

VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY

2018-2023

# MOBILE LIBRARY



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# VENTURA COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVES THE COUNTY



Ventura County Library serves customers from a diverse group of communities spread across the county, including large rural agricultural areas as well as urban environments with a heavy emphasis on manufacturing. Ventura County's agricultural focus attracts over 74,000 farmworkers and native Spanish speakers. The Mobile Library brings literacy services, including bilingual services, directly to children and adults at community hubs throughout the county, reaching vulnerable populations and parts of the county with no easy access to library services.

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# MOBILE LIBRARY PROJECT

The Ventura County Library Foundation's initial priority was to purchase and outfit a fuel-efficient mobile library to offer a full range of library services to the underserved areas and people of Ventura County. This includes the unincorporated areas where many people have little or no library service, as well as the areas of larger cities where lack of transportation, age or disability may bar residents from having access to library buildings.

The Foundation successfully raised funds in support of the Mobile Library and presented the Ventura County Library System a check in the amount of \$100,000 at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors meeting on August 7, 2018. A grant awarded by the California State Library matched those funds.

## BECAUSE OF OUR DONORS

This would not have been possible without receiving a federal grant," said Sandy Berg, chair of the Foundation. "To receive this grant the library system had to have \$100,000 to match immediately, so because we had the funds readily available, we were able to receive this grant." The Foundation raised the \$100,000 through the Ventura County community. "Our largest donation was \$50,000 from Premier America Credit Union and was specifically designated for the Mobile Library," Berg said. In addition, "the Oxnard Harbor District has given us \$5,000 a year for five years to sustain the Mobile Library to remain current in its materials and technology."





# OUR SCOPE OF WORK

Since 2019, the number of annual Mobile Library stops has increased from 96 to 356 with 100+ of those stops taking place at local schools. The Mobile Library also visits Senior Care Centers, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Farmworker Housing Developments in addition to big outreach events like Piru's Christmas Parade, Ventura County Reading Association's Family Literacy & Youth Authors Fair, HUD Strong Family Event, Clinicas Del Camino Health Fair, the Ventura Swap Meet, Ojai Farmer's Market, and the Ventura County Fair, just to name a few.

During these events, the Mobile Library brings library services including Storytime, STEAM literacy activities, access to Wi-Fi, laptops, and printing, and circulation of materials directly to youth and adults.



## Statistics: Since 2019

**679**

Unique stops

**48,996**

Customers served

**42,122**

Check outs



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# OUR IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

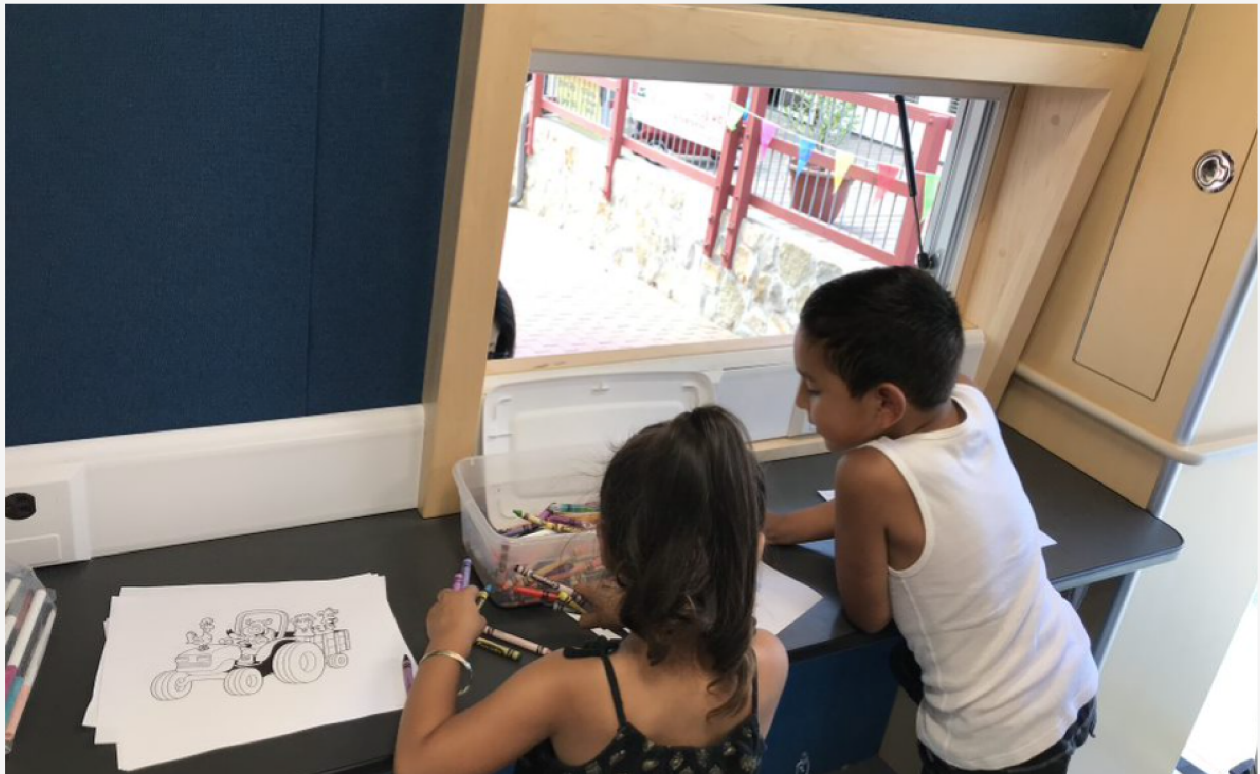


At a stop in December 2022, at Azahar Place Apartments, a farmworker and low-income housing facility in the city of Ventura, Mobile Library Supervisor, Mayra Benitez Tadillo met a lovely trio; two granddaughters and grandma. Grandma approached the Mobile Library and asked, "Are you Ms. Mayra?" She went on to let her know "they (her grandchildren) love watching Ms. Mayra on tv (virtual Storytime on Facebook). You helped them get through the pandemic." Grandma shared with us that in her childhood: "This is where I fell in love with Nancy Drew--the Book Mobile."

Mobile Library Supervisor, Mayra Benitez Tadillo, provides Storytime for children at almost every stop. She engages children and their families to read together and check out books. In 2022 alone, we had 15,219 items that were checked out by first-time Ventura County Library customers initiated at Mobile Library stops. The impact of the service provided by the Mobile Library cannot be underestimated. We are reaching families that otherwise would not go to our brick-and-mortar branches.



# FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS & SPACE



Customers hang out at the Mobile Library in much the same way they would at one of our branches. There is space inside to read a book or do some crafts, but we can also expand outside for larger crowds. At all our stops for kids, we provide STEAM activities to do during the stop or to take home. Since 2019, we've given away 4,350 STEAM Kits. Each STEAM Kit costs roughly \$3, not including staff labor to plan, compile, and distribute each one.

The Mobile Library provides Wi-Fi access and the use of laptops and a printer for adults and students. Mobile Library staff are on hand to provide technology help when needed. One of our regular stops is in Oxnard's Southwinds, students come every week to check out books, take part in STEAM activities, and finish homework assignments.



## Statistics: Since 2019

**195**

School visits

**300**

Books given to start  
home libraries

**4,350**

STEAM Kit giveaways





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# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

## THE SCHOOL MOBILE LIBRARY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



The Ventura County Library and the Ventura County Office of Education are currently partnering together to launch a brand-new School Mobile Library in 2023! The Ventura County Library Foundation is working with local donors to provide funding in support of this important project.

Due to overwhelming demand for requests for Mobile Library visits, especially from schools across Ventura County, there is great need to establish another Mobile Library dedicated just to schools. The School Mobile Library will help fulfill this need and will be especially important for schools that do not have credentialed librarians on staff.

**MUPU SCHOOL HAS BEEN ONE SUCH SUCCESSFUL STOP FOR THE MOBILE LIBRARY, WITH 98% OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5 NOW CHECKING OUT BOOKS. THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER SAYS WE ARE "THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH, AND THAT THEY ARE VERY THANKFUL FOR THE MOBILE LIBRARY." ONE STUDENT RECENTLY SAID, "THANK YOU FOR BRINGING US BOOKS!"**



# THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS!

WE COULDN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT  
YOU!



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