

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 23-167

Proclaiming November 2023 as Family 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 40th 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 ESL classes for local residents. During FY 2022-23, Yolo Reads volunteer tutors provided 2,297 hours of free literacy instruction to 95 Yolo County adult learners to help them improve their reading, writing, spelling, math, and grammar skills; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County Library literacy services now includes basic life-skills ESL classes for rural Spanish-speaking residents with classes at public libraries in Knights Landing, Winters, and Esparto;

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads adult learners completed over 328 goals they set, including preparing for their citizenship test; gaining full-time employment; and helping their children in school during FY 2022-23;

WHEREAS, Library staff noted, "Our AmeriCorps Service Member, Becky McMannis, worked tenaciously to help Ismail conquer the citizenship exam. Ismail appreciates the dedication of his tutor and the services of the Yolo Reads literacy program. Becky firmly believes Yolo Reads can help more people who want to improve their literacy skills and make long-lasting friendships."

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 each November;

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of November 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Frerichs, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas.

Oscar E. Villegas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors