



# STORYTELLER CHILDREN'S CENTER

Storyteller Children's Center is a therapeutic preschool that provides high-quality early childhood education for homeless and at-risk children in Santa Barbara County, as well as comprehensive support services for their families.

2019 FALL NEWSLETTER

## OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!



IN JULY, WE CELEBRATED THE PROMOTION OF 31 CHILDREN, SOME WHO'D BEEN AT STORYTELLER SINCE THEY WERE TODDLERS. OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILIES, VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS JOINED TOGETHER FOR A WONDERFUL POTLUCK IN PROUD APPRECIATION OF THE SOON-TO-BE KINDERGARTENERS!

## Updates from Executive Director, Donna Barranco Fisher:

Storyteller has accomplished one of our goals within the Strategic Plan: expansion of our behavioral support services. In order to meet the needs of our children and families, Storyteller submitted a grant to Cottage Hospital. We received this funding, which has allowed us to double out mental health therapeutic support. We are able to reach more children and families and expand our ACEs training for our teachers.

We are pleased to share that we have again been awarded Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars!



CHARITY  
NAVIGATOR



## Creating Stories on the Land, Nature Based Education

This past Spring Storyteller teamed up with Wilderness Youth Project (WYP) for our 5th annual Family Camp.

Storyteller families and alumni are welcome to attend. The weekend long event took place at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve on Santa Barbara's Gaviota Coast.



"Working along side the mentors of the WYP has been a learning journey full of wonder for the children, parents, and teachers. Teachers learn new ways to approach risk, wild plants, songs, storytelling, and living creatures.

In a weekend full of delicious food, games, friendship, stars, creek, fire, and community, Storyteller families filled their hearts with gratitude to the land, WYP staff, Storyteller and for the opportunity to enjoy nature. Together, we are creating memorable stories in the land every day, every week, every year. With gratitude to Wilderness Youth Project for a wonderful ongoing collaboration!"

- Alicia Jimenez,

De la Vina Site Supervisor



Storyteller is pleased to welcome Molly Seguel to our Board of Directors! On the heels of a successful fundraising campaign lead by the 6th graders at Marymount on behalf of Storyteller, Director of Admission Molly Seguel felt compelled to get more involved with the organization by joining the board of directors.

“The future success of our students is not solely fostered within the boundaries of our particular school,” noted Seguel. “When all local students have an opportunity to flourish academically, socially and emotionally, the community rises together. I love my job at Marymount and I am thrilled to be able to roll up my sleeves and help change the trajectory of these young Storyteller students.”



### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Alina Rey, Senior Development Coordinator joined Storyteller in July.

“I feel extremely fortunate to have been born in Santa Barbara and raised within a bilingual and bicultural home where my parents, having both been educators and community advocates, always stressed the importance of having a positive social impact. I am incredibly grateful to be working with Storyteller and feel honored to take part in the vital community work that takes place here. I see this opportunity as more than a job, but rather the vehicle towards helping my community, specifically the most vulnerable among us: our children. I am excited to get to work!”



DID YOU KNOW

1 IN 4

CHILDREN IN SB COUNTY LIVE IN POVERTY

48%

of Storyteller's children live in shelters or crowded housing

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

DONATE TODAY

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Questions? Contact: [alina@storytellercenter.org](mailto:alina@storytellercenter.org) or [donna@storytellercenter.org](mailto:donna@storytellercenter.org)