

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 22-137

Proclaiming November 2022 as Literacy Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Yolo County has a tradition of commitment to literacy and lifelong learning; Yolo County Library invites you to celebrate National Family Literacy month and the 39th anniversary of Public Libraries' Literacy Programs in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, literacy is a set of skills that includes speaking, listening, reading, writing, and critical thinking, whose mastery enables individuals to contribute to our economy, democracy, and community; and

WHEREAS, adult learners are our co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family members; and

WHEREAS, over 35,000 of our Yolo County residents, or one in six adults, cannot read or write sufficiently to carry out everyday activities; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads, the Yolo County Library literacy program, offers free one-on-one tutoring and English Conversation groups for local residents. During FY 21-22, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Yolo Reads volunteers provided 1,584 hours of free literacy instruction to 27 Yolo County adult learners to help them improve their reading, writing, spelling, math, and grammar skills; and

WHEREAS, among the life goals accomplished by Yolo Reads' learners, 3 passed their citizenship test, 2 found full-time employment, 2 enrolled in Woodland Community College and overall, adult learners completed more than 80 goals they set during FY 21-22; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads is a community of lifelong learners who, along with their families and tutors, are building a better future and coming together to celebrate their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads tutors and learners report significant gains in helping children succeed in school and achieve early literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, one Yolo Reads tutor noted, *"My learner, her husband, and 2 kids all became US citizens. And two other library friends who participated in an English conversation group with us also became naturalized citizens. So, we had a little party to welcome our new Americans. It was so fun. Yolo Reads fosters friendships."*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors proclaims November as Literacy Awareness Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of November 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza, Barajas.

Angel Barajas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors