



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Donation Gives Probationers a Chance to Reinvest in their Families**

**(Woodland, CA)** – The Yolo County Library and Probation Department have received a generous donation of \$15,000 from the King-White Family Foundation for the Families Together program which gives probationers the opportunity to reinvest in being their child’s first teacher through story times, teachings and shared interactions.

The Families Together program, stationed at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, located at 1212 Merkley Avenue in West Sacramento, is a ten week program in which probationers and their families visit the library once a week for lessons and activities from library staff that demonstrate how positive interactions can strengthen the natural development of language and literacy skills in children. Following the meetings, families are encouraged to browse the library to find books and materials to read at home together. Whole families are positively impacted through the program as probationers receive support to build their confidence and improve their reading skills while children develop closer ties with their parents and receive positive reinforcement in their early literacy skills.

“Families Together is a program that can make a difference,” said Chief Probation Officer Brent Cardall. “Through this program, probationers are given the chance to support and strengthen their families.”

“The King-White Family Foundation assists local programs throughout the country, focusing on those that impact people’s lives in positive ways,” said Kathleen M. White who is the niece of the foundation’s creator and a judge for Yolo County. “I recommended the Families Together program to the foundation because it is a game-changer for people trying to get their lives back on track.”

“We are thankful for the donation and support to the Families Together program,” said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. “All children deserve the opportunity to connect with their parents. The reward is great for families who participate in this program.”

The King-White Foundation was founded by the late industrialist John J. White to honor his parents, Mary King and James White, Irish immigrants who came to the U.S. with nothing and built a successful life. The King-White Foundation, located in Atlanta, Georgia, has supported computer equipment purchases and restorative justice training at the Da Vinci Charter Academy High School in Davis and provided funding to the Woodland High School Robotics Team.

The Families Together program is supported by the West Sacramento Friends of the Library. The first group of probationers completed this program in December 2015 and the next group will begin February 21. For more information about the program, contact Touger Vang at (916) 375-6468. For more information on the Yolo County Library visit [www.yolocountylibrary.org](http://www.yolocountylibrary.org) or connect with the Library on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org](http://www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org).

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