

Traveling Stories
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December 28, 2016

Chuck Matthews
Deputy Director, HHSA
County of San Diego
1701 Mission Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92058

Dear Mr. Matthews,

It is with pleasure that I inform you know that Traveling Stories supports the County of San Diego's Live Well San Diego initiative fundamentally and through our literacy programs.

Founded in 2010, Traveling Stories is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to inspiring kids to fall in love with reading. We do this through our StoryTent programs, where kids are invited to read with our volunteers at local farmers markets. For every book a child reads at the StoryTent, he or she earns a Book Buck, which can be used to redeem prizes we provide. The prizes and Book Bucks not only serve as an incentive for kids to return to the StoryTent each week for free reading support, but also teaches them essential money management skills.

Today, Traveling Stories has 6 StoryTents located throughout the United States and Canada, 8 world libraries, and served 5,614 last year through our literacy efforts. The StoryTents have become integral parts of the communities they serve, acting as a fun and safe learning space for kids, a chance for parents to bond with their kids away from the T.V., and a place for neighbors to get to know and help each other.

Through our StoryTent programs, we're trying to lower the astonishing statistic that 82% of low-income children can't read at grade level by the fourth grade in the United States (Annie E. Casey Foundation). Our local StoryTents are currently located in areas of San Diego identified as low-literate, which also tend to be low-income, high immigrant and refugee, and high English-as-a-second-language (ESL) populations. The following are provided at the StoryTents, which closely align with Live Well San Diego values:

- Free reading support to children age 13 and under
- A variety of books of different reading levels and languages for kids to choose from and borrow
- Properly trained and screened volunteers
- Rewards for kids who read at the StoryTent, including back-to-school supplies
- An inviting space for kids to read outdoors
- A stable and consistent StoryTent schedule year round

- Model engaging and fun reading behavior to parents
- Teach kids about earning, saving, and spending money through the use of Book Bucks
- Book giveaways several times a year
- A free and accessible location where families are already congregating
- Field trips for kids to explore their community

We're committed to improving our communities through educating our children and are honored to partner with the County of San Diego to accomplish this.

Sincerely,



Emily Moberly
CEO & Founder
Traveling Stories