

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF SANTA BARBARA FOR THEIR PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE FRANKLIN CHILDREN'S CENTER

WHEREAS, improving youth literacy in Santa Barbara could not come at a better time. Despite the economic uncertainties facing local families, one thing is certain: education plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of our community's youth. Literacy represents a key determinate of academic, social, and economic success; and

WHEREAS, In California, 694,000 (22%) of children ages five and younger live in poverty. Nearly 1.4 million (45%) live in low-income families. Over one-third (39%) of California's zero-to-five population live in families where the most knowledgeable adult does not speak English well; and

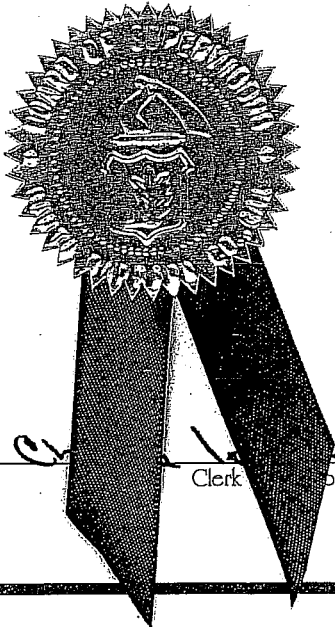
WHEREAS, the average child growing up in a middle class family has been exposed to 1,000-1,700 hours of one-on-one picture book reading. The average child in a low-income family, in contrast has only been exposed to 25 hours of one-on-one reading. In fact, 61% of low-income families have no age-appropriate books at all in their homes for their children; and

WHEREAS, Kindergartners who enter school behind are likely to remain behind as they move through the education system. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning. Sixty percent (60%) of the kindergartners in neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Santa Barbara, an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, has chosen "Improving Youth Literacy" as its focus area and currently partnered with the Franklin Children's Center – a preschool serving low-income students from the Eastside of Santa Barbara – to provide a family resource area and children's library on campus to meet the needs of our local community and encourage students and families to invest in reading.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the outstanding accomplishment of the Junior League of Santa Barbara, and the collective impact of its partnership with the Franklin Children's Center, and encourages members of our community to raise awareness for the importance of youth literacy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 1st day of May, 2012 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Clerk of Board

[Signature]
Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District