



Second Judicial District Court
State of Nevada
Washoe County



EARL AND
ELIZABETH ASH
FOUNDATION



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CHILDREN'S READING ROOMS DEDICATED AT SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION

RENO, Nev. (July 18, 2018)— It was a heartfelt moment Wednesday as community partners dedicated the new Second Judicial District Court Family Division Reading Rooms for children going through the uncomfortable process of family court proceedings. Colorful walls, whimsical artwork, loaded bookshelves and bean bag chairs offer children a refuge from the emotional trauma that often accompanies court proceedings.

“Anything we can do as a community to relieve the tension these kids feel when they enter the courthouse will pay dividends far into the future,” said Egan Walker, a judge in the General Jurisdiction of the Second Judicial District Court.

The goal is to have retired teachers volunteer to read to the children during their time there, and each child who visits a reading room will be gifted a new book to take home. For many, this may be the first new book they've ever owned.

“It's a really valuable and positive contribution in the lives of children who come through our courts,” said Karen Sabo, the court master who presides over cases involving neglect and abuse. “It has a magical way of taking away anxiety. If we can give them a gift, especially a book that has the power to change their life, it's so meaningful.”

According to Dr. Mariah Evans, a professor of sociology at the University of Nevada, Reno who spoke at the dedication, the first books that children read have a profound impact on cognitive development, and are often their first introduction to counterfactual thinking.

“Counterfactual thinking is the ability to imagine and create alternatives to life events that have already occurred,” said Dr. Evans. “This is especially critical for disadvantaged kids. The capacity to imagine other worlds is something books can give them.”

Numerous organizations and individuals came together to make the Second Judicial District Court Family Division Reading Rooms possible including the Reno Rodeo Foundation, who donated \$10,000 and secured additional funds from Plumas Bank, Bill Pearce Motors and the Earl and Elizabeth Ash Foundation, who each donated \$2,500 towards the purchase new books.

Plumas Bank was the first corporate sponsor to help the Reno Rodeo Foundation contribute to this project, which is the only program of its kind in Nevada. Executive Vice President & Chief Banking Officer, BJ North, attended the event and shared that “Plumas Bank is excited to participate in helping support the Reading Rooms. We are thrilled to provide new books for children and encourage other organizations and individuals to help reach the Reno Rodeo Foundation’s \$20,000 yearly goal.”

“We appreciate the financial generosity from the community that will provide comfort to children at their most vulnerable time. The Reno Rodeo Foundation is committed to enhancing and enriching the lives of Northern Nevada families by aiding children with extraordinary needs,” said Clara Andriola, Reno Rodeo Foundation executive director. “This project aligns perfectly with our mission and we are committed to continue to raise funds to support the project.”

Additionally, volunteers with Delta Kappa Gamma chose books and organized them by reading level. Midtown Reno Rotary Club provided bookshelves, tables, chairs, beanbags, coloring books and stuffed animals. Barnes & Noble, Judge Lu, Eileen Aragon and Maria Torres donated books. Connie Romwall created the murals in the reading rooms with help from Tanya Greenwell, Mary Fiala and Sheryl Wolfe. Artist Kandyce Ray created the paintings outside the courtrooms.

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About the Reno Rodeo Foundation

The [Reno Rodeo Foundation](#) was incorporated in 1986 and is a non-profit 501(c)3. In addition to the annual Denim Drive that helps clothe neglected and abused foster children 365 days a year, the organization provides scholarships to eligible Northern Nevada high school graduates, supports community grants, funds a Reno Rodeo Wish for a child, underwrites the Reno Rodeo Association’s Reading Roundup literacy program helping thousands of at-risk first graders, provides new books to comfort children who must attend family court proceedings, builds community partnerships and serves as the anchor for large capital projects to improve the lives of children. Like Reno Rodeo Foundation on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or for more information, please visit [RenoRodeoFoundation.org](#).

About the Second Judicial District Court

The Second Judicial District Court is one of eleven district courts in the State of Nevada. It is comprised of fifteen judges, six of whom are elected to serve in the family division. Nine judges are elected to serve in the general jurisdiction division. The mission of the Second Judicial District Court is to provide timely, fair and efficient administration of justice under the law, in a manner that instills and sustains the public’s confidence in the judicial system. The mission of the Second Judicial District Court’s Family Division is to provide fair, efficient, accessible justice under the law, which encourages alternative and non-adversarial dispute resolution in a manner that serves the public and sustains confidence in the judicial branch of government.

About the Rotary Club of Reno Midtown

The [Rotary Club of Reno Midtown](#) was chartered in 2009 and was the first club of its kind in Northern Nevada that focused membership on young professionals. Reno Midtown is a non-profit 501(c)4 service organization that focuses on youth empowerment through sending middle school and high school kids to impactful leadership camps. The club also works with RISE (Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality) to feed the homeless in our community. You can see their literacy campaign in action all around town through the Little Free Libraries. These are beautiful, blue standalone libraries in front of kid-friendly local businesses that encourage kids to take a book or leave a book and excites them to read at home. For more information please like on [Facebook](#) or visit www.renomidtownrotary.com.

About Delta Kappa Gamma

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was founded May 11, 1929, at the Faculty Women's Club at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas. Alpha Chapter of Alpha State Organization placed a plaque where the Women's Club once stood on campus. [Dr. Annie Webb Blanton](#), member of the faculty of the University of Texas and a former state superintendent of public instruction in Texas, conceived the idea of an organization for women educators. Eleven women educators from Texas, representing various professional positions in education, were initiated by [Dr. Blanton](#). Alpha Chapter was installed on June 3, 1929. The local chapter is located is part of the Alpha Chi State Nevada, founded on November 28, 1941. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.