

Spring is now in full bloom and all Read to a Child locations have been busy concluding another successful school year of the Lunchtime Reading Program. In addition, all of our regions have been conducting high-profile literacy and fundraising events, while making preparations for year-end celebrations at all of our school sites. Please read on to find out what is happening in each of our regions.

We are also pleased to provide access to our newly published **2016 Annual Report**. You can view the report [here](#). Thank you to Jack Design for once again donating high quality graphic design services!



### **More than \$113,000 raised in Online Fundraising Campaign to 'Help Kids in Need Love to Read!'**

Once again, we want to thank all of our supporters who helped us raise over \$113,000 during our Online Fundraising Campaign, 'Help Kids in Need Love to Read.' We are humbled by the generous support of more than 500 donors and 50 fundraisers who helped us surpass our goal. These funds will help support more than 6,000 individual reading sessions in the Lunchtime Reading Program for students in under-resourced public elementary schools across the country. Thank you for your commitment to Read to a Child and our mission!

### **In This Issue**

- [National](#)
- [Boston](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Detroit](#)
- [Los Angeles](#)
- [South Florida](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

### **Quick Links**

- [Donate](#)
- [Become a Sponsor](#)
- [Get Involved](#)

### **Learn More About Our Locations**

- [Boston](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Detroit](#)
- [Los Angeles](#)
- [South Florida](#)

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## **Boston**

**New York Life Takes the Cup at Read to a Child's Team Trivia Night**

Read to a Child's annual Team Trivia Night was once again hosted at Game On Fenway. We want to thank everyone who attended and made the night a success. With your help, we were able to raise more than \$21,000 to support the Lunchtime Reading Program in Greater Boston! Congratulations to this year's winners from New York Life. We also want to thank the following sponsors: BNY Mellon, Posternak, Cabot Corporations, Acadian, Eaton Vance, The Tarini Family, and Charles River Associates.



2017 Team Trivia Night winners

### **Saying farewell to Lois Foley**

Lois Foley, our beloved School Coordinator at the Samuel Adams School in East Boston, retires from Read to a Child after fourteen years. Lois has worked in the Boston Public Schools for over 55 years and has changed the lives of many children. Not only has she encouraged students to love reading on a daily basis, but she also donated a book room to the school. This past Monday, we celebrated Lois at the Eaton Vance Harbor Cafe. Thank you, Lois, for all that you have done for Read to a Child. You will be missed!



Lois Foley's retirement celebration hosted by Eaton Vance

### **New Regional Board of Advisors Members**

We want to extend a warm welcome to **Phil Messina** and **Gavin Danaher**, both from ArcLight Capital, who recently joined Boston's Regional Board of Advisors. ArcLight is a major supporter of Read to a Child and we look forward to Phil and Gavin's contributions to our growth.

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## **Connecticut**

### **Special Visitors to the Lunchtime Reading Program**

Read to a Child in CT was delighted to welcome two special guests to the Lunchtime Reading Program. Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin visited the Betances Elementary School and shared his favorite children's story, "Blueberries for Sal." Mayor Erin Stewart of New Britain visited the Lincoln School to read "Little Roja Riding Hood" to Lunchtime Reading Program students. A great time was had by all!

### **In the News**

The Lunchtime Reading Program was featured on Fox 61's HOPE (Helping Organizations Promote Education) segment. Filmed at the Betances School, Fox 61 Anchor, Erika Arias, profiled the program, volunteer readers, and students during this informative and inspiring segment.

### **Lunchtime Reading Program Introduced at Dr. Michael D. Fox School, Hartford**

Read to a Child in CT introduced the Lunchtime Reading Program at a second Hartford Public School, the Dr. Michael D. Fox School, on February 14, 2017. In the ensuing weeks, kindergarten and first grade students have enjoyed their weekly read aloud sessions with volunteer readers from the municipality of Hartford, Hartford Steam Boiler, LAZ Parking, Southend Wellness Senior Center, and the local community. We marked National Reading Month and the "official"



Mayor Erin Stewart with students at Lincoln School



Program kick-off by hosting a read aloud event on March 21, 2017. Guest readers included Erika Arias, Fox61 news anchor; Janet Lawler, children's book author; and Kim Oliver, City of Hartford Director, Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation and Board of Education member.

### **Board Changes**

Read to a Child in CT recently bid a fond farewell to **Sean Datcher** as chair of its Regional Board of Advisors. Sean served as a Board member since December 2014 and Board Chair since August 2015. Sean was also a dedicated a volunteer reader at Betances over the past four years. His strong, steady leadership and support were instrumental in helping Read to a Child in CT to grow, serving more children and welcoming more volunteers! Thank you Sean!



Connecticut's Lunchtime Reading Program was featured on Fox 61's Stories of Hope

Thank you to **Rich Wasserman** and **Holly Lerosé** who have recently accepted the role of Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the CT Regional Board of Advisors.

We are also pleased to add three new Board members. **Greg Boyd** from Travelers, **Capri Frank** from Miller Foods, and **David Urbanik** from Halloran & Sage LLP each brings diverse experience and expertise to the Board. Welcome and thank you for agreeing to serve.

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## **Detroit**

### **Thank you for helping us raise more than \$30,000!**



More than 100 people joined us as we celebrated Read to a Child's efforts in greater Detroit

Held on May 11th, Detroit's annual 'Help Kids in Need Love to Read' charity benefit was an evening filled with delicious food, good music, and great company. Guests bid fiercely on a number of items at both the live and silent auctions, which included a Detroit Lions on-field experience, a gorgeous collection from Ahee Jewelers, and other enticing items.

The event also honored Kyle Saena and Dave Lewon as Detroit's Volunteers of the Year and Quicken Loans as our Corporate Champions. With the help of our incredible supporters and community partners, we were able to raise over \$30,000!

This event would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors: Renaissance Global, Townsend Search Group, Rainbow Child Care Center, Rainbow Child Care Center, Dykema Gossett, Destination Media/Gas Station TV, John & Noelle George/Lakeside Prop, Talmar Bank & Trust, RBS Citizens, Level One Bank, Flagstar Bank, Bodman LLP, Bloomberg, UBS & Crimmins, Nowacki, Jabs Gym, Google, and AON Risk Solutions.



Volunteers and supporters enjoyed an evening filled with music, dancing, and great food

### **New Regional Board of Advisors Members**

We want to extend a warm welcome to **Angela Diggs Jackson** from The Detroit Housing Commission and **Eric Denlinger** from Ford Motor Company who recently joined Detroit's Regional Board of Advisors.

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The L.A. Dodgers Foundation reading event for students in the Lunchtime Reading Program

### Los Angeles Proudly Expands its Partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation

On March 29, the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation participated in a reading event for Lunchtime Reading Program students at the Juan Cabrillo Elementary. Students from both Juan Cabrillo and Peter Burnett schools were joined by their reading mentors from Mattel, AT&T, & Wpromote. Each student received a L.A. Dodgers hat and t-shirt plus tickets to an upcoming game for volunteers, students and

their families.

On April 1st, Read to a Child was among the selected agencies invited by the L.A. Dodgers Foundation to participate in a special program at the launch of "LA Reads," a literacy campaign designed to help improve the reading skills of Los Angeles County students and help them build a lifelong love of reading. The program featured current Dodger players and other VIPs.

### Los Angeles Partners with BCG Digital Ventures

We are excited to welcome new volunteers from BCG Digital Ventures to the Lunchtime Reading Program. Volunteers will be paired with 1st grade students at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School. Historically, our volunteers at Juan Cabrillo, which serves K-2 grades only, reunite with their reading buddies as they move on to the Peter Burnett elementary campus to continue in the Lunchtime Reading Program during 3rd and 4th grade.

### New Regional Board of Advisors Member

We are also very excited to welcome **Genevieve Kelly** to the Los Angeles Regional Board of Advisors. Genevieve, a successful attorney in LA, was the former Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Dole Food Company, Inc.

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## South Florida

### Volunteer Spotlight

Jason Sternberg of Hogan Lovells law firm joined South Florida's Regional Board in June, 2016 and started as a reading volunteer in the Fall. He reflects on his first year with Read to a Child:



Jason Sternberg and his reading buddy

*"Reading to a child has been an incredibly rewarding and enriching experience. I am able to positively affect a young child's life by reading to her and hopefully instilling the importance of education. I'm very fortunate to be involved with such a great organization."*

We want to thank Jason and all of our other South Florida volunteers for helping us complete another successful school year!

### Board Changes

Read to a Child in South Florida recently bid a fond farewell to **Eric Funt**, Chair of the South Florida Regional Board of Advisors. Eric, who is moving on to another exciting opportunity as a clerk for a federal judge, has been a dedicated Board Member since 2014. We thank him for his leadership and service! We are also excited to

announce that **Jane Marie Russell** of Holland & Knight has accepted the role of Chair and we look forward to her stewardship.

## Upcoming Events & Campaigns

**Los Angeles for Literacy Charity Benefit - June 14, 2017**



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