

## Read to a Child's Upcoming Annual Gala



Patriots Tight End Martellus Bennett and his daughter Jett

Mark your calendars - the **Read to a Child Annual Gala, *A Night in the Jungle***, will take place on November 17th at the Omni Parker House in Boston. There will be several special guests in attendance at this year's event, including the New England Patriots new all-pro tight end Martellus (Marty) Bennett, who will also be the featured speaker. Author of the children's book *Hey AJ It's Saturday*, which he penned for his daughter, Marty will speak about the importance of reading and how his relationship with his daughter led him to become a published author. Early Bird tickets for the Gala are now available [here](#).

In addition to Gala preparations, the Fall season brings a flurry of activity across the country as we welcome new and returning students and volunteer reading mentors into the Lunchtime Reading Program.

However, before we begin school year 2016-17, we want to share with you our incredible results from last year. In school year 2015-16 we exceeded all of our past metrics with an incredible **1,501 volunteer reading mentors from more than 100 organizations conducting over 35,000 one-on-one reading sessions with 1,192 at-risk children.**

**Teachers reported that 90% of Lunchtime Reading Program students made measurable gains** in literacy skills or socio-emotional domains such as self-confidence. Thank you to all of our staff, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, and supporters!

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### Stay Connected





Tecla Palli-Sandler

We are also extremely pleased to welcome a new addition to our Board of Directors: Tecla Palli-Sandler. Tecla is a deeply experienced human resources professional and for more than 20 years has practiced her craft with Rizzoli, L'Oreal, Accenture Publicis/MediaVest, and most recently as Executive Vice President and Director of Human Resources for Dentsu Aegis Network in New York City. Welcome Tecla!

## Los Angeles

### LA Dodgers' Rich Hill "Pitches In" at Politi Elementary

On Friday, August 26, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Rich Hill visited the Leo Politi Elementary School in Los Angeles and read aloud to children in Read to a Child's Lunchtime Reading Program. The event highlighted Read to a Child's partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation to improve children's literacy skills among those most at-risk in the greater Los Angeles community.

Students from Politi Elementary presented their favorite new Dodgers pitcher (Rich Hill joined the Dodgers on August 1st) with a personal copy of Dr. Seuss's newly released book, *What Pet Should I Get?*, signed by the children in the Lunchtime Reading Program. Rich read this book aloud to the students and engaged in a lively discussion of which pet the children in the book actually did "get."



Rich Hill reads to the kids of Leo Politi Elementary

The event brought together community stakeholders and school officials committed to children's academic success. "I deeply value our partnership with Read to a Child because I see the results of the dedicated mentors who come each week to read with our students," said Luis Ochoa, Leo Politi Elementary School Principal. "In addition to the mentoring relationships that develop, I see our students learning to love books." See a brief 3 minute video from the event [here](#).

### Successful LA SoulCycle Benefit



Thank you to the attendees of Read to a Child's SoulCycle benefit

On July 23rd, more than 30 avid supporters cycled for children's literacy at the Downtown LA SoulCycle. The event raised nearly \$1,400 for Read to a Child's programs in Los Angeles!

While supporting at-risk children in Los Angeles, participants enjoyed SoulCycle's inspirational, meditative fitness experience and also received gift bags with items from Premier America Credit Union and fujiKale.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and a very special thank you to Los Angeles board member Adriene Plescia Lynch of Alston & Bird LLP who truly made this event a resounding success.

## Connecticut

## Second Annual Connecticut Fundraiser

Read to a Child in Connecticut is busy planning *An Evening at the Mark Twain House*, which will be held on **Wednesday, October 19, 2016 from 6 - 8 p.m.** This year's fundraising event will once again take place in the home of one of America's most celebrated literary figures. Guests will enjoy tours of the historic site, hors d'œuvres, and cocktails. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to bid on a wide array of auction items, including fine art, first edition, hand-signed book sets, equestrian lessons, golf packages, as well as restaurant, wine, beauty, and cleaning services gift certificates.

Tickets, which are selling fast, are available [here](#).



The historic Mark Twain House, site of Read to a Child's upcoming Connecticut fundraiser

## New Lunchtime Reading Program Year & New Volunteers

Read to a Child in Connecticut is gearing up for the 2016-2017 Lunchtime Reading Program and preparing to welcome back many (if not all!) of the 150 volunteers who served as reading mentors last year. We are also eager to greet the new volunteers who joined us during volunteer fairs and informational sessions hosted this summer by Travelers, Stanley Black & Decker, Halloran & Sage, Cooney, Scully & Dowling, and Federman, Lally & Remis.



CT Director Gina Broadbent with Holly Lerosé, CT board member, volunteer reader, and Travelers employee

We're also welcoming three new School Coordinators: Susanne Santangelo (Betances School), Jane Ferrall (Wexler-Grant), and Kim Downes (Lincoln School). Susanne, Jane, and Kim bring a wealth of experience in program coordination and children's literacy. We are delighted to have them on board.

Here's to a great 2016-17 Lunchtime Reading Program in Connecticut! Stay tuned for news about a fourth Connecticut Program site!

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## Detroit

### New Detroit Director



Ky Lindberg, new Detroit Director

We are thrilled to introduce our new Detroit Director, Ky Lindberg!

Ky's diverse background and professional experience in education, nonprofit management, and communications provides a welcome addition to Read to a Child's efforts in Detroit. This 10-year industry veteran has an exceptional capacity for building strategic partnerships and marketing strategies and has overseen brand development initiatives, consumer and field marketing activities, as well as advertising and public relations. Her keen market knowledge has translated into an ability to produce substantial business development, building organizations from the ground up and increasing the market power of existing organizations. Ky's relationships with local, state, and federal governments, as well as with a multitude of educational, nonprofit, and community leaders, enable her to leverage resources that can expand our organizational reach. She is very passionate about education and is committed to identifying ways to reduce the achievement gap in urban communities. Ky is poised to help Read to a Child grow in the region and is excited to share her joy of reading with children in the Metro Detroit area.

Join us in sending Ky a warm welcome to Read to a Child at [ky.lindberg@readtoachild.org](mailto:ky.lindberg@readtoachild.org)!

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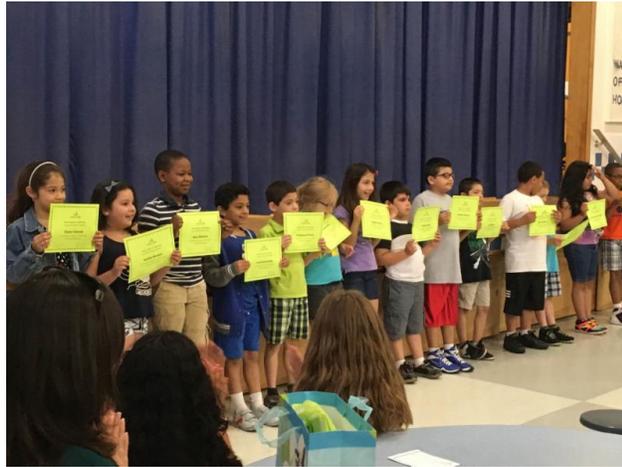
## Boston

## Year-End Celebrations in Review

Greater Boston students and volunteer reading mentors wrapped up a great year of reading and partnership in May and June. Highlights of the celebrations in our 17 schools included 750 students receiving certifications of participation and 950 mentors receiving certificates of appreciation.

One mentor summed up the sentiments of many: "My student has grown tremendously in many aspects. Not only did he grow as a reader, but he also became more sociable and his self-confidence grew. The program has a dramatic effect on students in more ways than just reading."

We look back fondly on these celebrations and accomplishments as we gear up for another school year this month.



Students proudly hold up the certificates they received for their participation in the Lunchtime Reading Program

## Generous Grant from Staples

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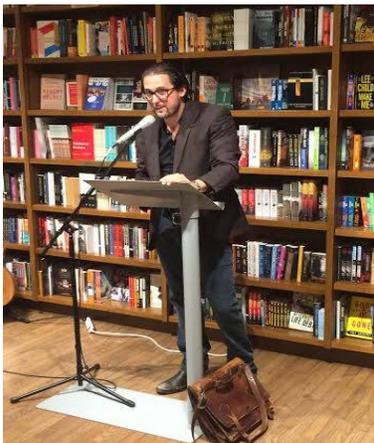
**STAPLES**

Read to a Child has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc., through a program called 2 Million & Change. This program enables Staples associates around the globe to participate in directing \$2 million in charitable donations each year. Thank you Staples Foundation for your generous support!

## South Florida

### 3rd Annual Fundraising Event in Coral Gables a Success!

On September 21st, we held our 3rd Annual Miami Fundraising Event at Books & Books in Coral Gables. We were delighted to welcome our guest speaker Pablo Cartaya, author of the forthcoming middle-grade books *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* and *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*.



Guest speaker Pablo Cartaya



Read to a Child supporters enjoying the event

The event was a resounding success and **raised more than \$15,000** to support the Lunchtime Reading Program in South Florida!

We would like to extend special thanks to our board members and volunteers in the region for their tireless efforts, as well as for the generous support of sponsors Assurant, Books & Books, Greenberg Traurig, Hogan Lovells, Holland & Knight, Housing Trust Group, Ian & Cory Ross and US Bank. We'd also like to acknowledge the support of The Children's Trust, as well as the efforts of board

member, reading mentor, sponsor and fundraiser organizer, Stuart Gitlitz. Well done!

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## Upcoming Events & Campaigns

[Connecticut Fundraiser: An Evening at the Mark Twain House](#) - October 19, 2016

[Annual Gala in Boston: A Night in the Jungle](#) - November 17, 2016

**SAVE THE DATE: Give Miami Day** - November 17, 2016

**SAVE THE DATE: Connecticut Bookfair to Benefit Read to a Child** - December 2, 2016



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