elementary school student!



Mayor Marty Walsh reads to the kids of Adams Elementary School

Mayor Walsh is very supportive of Read to a Child's mission, and said, "I applaud Read to a Child and its innovative model of utilizing volunteers from area corporations to act as reading mentors in public schools."

Mayor Walsh was joined by Boston Public Schools Superintendent Tommy Chang and Eastern Bank President Bob Rivers. After the read-aloud session, the Mayor and Superintendent briefly visited reading pairs in the nearby lunchtime reading program classroom in order to thank volunteers from Read to a Child corporate partners Acadian, CTP, Eaton Vance, Standard Life, and The Boston Company. Both the students and their reading mentors were thrilled by the visit.

### Trivia Night Success



Held on May 18, our Boston Trivia Night was a huge success! Nearly 130 people attended and we raised an incredible \$21,000 to support Read to a Child's programs in greater Boston. Attendees enjoyed delicious appetizers and great beer, and answered questions about literature, history, pop culture, and sports.

The team from Posternak won the trivia contest, and will hold onto the championship cup until next year's event.

A very special thank you to our sponsors: Acadian Asset Management, BNY Mellon, Cabot Corporation, Eaton Vance, Posternak Blankstein & Lund LLP, and the Tarini

## Connecticut

### Year End Celebrations

Read to a Child in Connecticut held year-end celebrations at its three program sites: May 19 at Lincoln School in New Britain; May 31 at Betances Early Reading Lab in Hartford; and June 15 at Wexler Grant School in New Haven.

We were delighted to come together to thank our corporate sponsors, honor our 147 volunteer mentors, and especially to congratulate our 128 students for completing another year of reading! National office staff joined the celebrations as well; Kaela Vronsky at Lincoln, Paul Lamoureux at Betances, and Beth Putnam at Wexler Grant.



Kids and their mentors at Betances celebrate the end of a successful year

### Volunteer Recognition

Our Connecticut volunteers have been hard at work. The team from Moore McKesson Medical coordinated a book drive that collected over 150 books, and Day Pitney LLP sponsored a Jeans Day on May 20 which raised over \$450 in support of Read to a Child in Connecticut.

There have been big changes on the Connecticut Regional Board of Advisors as well. We are pleased to welcome three new board members: Paul Sapiro of UBS, Richard Wasserman of Day Pitney LLP, and education consultant Ellen Stoltz, who all bring a wealth of expertise and great enthusiasm for the Read to a Child mission. A warm welcome to Paul, Richard, and Ellen!

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## Detroit

### Once Upon a Time



Delicious desserts with the Read to a Child logo

Held on June 16, Detroit's fairytale-themed charity benefit, Once Upon a Time, was an evening filled with delicious food, good music, and great company. More than 100 guests bid fiercely on a number of items at both the live and silent auctions, which included a Detroit Lions on-field experience, Detroit Pistons VIP Suite, and a gorgeous collection from Ahee Jewelers.

The event also honored Leslie Kachel, Detroit's mentor of the year. In addition to being a dedicated reading

mentor for three years, Leslie led the charge with a library remodel and book



The festivities at Once Upon a Time

drive for students at Loving Academy. She also raised more than \$500 to purchase new books for Read to a Child's book carts.

Once Upon a Time was a huge success thanks to our sponsors and community partners, raising nearly \$45,000 to benefit Read to a Child Detroit's impact in local schools.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors: Lakeside Properties, Bodman PLC, Bloomberg, Level One Bank, Citizens Bank, James Group International, Flagstar Bank, Talmer Bank & Trust, Townsend Search Group, Rainbow Child Care Center, Dykema, Gas Station TV, UBS, Pinnacle Wealth Strategies, Jabs Gym, Aon, and Google.

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## Los Angeles

### Welcome to Our New Corporate Reading Partners

Los Angeles is pleased to welcome nineteen volunteers from Wpromote Digital Marketing to Juan Cabrillo Elementary. MEC Global Media Agency also joined the program, with nine volunteers reading at Leo Politi Elementary. There was excitement and enthusiasm as our new volunteer reading mentors met their students for the first time this spring semester, beginning new relationships that will create a lifelong love of reading.

### Children's Book Authors Inspire Students

This May, children's book authors visited our school locations and read their works aloud to the children. The kids were thrilled to hear about the girl who convinced Abraham Lincoln to grow a beard in *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*, read aloud by author Karen Winnick. They also learned about a grandma who moonlights as a spy in *Grambo*, read aloud to them by author Beth Navarro; and many more. This visit was the culmination of our students' work towards the Million Word Challenge, and also provided an opportunity for Read to a Child to expand into school classrooms.



Kids at Leo Politi are excited to meet real authors

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## South Florida

### Celebration and Gratitude



Jill Bloom, along with kids and volunteers from Pine Lake Elementary

Jill Bloom, former volunteer and current Lead School Coordinator extraordinaire at Pine Lake Elementary in Miami was pleasantly surprised to discover that volunteers had been planning to offer her some extra special recognition during the year-end celebration.

Volunteers chipped in for flowers, a personal gift, and a \$175 donation to Read to a Child in Jill's name. A huge thank-you to Debbie Platt, longtime volunteer and Read to a Child South Florida Regional Board member, for organizing

this wonderful and well-deserved commendation!

## Welcome New Regional Board Members

We are incredibly fortunate to have three new Regional Board members in South Florida: Gustavo Oliviera of MP&D Holdings Company, Stephanie Parra of Fusion/Univision Media, and Jason Sternberg of Hogan Lovell LLP. All bring unique talents and passion to the Read to a Child team. Welcome aboard!

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## Upcoming Events

**SoulCycle Benefit for Read to a Child in Los Angeles - July 23, 2016**

**South Florida Charity Benefit - September 21, 2016**

**Connecticut Charity Benefit - October 19, 2016**

**National/Boston Gala - November 17, 2016**



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