

About Write On! For Literacy

Mission Statement: Write On! For Literacy encourages kids to discover confidence, joy, a means of self-expression and connection with others through reading and writing.

Website: www.writeonbooks.org

Chapters: Ventura, California; Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Dallas, Texas; Secane, Pennsylvania; Toronto, Canada

By the Numbers:

Founded: 2001

Books donated: 11,117

Classrooms visited: 63

Kids participated: 3,000+

Projects & Outreach Programs:

- **Holiday Book Drive:** 11,117 new books have been collected, sorted and distributed to disadvantaged and at-risk youth the past eight years; donation sites include Boys and Girls Clubs, Project Understanding, Casa Pacifica, and the Ventura County Migrant Education Services.
- **Write On! Books Publishing Company:** We publish anthologies of short stories, essays, and poetry written by young writers in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Submit your work via email to dallaswoodburn@aol.com or at www.writeonbooks.org.
- **Writing Contests** in the categories of short story, essay, and poetry for young writers ages 8-18; award gift certificates to bookstores and publication as prizes. Current contest has received 204 entries from all across the United States.
- **Summer Writing Camp:** Held the first two weekends of August in Ventura, California for young writers ages 8-18; students have FUN while also learning how to improve central components of their writing, including dialogue, characterization, plot and setting, through various creativity-inducing writing exercises.
- **Visits to Schools:** Dallas Woodburn regularly visits elementary, middle, and high schools to speak about her career as a writer and the importance of reading and writing; she also teaches fun creative writing activities with the students.
- **Scholarship Fund:** We annually award scholarships for young writers in middle school and high school to attend summer writing conferences.

The Importance of Literacy

(thanks to the organizations ProLiteracy and My Own Book for providing these statistics!)

- In a 2008 survey of U.S. fourth-grade students, 13 percent reported never reading for fun on their own; an additional 16 percent read for fun only once a month.
- Illiteracy leads to a higher likelihood of poverty, crime and unemployment.
- Creative self-expression, such as writing in a journal, often leads to higher levels of self-esteem, empowerment, and engagement with others.
- A 2008 study done in Los Angeles by Dr. Rebecca Constantino with about 40 families from low- and high-income areas found that the low-income area elementary school children on average had no more than TWO books at home (many with none), while the high-income area children had close to 200!

Thank You to Our Supporters and Partners

- Ashoka Youth Venture
- Congressional Award Gold Medal Program
- Jefferson Awards Program
- ProLiteracy
- My Own Book
- The Reading Tub
- Faith, Hope and Fiction literary magazine
- Cynthia Brian and Be The Star You Are literacy organization
- Small Publishers, Artists & Writers Network
- iUniverse.com Publishing Company
- Jensen Design & Survey
- Cabrillo Middle School
- Rose Avenue Elementary School