



San José Public Library
Foundation



2025

STORIES *of* IMPACT

Thank You from CEO Dr. Dawn Coppin



Dr. Dawn Coppin congratulating Resilience Corps Associates at the 2025 graduation ceremony

THANK YOU! At a time when so many of us feel divided, you have stepped up in a big way to support our libraries and bring us all together.

From early education programs, digital skill-building, adult literacy, and career readiness, SJPLF-supported library programs transform lives here in San José. Think of the impact you've had: a first-generation college student gained the confidence to pursue his dream career, a grandmother improved her English skills so she could help her grandchildren with their homework, a struggling student learned to read, thanks to supporters like you.

You also made your voice heard for our libraries, writing to City Council, attending town halls, and showing up at public hearings. Thanks to library advocates, San José Public Libraries are now permanently fines free for all—a significant milestone that makes library access more equitable and welcoming.

In this issue of *Stories of Impact*, we hope you are inspired to see all the ways our library brings us together, from helping people achieve their goals to making storytime come alive. You will also learn about our exciting upcoming events: a Family Literacy Festival, Banned Books and Brews, Estate Planning Workshop, and our 2nd annual Signature Author Event with NBC anchor and *Boat Baby* author, Vicky Nguyen.

Thank you for standing with our libraries and believing in their power to bring us all together, promote literacy, and transform lives. Your support of the San José Public Library Foundation is an investment in our community's future.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dr. Dawn Coppin
CEO, San José Public Library Foundation

Resilience Corps Graduate Reflects on his Journey

STORY
OF
IMPACT

The following is a condensed version of a speech Resilience Corps alum Oswaldo Ramos delivered at the 2025 Resilience Corps graduation ceremony.

Hello graduates and fellow family and friends, my name is Oswaldo, a Resilience Corps Associate (RCA) from the Spring 2024 cohort. I am honored to be speaking at today's Graduation, to celebrate your inspirational and dedicated hard work.

Regardless of what career path you choose to move towards achieving, I hope you take the experiences, skills, and knowledge you learned over the past few months and apply it to continue growing and helping others. You are all now stronger leaders and advocates for continuous learning and equitable opportunity.

The RCA program is truly just the beginning of your careers, thanks to my time in the program that was full of guidance and opportunity, I went from being a volunteer 1st grade teacher aid to being the lead 1st grade instructor of that same classroom a year later after I was offered a position at the same site.

Without being an RCA I would have never, at least not so early on in my career journey, been able to check off a lifelong dream I have had since I was young. I was able to have my own group of students to make a year worth of memories in my own classroom planning activities and being that role model for them.



Oswaldo speaking at the 2025 Resilience Corps graduation ceremony

But my career aside, the Resilience Corps program teaches you skills you may not have fully developed or believed in yourself. While cliché, never in a million years would I see myself standing here speaking in front of an audience like this, but because of the program, I am checking off a lifelong fear of public speaking. Whether you recognize it or not, being an RCA teaches you to never doubt or cut yourself short on what you can do. Always push yourself to new levels of discomfort as it is the only way to improving yourself and your community.

As RCAs we recognize our privilege to be where we are today, but we also consider how we can give back to the next generation and advocate for equitable education. Many children, as maybe we did growing up, believed higher education was unattainable. We thought we were not smart enough, not special enough, and especially for students growing up in underserved communities, we thought a lack of representation meant a lack of opportunity. You were that representation for these students to build determination in building their own legacy.

I want everyone to take a moment of reflection to think of your own legacy. Thank your past self for getting you to be here today, thank your future self for having your goals of who you want to become, and most importantly, thank your present self for having the determination to dream while encouraging future generations.

“Believe in yourself and you are halfway there.”

Resilience Corps is a workforce development program for young adults in San José. The program is administered by SJPL, and made possible through a partnership with SJPLF and support from the Youth Service Corps as well as other philanthropic partners.



THE SAN JOSÉ PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION PRESENTS

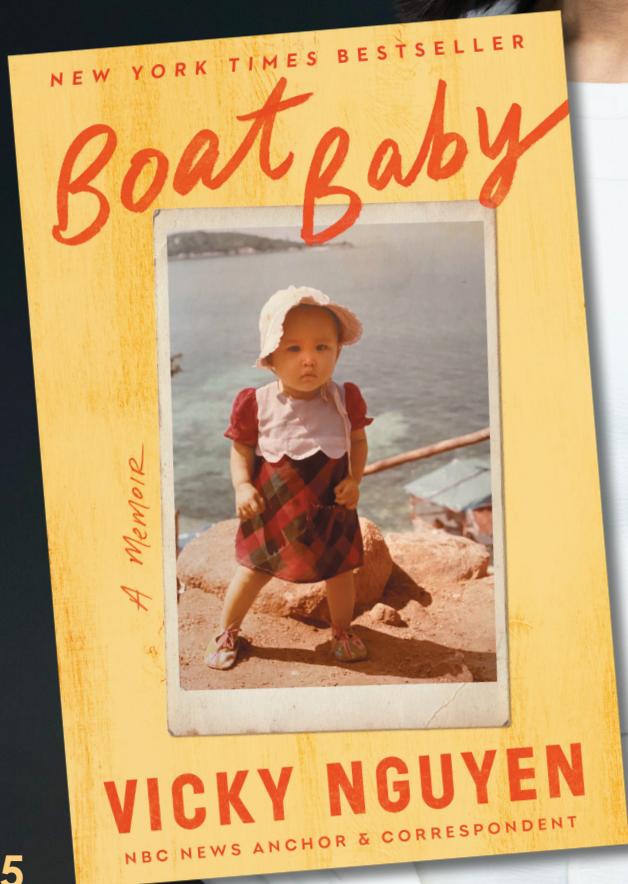
Signature Author Event 2025 *featuring* Vicky Nguyen

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025
SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA

Aiming to raise crucial funds and awareness for the San José Public Library, we're thrilled to announce our upcoming 2nd Annual Signature Author Event featuring NBC News Daily Anchor and Chief Consumer Investigative Correspondent Vicky Nguyen.

In her debut memoir, *Boat Baby*, where heroism meets humor, NBC News anchor and correspondent Vicky Nguyen tells the story of her family's daring escape from communist Vietnam and her unlikely journey from refugee to reporter with laughter and fierce love.

Scan for
event
details



sjplf.org/AuthorEvent2025



Pat Wolfe
SJPLF Board & Epilogue Society Member

"The library is where our future comes from."

Why do you support the Library Foundation?

The term that I've used is the San Jose Public Library is the great equalizer for the residents of our city. And I used residents versus citizens because everyone is welcome, and everyone should be welcome in the library. The library card is one of the very few if not the only thing you can get that has no strings attached.

If you could wave a magic wand and do anything for the library, what would it be?

I would love to put up new branches, where people can come and walk in so many areas, where it can be a gathering place and where the gathering place can draw people into the whole library to further the lifelong education of our community. I think the library is where our future comes from. The more we have to teach people and especially the younger people to be able to learn and see what democracy is, the better the future is for everybody.

Is there anything you want to add?

I think a lot of people don't realize that the library offers something for them too. We should help spread the word and bring people into the library who don't otherwise know what the library offers. Everyone who uses the library needs to invite others to use it.

Pat Wolfe: Three Decades of Dedication to the Library Foundation

DONOR
SPOTLIGHT

"The library is the great equalizer for the residents of our city."

Pat Wolfe's connection to the library began in childhood. One memory that stands out is a visit with her fourth-grade Girl Scout troop to the local library. Dressed as characters from *Alice in Wonderland*, Pat and her fellow scouts entertained and read stories to younger children. That joyful experience sparked a lifelong love of reading and a deep appreciation for the library's role in her community.

Now, a retired RN, Pat is one of the San José Public Library Foundation's longest giving donors. She has been with the Foundation for nearly 30 years. During those decades, she has truly seen it all as a member of the Library Foundation's Board of Directors, the Library Commission, and Advocacy Committee, among other roles. She's also a legacy donor, meaning she has included the Library Foundation in her estate plan.

We sat down with Pat to understand why she remains so committed to the Library Foundation.



Career Online High School 2024 Graduates

You have been with the Library Foundation for decades. Why?

Well, I really like the Library Foundation. We have programs that we support like Career Online High School and we have programs that we run like the Resilience Corps that make a huge difference in the lives of so many residents of our community. They open doors.

What changes have you seen in your experience with the Library?

Seeing that growth and that change from a basic library system that has branches in good shape and the people come to it and get what they need to a library that reaches out and draws people in is what we have become. I love seeing that evolution.

"Everyone is welcome, and everyone should be welcome in the library."

SAMSUNG

Samsung Semiconductor: Investing in the Next Generation

CORPORATE
SPOTLIGHT

Michael Walters
Senior VP of Human Resources
Samsung Semiconductor

In their five years of partnership with the San José Public Library Foundation, a memory that stands out for Michael Walters, Senior VP of Human Resources at Samsung Semiconductor, was when his team visited a group of Resilience Corps Associates for a career development workshop. The Associates—many of whom face barriers to traditional employment, come from under-resourced communities, and are first-generation college graduates—met with Samsung recruiters for resume support, mock interviews, and mentorship. For Michael, it was a powerful moment. Offering the young adults guidance early in their professional journeys not only energized Samsung employees eager to give back, but also had the potential to be life-changing for the Associates themselves.

The event reflects Samsung Semiconductor's broader Corporate Social Responsibility vision: empowering local communities and inspiring future innovators through purposeful volunteerism. As part of this commitment, the company invests in youth education and addresses pressing social challenges. Partnering with the San José Public Library Foundation has become a key expression of that vision.

When asked why Samsung believes in supporting San José Public Library programs, Michael shared, "For us, it's almost a sense of obligation to give back to the community. It's twofold: first, we have the opportunity to provide financial support for programs that directly benefit our local neighborhoods. Second, our employees are incredibly talented and passionate. Engaging with young people through these programs allows them to foster a love of science, math, and technology..."

*...It's a meaningful way to connect—both
with the community and our company."*

In addition to workforce development, Samsung has also championed the Library's STEAM programs, which introduce young people to coding, robotics, computer science, and emerging technologies. In the past two years alone, Samsung's support has enabled the Library to reach more than 4,700 young people through hands-on STEAM workshops. Thanks to their support, these workshops remain free and accessible—giving kids the chance to build essential skills like problem-solving, pattern-recognition, and computational thinking. The STEAM workshops not only help students develop critical thinking skills, but also help prepare them for careers of the future. At a recent event, 12-year-old Chelsea shared, "The workshop is unique because we can use different apps and technology. It's a good place to discover new things." Another participant added, "I like the hands-on learning. They make it fun."

For Michael, that kind of impact speaks to the heart of why Samsung invests in these programs. "It's about making sure future generations understand the value of learning," he explained. "Outside of school—after hours, on weekends, during summer breaks—kids come to the library. They find enrichment opportunities that help them grow, not only in specific skills but also in confidence. When they return to the classroom, they're better prepared. That's why we believe so strongly in the Library's mission and why we're proud to stand behind it."

KRISTI YAMAGUCHI'S
FAMILY
LITERACY
FESTIVAL

Big Dreams Start at the Library



Saturday, September 6, 2025
9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Children's Discovery Museum,
180 Woz Way, San José, CA

Families will enjoy all the Museum has to offer, along with celebrity and author story readings, hands-on activities and art projects, and family friendly entertainment. All included with your special event day admission ticket!

Entertainment will include

- Andy Z
- Ricky Roo & Friends Puppet Show
- Celebrity and author storytellers
- Special appearances by local San José mascots Sharkie and Q

This will also be the first day the Children's Discovery Museum will preview their new traveling exhibit based on a very well known literary character, Curious George!



A collaboration between Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream, Children's Discovery Museum and the San José Public Library Foundation, to promote the importance of reading.

Thank you to our sponsors!

Title Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor \$15K+



SJPLF is truly grateful for the support from all our event sponsors. Learn more about them on our website linked below.



Buy your
tickets
today!

sjplf.org/LiteracyFest2025



Volunteers Delight *at* Berryessa Storytime

On a sunny Thursday morning, Cisco volunteers gathered in the Berryessa Library community room with the San José Public Library Volunteer Services team. Their task? Assemble costumes and perform in a reenactment of The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood at storytime in less than one hour. With little time to spare, the volunteers got to work designing a furry wolf costume, three pig ear headbands, three houses made of straw, wood, and brick, and a Little Red Riding Hood costume. As they worked together, they chatted about what motivated them to volunteer at the library that day. From fond memories of going to storytime as a child to taking their own children, each of them had a personal connection to the library.

When asked why he was volunteering, Abhi Singh, Director of Revenue Acceleration, replied, *"I remember taking my little daughter to storytime and I thought it would be nice to recreate that moment for somebody else."* Business Operations Manager Siyu Wang added:

"I always feel passionate about giving back to the community and as a child I enjoyed storytime."

Before the volunteers knew it, families began to filter into the room and take their seats. The librarian welcomed the nearly two dozen children and their caretakers and shared that they were in for a treat that day: a live performance by four talented volunteers. With energy, enthusiasm, and positivity, the volunteers performed each story as she read them out loud. The children were clearly delighted as Little Red Riding Hood pranced around and the piggies later chanted "not by the hairs of my chinny chin chin." When their performances were over, the volunteers even helped distribute stickers among the children and thanked them for coming.



"I was blown away by the volunteers' positivity and commitment to the performance," said Marly Young, Community Giving Manager at San José Public Library Foundation.

"It was a sweet reminder that each of us has a personal connection to the library, and we can all find a way to give back."

For each hour their employees spend volunteering at the Library, Cisco donates to the San José Public Library Foundation, doubling the impact of the volunteers' time. All told, the experience was a win-win-win for all involved: the children saw their favorite stories come to life, the volunteers had a chance to give back in a meaningful way, and the library benefited from their support.

Ways to Support the Library

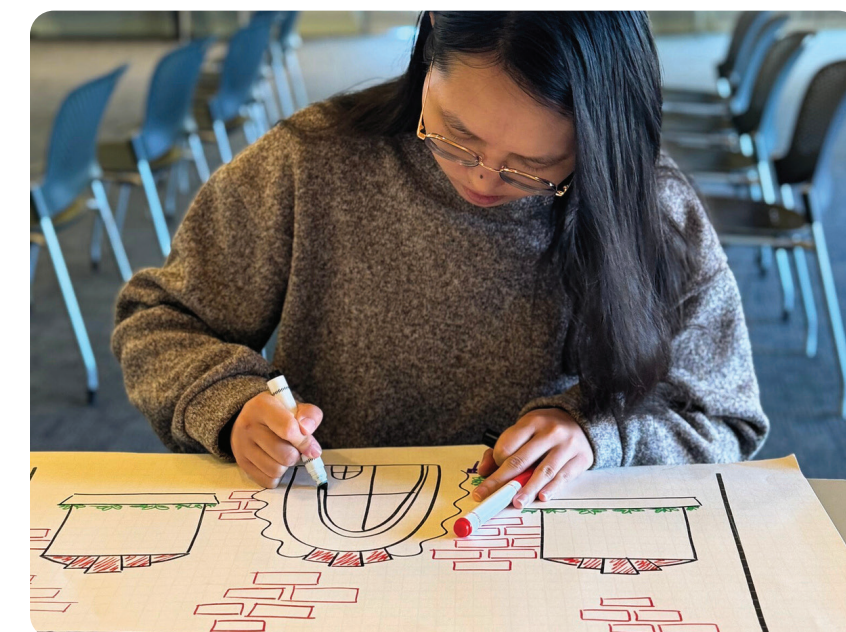


If you are interested in volunteering at the San José Public Library, please visit

sjpl.org/Volunteer

To see if your employer will double your impact, check out

sjplf.org/EmployerMatching





San José Public Library Foundation

P.O. Box 611540
San Jose, CA 95161



Library
Foundation
Board & Staff

sjplf.org



408.808.2081 • info@sjplf.org • P.O. Box 611540, San Jose, CA 95161 • EIN# 77-0142379

Charity
Navigator



FOUR-STAR



Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

