# Storyteller

## CHILDREN'S CENTER

## IMPACT REPORT 20-21


**Head Start & Toddlers**
2115 State Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Ph 805.682.9585
Fx 805.687.0780

**California State Preschool Program**
2121 De La Vina Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

storytellercenter.org

# Who We Are

**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.**

**Board of Directors**

Michael Wasserman, President
Erinn Lynch, Vice-President
Danna McGrew, Treasurer
Rachael Stein, Secretary
Gretchen Horn, Governance
Jon Clark
Peggy Dodds
Jennifer Gillon Duffy
Sharon Kayser
Anna Kokotovic
Patricia Madrigal
Daisy Estrada Ochoa
Ann Pieramici
Ken Radtkey
Kyra Rogers
Molly Seguel
Kenny Slaught
Carrie Towbes
Craig Zimmerman

Susan Cass
Executive Director

## Visit with Congressman Carbajal

Congressman Carbajal paid a special visit to Storyteller Children's Center's De La Vina campus to read stories to our students and to hear about the children's career aspirations. The Congressman read two books including "I Like You," by Kathleen Beal and "Del Desierto a la Jungla," by Amada Irma Perez.

# A reflection by Dr. Patricia Madrigal on the 2020-21 year

As we embarked on a new and challenging journey during the pandemic, the dedication of Storyteller's leadership and the Board of Directors did not waver. Our community's generosity and compassion has helped keep our doors open to families for whom Storyteller is a second home, and we were reminded that this philanthropic spirit cannot be found just anywhere.

Storyteller is a unique and endeared organization- a true partnership with staff, families and community. Our team is not only skilled in early childhood development and education, yet also focused on nurturing children, as their own. As always, Storyteller stayed committed to serving children and their entire family, as a "one-stop" organization, where families have access to academic and socio-emotional support, social services, housing referrals, food security, and access to many community resources.

As we continue on this journey towards a stronger community, we look forward to the leadership of our Executive Director- Susan Cass and incoming Board President- Michael Wasserman, who in partnership with a dedicated staff and Board of Directors, will continue to innovate and sustain a healthy organization.

***Storyteller es amor, alegria y familia...***

With gratitude,

Dr. Patricia Madrigal
Board President

# Our Direct Impact

**91**
Unduplicated children served

**61**
Families on the waiting list

**289**
Annual Child Assessments

**82**
Annual Home Visits

**1,088**
Hours of Behavioral Health Intervention Services Provided

**286**
Hours of Home Visits, Conferences, Family Partnership Agreements and Parent Meetings

**511**
Parent participation hours

**26,387**
Number of meals served

**60%**
Percentage of families identified as homeless

**66%**
Percentage of single parent households served

# A Message from Executive Director, Susan Cass

I read somewhere that the true meaning of family has nothing to do with genes and everything to do with love, compassion, and support. Over the past year, we faced one of the most challenging times in history, and together our Storyteller family persevered by practicing empathy, acceptance and respect for one another. We were able to transform the obstacles into opportunities and by doing so, our strength as a family only continued to grow. As we enter into a new year, we remain hopeful and optimistic about the road ahead and are grateful to all of you for your ongoing support.

Only two weeks after reopening our doors on July 13th, 2020, I stepped into my role as Storyteller's new Executive Director. I immediately was in awe of the commitment and determination of our staff, families, board members and donors alike. In order for us to continue to offer the services that were needed during this stressful and uncertain time, it was going to require a collective and concerted effort. Throughout the 20-21 school year, the Storyteller family provided just that. Our teachers worked tirelessly to maintain a positive and nurturing environment in which our children could feel safe and cared for. Our families cooperated with the endless list of COVID protocols, making it possible for us to remain open. Our community partners and donors asked how they could help, jumping in to support with everything from programmatic to operational needs. Our board of directors recognized and celebrated the teachers and staff for their ongoing efforts. We were truly operating with all hands on deck, and this is what I continue to be grateful for today.

Thirty-three years ago, Storyteller was founded by community members who saw their neighbors in need. From this shared vision came the growth and expansion of Storyteller Children's Center over the past three decades. We built our organization from love, compassion and support for one another, and that is how we came to be the Storyteller family. Thank you all for being a part of our family, especially throughout this most difficult time. Together we can make a difference.

In Gratitude,

Susan Cass,
Executive Director

# Highlights

## Lunch with Love

Storyteller Children's Center's annual fundraiser luncheon pivoted for a second year with a COVID friendly alternative,"Lunch with Love." Volunteers delivered soul-soothing meals to our supporters catered by Duo and Mission Rose Pasta, with wine donated by Babcock Winery. We are so appreciative of this collaborative effort in support of our children and families.

## Technology Upgrade

With support from the Williams-Corbett Foundation, Storyteller underwent a technology upgrade commencing in the fall of 2020. In order to effectively utilize virtual communication with families and outside agencies throughout the pandemic, we purchased new laptops for our teachers and provided bilingual IT support in partnership with AM Tech. In addition, we strengthened our internet capabilities and introduced a new phone system that allows staff to seamlessly connect with families and colleagues from any location. After receiving a capacity building grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation, Storyteller also began working on a branding refresh in collaboration with CDesign Marketing & Graphics.

## Photo Project

Our Head Start students, ages 4-5 years old, showcased their photography in an exhibit at the Paseo Nuevo shopping center throughout the month of June. The collection of photos, based on a lesson on memory and reflection, offered a brief glimpse into the minds and lives of our Storyteller children. ***Special thanks to the Junior League of Santa Barbara, Oniracom, Paseo Nuevo, and the Museum of Contemporary Art for making this project possible.***

## Kindergarten Promotion

At the end of the year, Storyteller celebrated all of our students moving on to Kindergarten. Backpacks containing the essential school supplies were generously donated by the Golden Rule Foundation. Kindergarten Readiness is integral to the Storyteller mission, and we are so proud of our students' accomplishments. ***Thank you to the National Charity League for providing refreshments for the event.***

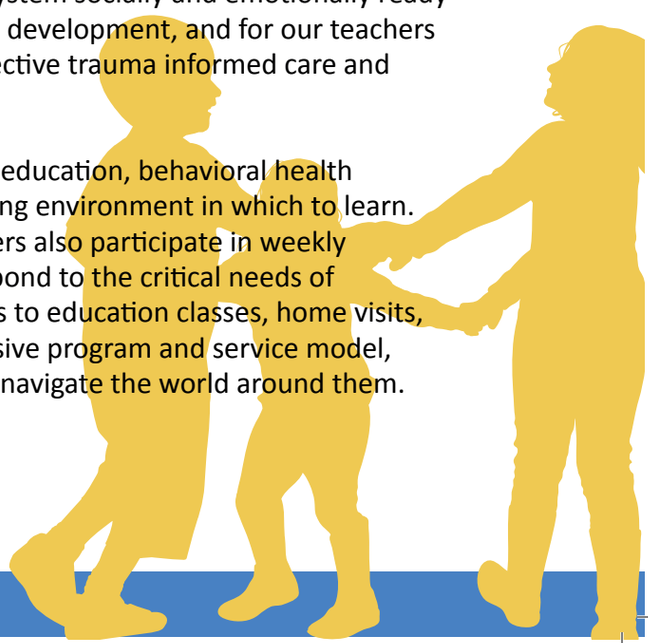
# Who We Serve

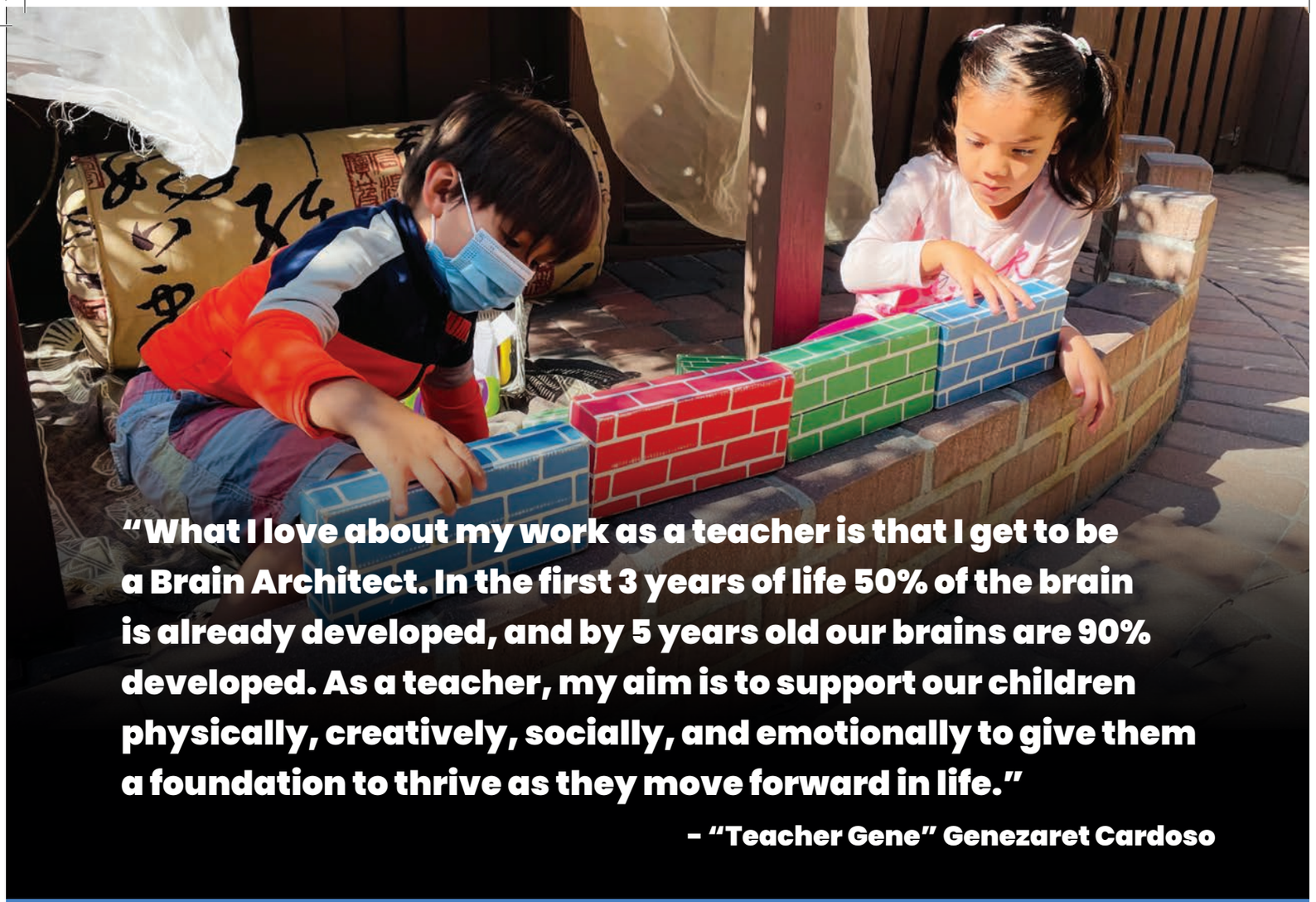
**Storyteller serves the community's most vulnerable children and families. Many are facing homelessness living in shelters, or with multiple families in a single home or apartment. Other risk factors impacting our families include poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, or medical conditions.**

# Program Approach

Storyteller's three-pronged approach to kindergarten readiness involves the teachers, children and families. Our goals are for children to enter the school system socially and emotionally ready to learn, for our families to promote their child's growth and development, and for our teachers to receive the training and support necessary to provide effective trauma informed care and instruction.

While at Storyteller, children receive quality early childhood education, behavioral health support, three nutritious meals a day, and a safe and nurturing environment in which to learn. In addition to ongoing professional development, our teachers also participate in weekly "Reflective Practice", a technique that prepares them to respond to the critical needs of children and families. Parents and guardians are given access to education classes, home visits, case management and counseling. Through this comprehensive program and service model, Storyteller strives to empower the entire family unit as they navigate the world around them.





**"What I love about my work as a teacher is that I get to be a Brain Architect. In the first 3 years of life 50% of the brain is already developed, and by 5 years old our brains are 90% developed. As a teacher, my aim is to support our children physically, creatively, socially, and emotionally to give them a foundation to thrive as they move forward in life."**

**– "Teacher Gene" Genezaret Cardoso**

# Programs by Classroom

## Toddler Program

Storyteller Children's Center serves toddlers from 18 through 36 months. The toddler program includes a variety of curriculum that builds on the child's natural curiosity and enhances and develops the toddler's social-emotional, linguistic, physical, and creative development. Scholarships for our Toddler Program are made possible by the William and Lottie Daniel Child Care Fund and the Santa Barbara Foundation.

SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

## Preschool Programs

Storyteller offers two preschool programs for children before they enter Kindergarten. These are funded in part by CommUnify's Head Start Program and the California State Preschool Program. Both programs promote school readiness of young children from low-income families residing in our community.

Our State Street location houses our Head Start and Toddler programs, while our De La Vina location houses our California State Preschool Program.

# Behavioral Health

In collaboration with CALM, Casa Pacifica and CommUnify, Storyteller continued to enhance the way in which we offer behavioral health support to our children and families. In 20-21 we expanded our program by adding two new partnerships and welcoming experienced mental health consultants into the classroom four days per week. This regular onsite presence and diversity of service providers has offered our teachers a wealth of information and support when identifying and addressing mental health needs.

# Food Program

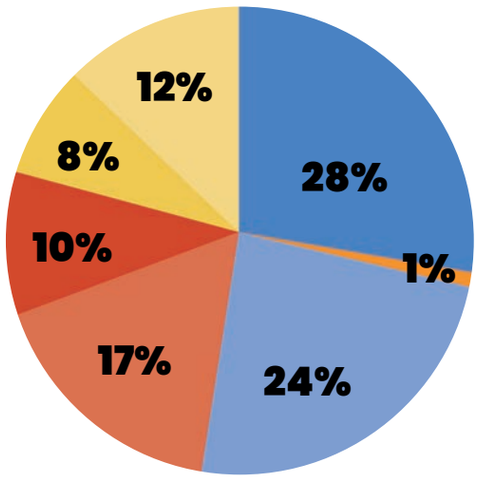
In partnership with Santa Barbara Unified School District, Storyteller provided three nutritious meals a day for each of our children at no cost to their families. Balanced diets during critical developmental years contribute to a strong foundation for lifelong healthy eating habits, as well as minimize the potential of harmful conditions such as malnutrition and obesity. In offering this service, we are also doing our part to relieve some of the financial burden on families to provide these meals on a daily basis.

**"We can't change the world, but we can impact our little corner. Our teachers, our leadership team and our Board are positively impacting children and their families' lives every day."**

**- Michael Wasserman**
**Storyteller Board Chair**

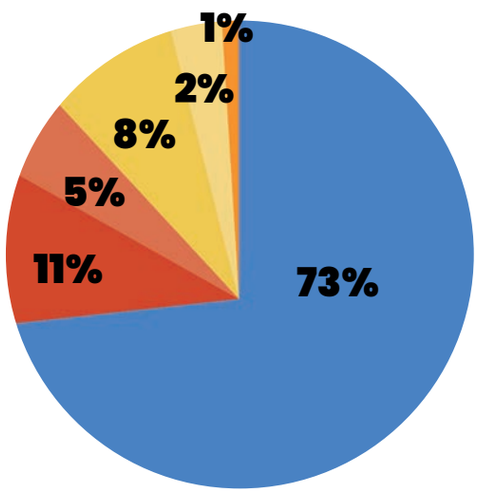
# Financials

## INCOME




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Private Donation | $471,396 | 28% |
| Events Net | $16,072 | 1% |
| Foundations | $399,753 | 24% |
| CSPP (California State Preschool Program) | $275,853 | 17% |
| Contracts | $160,358 | 10% |
| Head Start | $131,040 | 8% |
| Other | $213,606 | 12% |

## EXPENSES




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Personnel | $1,090,281 | 73% |
| Program | $158,182 | 11% |
| Facilities | $79,222 | 5% |
| Prof Service | $110,209 | 8% |
| General Expenses | $36,587 | 2% |
| Ins/Tax/Lic | $15,246 | 1% |

# Honoring our Supporters

### The Giving Tree
Gifts of $50,000 and above

Masin 1995 Trust
Kyra and Tony Rogers
Kenny and Elizabeth Slaught
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital

### The Little Engine that Could
Gifts of $25,000 - $49,000

James S. Bower Foundation
Linden Family Foundation
Sangham Foundation
William and Lottie Daniel Fund
Carrie Towbes and John Lewis

### The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Gifts of $10,000 - $24,000

Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation
All Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
John L. Carleton Foundation
Randi and Terry Cunningham
Deckers Brands
Nikki and Larame Greene
Julie Ladner
Santa Barbara Foundation
Matthew and Bess Scribner
Shrontz Family Foundation
The Towbes Foundation
Volentine Family Foundation
Williams-Corbett Foundation
Wood-Claeyssens Foundation
Yardi Systems, Inc.

### The Runaway Bunny
Gifts of $5,000 - $9,999

Dana Aanerud
Patricia and Paul Bragg Foundation
Tim and Louise Casey
Jane Rytina and Jonathan Chadwick
Sheila and Tom Cullen
Tiffany and Frank Foster
George B. Page Foundation
Herbert and Gertrude Latkin Foundation
Lynne Israel
Johnston-Hanson Foundation
Lewis A. Kingsley Foundation
Montecito Bank and Trust
Samuel B. and Margaret C. Mosher Foundation
Sheryl and John Overall

### The Cat in the Hat
Gifts of $2,000 - $4,999

Christopher and Kara Bellamy
Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP
Sue and Brent Bickett
F45 Training
Elizabeth and Lee Gabler
Ann Jackson Family Foundation
Heidi Jensen
Stella and Wes Johnson
LoJo Foundation
Elizabeth and Robert Manger
Outhwaite Foundation
Petar and Anna Kokotovic
Lizzie and Brent Peus
Brent and Julianna Reichard
Barbara N. Rubin Foundation
Jo and Ken Saxon
UBS Financial Services Inc.
Union Bank Community Foundation
Nick Valiunas
Craig and Amy Zimmerman
Belinda and Steve Zola

### Good Night Moon
Gifts of $1000 - $1,999

Sue and David Alvarado
B&B Foundation
Lisa and Bryan Babcock
Wendy and Larry Barels
Melissa and Kevin Birch
Scott and Ella Brittingham
Peter and Suzanne Brown
Malinda and Yvon Chouinard Family Trust, Baltoro Trust
Sasha Drucker
Easy Lift Transportation
Peg and Gary Finefrock
Yvette and Jeffrey Giller
Golden Rule Family Foundation
James D. and Kay Y. Moran Foundation
Junior League of Santa Barbara, Inc.
Elizabeth Kilb
Lisa King
Kristen Koch
Tracy Larson
Chris and Mark Levine
Alixe and Mark Mattingly
Sasha McGibben
Cold Spring School Parent Club
Ken and Susan Radtkey
Carrie and Michael Randolph
Justine Roddick and Tina Schleiske
Wayne and Sharol Siemens
Randy Solakian
Rachael and David Stein
April Thede
Milan Timm
Clara Tracewell
Gebb Turpin
Michael and Liat Wasserman

### Llama Llama Red Pajama
Gifts of $500 and $999

Alyssa and Matt Briggs
Kristen Abu-Omar
Kerry Allen
Terri and Rob Allison
Edward and Sue Birch
Chad and Hayley Carty
Children's Resource and Referral of Santa Barbara County
Kathryn and Michael Dean
Ned Doubleday
Aaron Edelheit
Daniel and Caroline Encell
Erinn Lynch and Peter Wood
Goleta Presbyterian Church
Peter Goodell
Don and Shannon Gordon
Candy and Rhett Hedrick
Elizabeth Hensgen
Gretchen and Jeff Horn
Lyons Family Foundation, Inc.
Kristin and Brian McWilliams
Menasha Corporation Foundation
Chris and Mireille Mills
Betsey and John Moller
Mary and Ted Nixon
Gamble Parks Douville
Howard Rochestie
Diane and Douglas Scalapino
Erin and Patrick Spence
Brandon and Amy Steets
Alex and Erin Stephens
Upper East Association
Anne Vaughan
Oscar Wasserman
Glen and Lisa Wysel
Yasmine Zodeh

### The Brown Bear
Gifts of $100 - $499

Zemfira Akahoshi
Carol Anders
Katya Armistead
Karen Arndt
Monica and Tim Babich
Deborah Babineau
Dr. Liza and Dr. Rich Belkin
Kim and David Blankenhorn
Elizabeth and Geoffrey Bloomingdale
Eric Bowers
Catherine Breen
Carrie and Grey Brothers
Thomas Bunnell
Luann Caesar
Carolyn Chandler
Brady Charrette
Jon and Susan Clark
Joseph and Margaret Connell
Judith Cooper
Karen Cottriel
Amanda Cowan
Walter Daniels
Denise Dannemiller
Kathy and George Davidson
Melody Delshad
Susie Doherty
Mark and Patti Duell
Barbara Edmison

Nancy and Alan Edmundson
John and Tami Snow Ellis
Glen Estabrook
Jesse Felix
Ryan and Stacey Fell
Elizabeth and Matthew Fineberg
Maggie and Will Geyer
Kathleen Greger
Sarah Grewe
Susan and Jimmy Gundlach
Valerie Harrison
Maggie Herlihy
Karen Hickman
Helena and Gary Hill
Robin Hinck
Denise Hinkle
Heidi Holly
Lisa Jackson
James and Chana Jackson
Elizabeth Jones
Bruce Jones
Mary Kahn
Seth Kaplan
David and Sharon Kayser
Kerry Kelly
Barbara and John Kinnear
Terry Kleid
Jane and Fred Koning
Robert and Minda Kraines
Jenn Gillon Duffy and Tom Krueger
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church
Jennifer Lovette
Patricia Madrigal
Manjula Manjunath
Pamela Massey
David and Boyd McFadden
Sarah and John McFadden
Adriana Mezic
Eileen Marie Monahan
Beth Morris
Kimberly Olson
One Distribution Cargo and Freight Co
Ann and Michael Padden-Rubin
Ernesto Paredes
Tim and Ashley Parker Snider
Gail Persoon
Karen and J. Carl Peus
Ann Pieramici
Jillian Pirozzi
Brian and Joanne Rapp
Meredith Reeback
Cristina Ricci
Shoshanna Richek
Robin Rickershauser
John and Muriel Ridland
Jessica Risko Smith
Rita Rivest
Kelsey Rodenbiker
Jean Rogers
Lois Rosen
Eryn Shugart
Lee and Phil Skeen
Norman and Claire Slaught
Kit and Lang Sligh
Mary Smith
Cat Smith
Trudy Smith
DeniseSpain
Susan Spencer
Cory Steinman
Glenn and Norma Stuck
Jacob Tell
Andrew Tobias
Debra Trauntvein
Rima Villarreal
Sharon Whelan
Michele and Stewart White
Ken Whittle
Laura Ziouani

### The Rainbow Fish

Gifts of Up to $100

Socorro Aguilera
Jane Brody and Royce Adams
Dinah and Ricardo Calderon
Sheila Caldwell
Laura Campos Jimenez
Diane Cass
Susan Cass
Kristie Chapman
Jill and Chad Chase
Sarah Clark
Amy Corey
Renee and Paul Crawford
Jane Cullina
Deborah De Ponce
Vaughn Downing
Margaret Echelbarger
Carol Fell
Betty and Stephen Ferry
Camille Fruin
Christie Glanville
Molly Grant
Christine Gress
Vern and Martha Guggenmos
Anne Hampton
Peter Hasler
Judy Horn
Stephanie Horst
Stasia Huiner
Siouxsie Jennett
Linda Jones
Karen Kawaguchi
Kathy and Bob Klammer
Margaret and Stanislaw Kocimski
Linda McNeel
Heather Merrick
Sarah Moray
Kate and Dan Murphy
Alexander Nixon
Edith Nixon
Timothy and Kay O'Connor
Debbie Popovich
Chrissie and Chad Prentice
Margaret Rasmussen
Stacy Rebich Hespanha
Alina Rey
Molly Seguel
Cosme and Adriana Serdio
Carolyn Sheild
Sarah Sheshunoff
Sapna Singh
Julie Sorenson
Alicia Sorkin
Beverly and John Steinberg
Polly Sumner
Danielle Swiontek
Ann and Ronald Tobin
Chris Ulep
Sally Vail
Lisa Vignale
Carol Weingartner
Charlotte and Ronald Williams
Steve Woodward

## Community Partners

Boys Team Charity
California Department of Education
Casa Pacifica
Child Abuse Listening and Meditation (CALM)
Children's Resources and Referral
CommUnify
Domestic Violence Solutions
Easy Lift Transportation
Family Service Agency
First 5 Santa Barbara
Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
(Food Literacy In Preschool) FLIP
Junior League of Santa Barbara
Kate Farms
Mariposas Project
National Charity League
Santa Barbara County Education Office
(SBCEO)
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
Santa Barbara Public Library
Santa Barbara Unified School District
Transition House
Tri-Counties Regional Center
Wilderness Youth Project

Storyteller
CHILDREN'S CENTER

2115 State Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
storytellercenter.org

# Ways to Support Storyteller

1. **Make an individual donation.**
2. **Provide continuous support through monthly giving.**
3. **Find out if your employer has a matching gift program.**
4. **Join our Legacy Society.**
5. **Purchase items on our Wish List.**
6. **Donate your time as a volunteer.**

For more information, please contact

**Adrienne De Guevara,**
**Development Director**
**805.730.0155**
**adrienne@storytellercenter.org**