

# IN THE NEWS:



## Local Businesswoman Helps Stockton Non-profit Get Books for School Kids

February 28, 2008  
Stockton, California U.S.A.

**Just when California is about to reduce school funding by millions, a California non-profit and a local business gives over 4,400 books to San Joaquin County school children.**

Local business owner, Jodie Dale, of Discovery Bay, CA, partnered up with *San Joaquin A+*, a non-profit organization based in Stockton, to help procure over 4,400 books for their Kindergarten Book Bag program. *San Joaquin A+* had donations and grant funds available to purchase nearly 3000 books. Jodie was able to supply Usborne children's books to *San Joaquin A+* and utilize an Usborne 50% grant matching program to provide an additional 1466 free books. This resulted in the ability to furnish 198 kindergarten classrooms throughout San Joaquin County with enough books for each classroom to have a lending library.



*Director Sue de Polo (left) of San Joaquin A+ and Jodie Dale owner of Live to Read take delivery of 4,400 children's books for the San Joaquin A+ "Kindergarten Book Bag Program".*

The goal of *San Joaquin A+* is to support and enhance the education of the youth of their community. One way their director, Sue de Polo, does this is to promote literacy in that county by using donations and grant money to purchase books and other educational materials for school kids county-wide. *San Joaquin A+* then distributes them to schools and children county-wide. For more information, their website is [www.sanjoaquinreads.com](http://www.sanjoaquinreads.com).

Jodie is an Independent Educational Consultant for Usborne Books, a publisher of high quality and unique children's books. Usborne's books are written with short bursts of information combined with lots of photos and illustrations so that kids are engaged to read and learn in an entertaining fashion. Furthermore, Usborne publishes their books using materials from sustainable forests. They also offer a 50% replacement cost if a book is damaged for any reason, as long as the book is still in print.

A unique fundraiser sponsored by Usborne Books is a pledge-based read-a-thon called **Reach for the Stars!!**, where 100% of the pledges an organization receives stays with the group in the form of books and cash. The participants pledge to read for 30 minutes a day for two weeks. The program is very versatile and can be utilized for many different types of organizations, from preschools wanting to enhance a reading nook to Boy or Girl Scout Troops looking for a community service project to public schools needing to raise money and books for their classrooms and library. 501c3 organizations can solicit corporate sponsorship and really make this program fly! “The sky’s the limit when you Reach for the Stars!”