



Storyteller Children's Center

"Kindergarten Readiness for Santa Barbara's Homeless Children"

You can positively change the first 5 years of a child's life and transform his or her future.

As Storyteller celebrates thirty years of changing lives, we thank our community for your support and belief in our work.

From a small group of concerned local citizens creating a safe school setting, we have grown into leaders in early education, impacting the lives of marginalized children in our community. Storyteller continues to build resiliency and prepare our children for success in kindergarten.

Thank You Santa Barbara!

Donna Barranco Fisher
Executive Director

Staff Spotlight



"I Want to Be Part of Something Huge"

Franky Viveros

De la Vina Site Supervisor

Franky Viveros' friendliness and wealth of wisdom is apparent from first meeting him. With a B.A. in Liberal Studies and Elementary Education, Franky began teaching preschool in Port Hueneme. The preschool was located amidst an incredibly dangerous area, and Franky saw the need for agricultural working families to have safe childcare for their children. This was what inspired Franky to continue to work in the field of early childhood education in underserved areas. Prior to joining Storyteller, Franky was the supervisor at Child Development Resources, located in Ventura.

However, late this past summer Franky saw that Storyteller Children's Center was looking for a new Site Supervisor. After researching Storyteller's website, and listening to online testimonies about the program, Franky was eager to interview, and shortly thereafter joined our team in September of 2017.

Franky is focused on making personal connections with the students, teachers, and the Storyteller Team. Storyteller stands out from other preschools because our desire to do human outreach extends to each part of our programing. Franky noted how the teachers and staff at Storyteller treat their coworkers, students, and families like human beings, and are genuinely eager to walk alongside families and their children while offering support along the way. Franky described that the patience, humility and integrity of Storyteller is what helps students thrive and succeed. "I wake up every morning excited for another day at Storyteller!" Franky's vibrant energy and delight in the mission of Storyteller is making an impact on his local community here in Santa Barbara.



Lunchbox Luncheon April 19, 2018

Storyteller Children's Center will be holding their 4th Annual Lunchbox Luncheon on April 19, from 12pm to 1:30 p.m. at the Rockwood Women's Club in Mission Canyon.

The Lunchbox Luncheon brings people together in Santa Barbara who care about homeless children's health and education. Storyteller Children's Center's efforts provide high-quality, early childhood education for homeless and at-risk children in Santa Barbara County, as comprehensive supportive services for their families.

While the lunch is a "soft ask" fundraiser, it is also a unique opportunity for you and your guests to be inspired by stories of our children impacted by the programs and services we provide everyday. There is no cost for your guests to attend the luncheon. However, we will call on your leadership to help us invite guests to make a contribution the day of the event!

Thank you to our co-chairs Gretchen Horn and Suzanne McCafferty!

Please contact [Delene Bliss](#), Director of Development if you would like to attend this luncheon.
T: 805.682.9585.
F: 805.687.0780

Thank You Delene!

After two years, Delene Bliss will be leaving Storyteller Children's Center. Delene will be heading to UCSB to work in a development capacity. We wish Delene the best in her new endeavors, and will miss her cheerful approach and energy.

Thank you for your dedication to our mission and the families we serve.
Best of luck to you, Delene!

Love,
Your Storyteller Family

P.S. The children will miss you!

Outdoor Classroom Project

Storyteller follows the Outdoor Classroom Project (OCP) philosophy of "All children need and benefit from substantial time outdoors. Full development and integration of outdoor and indoor education programs creates the optimal learning and growing environment." Storyteller is dedicated to increasing the quantity, quality and benefit of outdoor experiences for children in early care and education programs.

Storyteller's De la Vina site is currently an Outdoor Classroom Demonstration Site which requires that time, space, activities, child initiation, engaged children, engaged teachers, continuous learning, and flexible curriculum are persistent. Our Storyteller State Street site is working on becoming an OCP Recognized Site.

Young children today are facing reduced physical activity, obesity, preoccupation with electronic media and disconnection from nature (also known as nature-deficit disorder). Field experience has shown that extensive time spent in the Outdoor Classroom increases harmony and relieves stress on teachers. Observed benefits to children cover the full range of physical, cognitive, and psychological development, including:

- Increased physical ability and activity
- Established patterns for an active, healthy lifestyle
- Stronger language, problem-solving and communication skills through projects and group activity
- Increased interest in science and math through connecting with nature
- Learning through self-initiation, control and personal responsibility
- Enhanced self-esteem; stronger internal psychology
- Effective relationship-building in a cooperative, non-competitive environment
- Social-emotional mastery
- Familiarity with and appreciation of nature
- An expansive view of how the world works
- A practice of stewardship for the environment

To learn more about Outdoor Classroom Project visit: [Click Here](#)



Internship at Storyteller Sophie Rivera Westmont College

My name is Sophie Rivera and I am a senior Social Science major at Westmont College. This year I wanted to do an internship that will equip me with experience to get involved in the field of education in underserved areas in order to make a local impact on my community. After taking courses in history, political science, and sociology, I've begun to understand how these different layers impact communities across the United States. I've become particularly inspired to work in an area that focuses on educating children from different disadvantaged backgrounds.



Sophie and Khloe

My internship at Storyteller includes time in the classroom shadowing teachers and interacting with students, as well as working closely with the administrative staff. One of the things that excites me the most about Storyteller is not something tangible, but rather the culture of a sense of family that the organization adopts. Through my internship I hope my time spent at Storyteller will give me an opportunity to develop competency skills working with children from underserved areas. In addition, I hope this experience will prepare me well for a career working with children and families.

QRIS

Storyteller participates in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. (QRIS). QRIS is based on national, statewide and county levels and rates preschool sites. These ratings are publicly published, using a 1 to 5 star rating. The goal of QRIS is to promote excellence in child development, health and wellness, and school readiness, via the increased quality and access of early environments and services for children and families in our County.

Storyteller State Street received the **5 star** rating! Our De la Vina site received a **4 star** rating!

Storyteller is committed to providing the highest quality of education and support toward our children and families.

YOUR GENEROSITY - OUR FUTURE

As you well know, Storyteller Children's Center is more than a preschool. It is a therapeutic environment that serves the most at-risk children and their families in the Santa Barbara community.

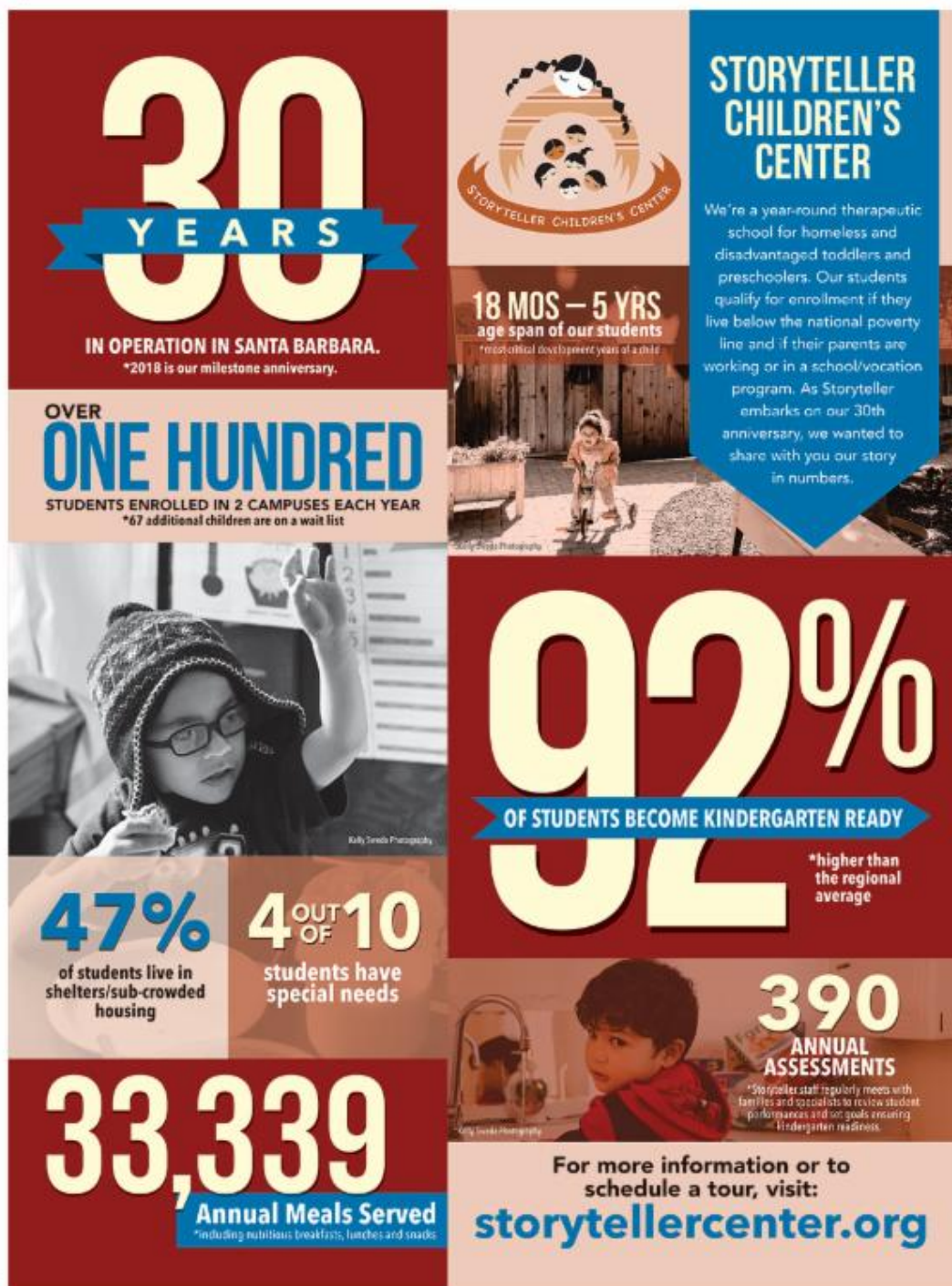
If you have not made a gift to Storyteller during our fiscal year - now is the time to make a dramatic difference in the life of a child and their family with a gift before June 31, 2018

To be successful at what we do every day, we need your help.

We hope that you are inspired to once again make a year-end gift to Storyteller Children's Center.

MAKE A GIFT NOW





"Storyteller Children's Center helps Santa Barbara's homeless and at-risk toddlers and preschoolers achieve kindergarten readiness by providing therapeutic preschool and support services for their families."

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