

CONTACT: Mitchell Huerta, Fundraising Director
Kiwanis Club of Literacy in Salinas
(831) 262-2447
mitchellhuerta23@gmail

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kiwanis Children's Fund awards \$4,000 grant to support local Books for Beginners Project in Salinas

SALINAS – The Kiwanis Club of Literacy in Salinas, a non-profit service organization that promotes literacy and early childhood education, was awarded a \$4,000 grant from Kiwanis Children's Fund in Indianapolis, IN.

The grant will support the club's Books for Beginners Project that provides books in English and Spanish to first-grade students at Los Padres, Natividad, and Loma Vista Elementary schools in Salinas.

Barbara Mejia, local Kiwanis club president, was thrilled Kiwanis Children's Fund recognized the project's impact on beginning readers, their schools, and families. "I was shocked, thrilled, and absolutely overjoyed to learn that Kiwanis Children's Fund chose to support our project in Salinas...The grant means more books for more kids in Salinas. Our impact is expanding."

The Kiwanis Club of Literacy in Salinas provides books to students each month during the academic year at three schools in the Salinas City Elementary School District. The children are encouraged to read at home and start their own libraries.

The Kiwanis Children's Fund grant is the largest in the club's four-year history, according to Mitchell Huerta, local Kiwanis club fundraising director. "We are humbled and honored to receive this grant," Huerta said. "I've seen the looks in first-graders' faces when we deliver books – I know they are grateful someone besides their teachers cares about them."

To support the program, the Kiwanis Club of Literacy in Salinas applies for grants, seeks donations, and volunteers for stipends at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Sea Otter Classic, Big Sur International Marathon, WeatherTech Laguna Seca Raceway, and California International Air Show.

For more information about the Kiwanis Club of Literacy in Salinas, call (831) 262-2447.

The Kiwanis Children's Fund (kiwanischildrensfund.org) raises money and provides support for Kiwanis clubs around the world for projects related to childhood health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.