



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 13, 2015

## **San Joaquin RTD Launches Books on Buses Program**

(Stockton, CA) – San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is supporting countywide literacy efforts with the introduction of a new program, Books on Buses. Beginning on August 21, selected RTD Stockton Metropolitan Area (Metro) buses will offer free children’s books for young riders. The books are available for the reader’s use on the bus or at home. Children can return the books to any RTD Metro bus, or at a branch of the Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library (SSCJPL).

“RTD is proud to contribute to the collective effort to increase literacy in our community,” said RTD General Manager/CEO Donna DeMartino. “Books on Buses is an innovative program aimed at targeting a captive audience, the young riders on our buses. We hope that this will not only add another positive element to their ride, but also help them by promoting the indispensable skill of reading. It’s cool to ride the bus, but it’s also cool to READ on the bus!”

RTD will launch the Books on Buses at a community event for children on Friday, August 21 at 1 p.m. at RTD’s Downtown Transit Center (DTC), 421 E. Weber Ave. Stockton. The event features a story time and crafts in a fun-filled program. Books will be read by Suzy Davuley, Director of the Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library, Zenet Negron representing Assemblymember Susan Eggman, and RTD General Manager/CEO Donna DeMartino. The event ends with a musical bus ride to the Cesar Chavez Library before returning to the DTC. The event is made possible with RTD’s partnership with SSCJPL. Other program supporters include University of the Pacific and Health Plan of San Joaquin.

In partnership with RTD, Health Plan of San Joaquin will also conduct a “Books on Buses Book Drive” on August 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 7751 S. Manthey Rd., French Camp. At the book drive, Health Plan of San Joaquin employees and the community are invited to fill an RTD bus with books throughout the day. Books received will benefit RTD’s Books on Buses Program.

RTD continues to welcome sponsors for this effort. For sponsorship or donation information, please contact RTD Strategic Affairs Specialist Tara Gallegos at [tgalligos@sanjoaquinrtd.com](mailto:tgalligos@sanjoaquinrtd.com). For more information about the program, please visit [sanjoaquinrtd.com/books](http://sanjoaquinrtd.com/books) or call (209) 943-1111.

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