

# ENTRE PALABRAS



**Dear friends,**

I am delighted to greet you! My name is Adriana Girón, and I joined Libros Para Pueblos as its Associate Director in November 2022, attracted to the organization's invaluable and educational work with children in underserved communities throughout the state of Oaxaca. After seven months working with LPP, it is absolutely clear to me that the work we do -- reading promotion strategies and building up library collections -- truly creates opportunities, changing the lives of thousands of children and providing communities with an otherwise unavailable resource.

In this newsletter, we will share important LPP updates with you; but above all, we'd like to express our deepest gratitude for your trust and commitment to this project. During these past months, I have had the opportunity to visit many library sites to see how they are restarting activities and attracting young readers back to the library after the suspension of operations due to the pandemic. Library staff have been working hard and it's wonderful to see their accomplishments. We also have a clearer understanding of the challenges they face and how we can assist.

From my work in the field of development in the NGO sector, I bring extensive experience to LPP in monitoring and evaluation processes, tools which can help us continue to grow and improve as an organization. We are already working to improve the strategies we use to assess our programs' effectiveness and their impact on the children, families and communities. This information, rigorously gathered, will help us to redesign programs and to provide you, our valued supporters, with concrete evidence of the success of LPP's mission.

In May we launched an exciting project to promote reading through theater, in collaboration with the master puppeteers of Teatro de Titeres. These storytellers, together with LPP staff, developed an original script called "The Magic Passport," specifically focused on promoting greater use of the library and engagement with books. In visits to ten libraries, more than 2,000 young readers participated with glee in this interactive puppet show and borrowed books afterwards. We expect to share the show with 4,000 Oaxacan children during 2023.

**MESSAGE FROM  
ADRIANA GIRÓN,  
ASSOCIATE  
DIRECTOR**



I think you will enjoy the video below which captures the presentations and the children's reactions.

Books are a fundamental tool of LPP's work! The donations of our generous sponsors make this life-changing work possible. We are thrilled to announce that this past spring, we delivered more than 7,700 books to network libraries!

Furthermore, we've begun a collaboration with Editorial SENTIR, a publishing house that produces a rich collection of books focused on helping children address emotional issues through engaging stories. To help our library staff use these books effectively with kids, SENTIR is providing training via online workshops; twenty-seven library managers are currently participating. We describe this project in more detail below.

We are grateful to the library managers for their energetic commitment to this new challenge, and even more grateful to each one of you for continuing to support LPP projects. Libros Para Pueblos is so important, today more than ever, for helping to strengthen the educational and emotional resilience of our communities' children.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter because all these achievements are yours, too.

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# USING PUPPETRY TO PROMOTE READING

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**MORE THAN  
2,000 CHILDREN  
REACHED**

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[Click to watch video](#)

In May and June, LPP’s “Reading Promotion Through Puppetry” project reached more than 2,000 children, harnessing the magic of puppet theater to inspire kids to explore books. Master puppeteers Beto and Mayra traveled with LPP to ten communities in the Central Valley region of Oaxaca, where they made books “come alive” through their storytelling. In each partner library, the puppeteers engaged their audience in the story of young Pablito, who visits a library where animals jump out of the pages of books in the collection and then become marionette puppets. The puppet librarian tells Pablito that the library has hundreds of books, full of people and animals who want to become their friends.

The presentation ends with the real live librarian holding real books and inviting the children, “Who wants to read these books and meet new friends?” The enthusiastic response of every audience testified to the impact of this reading promotion strategy!

The video above shows how the puppet presentations promote reading and captures the excitement and engagement of children from LPP-network libraries at CANICA, AC., and in Guadalupe Etla, San Pedro el Alto, San Pedro Zaachila, Zapoteca, Arcelia Yañiz, Ejutla, San Pedro/San Pablo Ayutla, Santa Maria Tlahuitoltepec, and San Martín Tilcajete. LPP will visit 15 libraries with this puppet project in 2023.



# MORE THAN 7,000 BOOKS DELIVERED IN LPP NETWORK

Last month, 7,719 books were delivered to LPP library partners. The annual book supplement refreshes the library's collection of reading materials. Our thanks to our Library Sponsors whose donations make this possible!



[Click to watch video](#)

## REMINDER TO LIBRARY SPONSORS AND SPONSORS-AT-LARGE

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Thanks to the annual donations from Library Sponsors and Sponsors-at-Large, LPP is able to purchase more than 7,000 books for children each year, as well as develop and provide supportive training programs for library managers. LPP and its library partners rely on you! In light of that, we remind you to make your donation soon, if you haven't already. (If your circumstances have changed, please let us know so we can plan accordingly).

Thank you for getting good books into the hands of Oaxacan children.

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## FINANCIAL DONATION OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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Curious about other ways to support LPP? Donations via Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) and Planned Giving are excellent ways to support LPP's current programs and ensure sustainability for the future. Furthermore, these methods can provide you with tax advantages.

To learn more about these donation options, please contact Mike Bronn.



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# UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS THROUGH BOOKS

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This year we were able to visit many libraries that, with great commitment and enthusiasm, have begun activities again following lengthy pandemic closures. However, today they face many additional challenges, as the pandemic not only worsened the educational gap, but also created other problems for many children, especially emotional ones, such as depression, anxiety, aggressiveness and fear. These are challenges that library managers consider urgent to address, as seen in the following testimony:

“...now that the children have returned to the classroom, we can see how much they’ve fallen behind in their learning. There are many children who, during the pandemic, had to study at home with inadequate internet service. This meant they could not take all the needed classes online. The educational crisis is just beginning to be noticed, and we do not have support from our educational authorities to deal with it...” -- Prof. Andrés Cruz. Zaachila, Oaxaca.



Considering these increased educational challenges, Libros Para Pueblos looked into a program that addresses children’s needs using our primary tool: books. We contacted Editorial SENTIR, ([www.sentir.com](http://www.sentir.com)), a Spanish publisher whose staff includes child psychologists. SENTIR specializes in creating books that address issues affecting children’s emotional development, such as grief, bullying, divorce, and cancer, among others. Your generous donations have allowed us to launch the Cuentiterapia (“Story Therapy”) project in partnership with SENTIR this year, purchasing a large collection of books that encourage discussion and providing training on their effective use to twenty-seven library managers so far.

“How do I feel today?” This is the question that begins the Editorial SENTIR training course for library managers. In this course library managers learn about how important emotions are in children’s development, and how to nurture, validate, and manage them well.

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# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT LIBROS PARA PUEBLOS

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There are many ways to support the work of LPP through sponsorship of libraries, reading promotion projects, and contributions to the general fund. Donations via Friends of Libros Para Pueblos and CANFRO are tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Executive Director José Luis Zárate.

