



March 2018

Read Across America this Month

Share your favorite childhood books with a child in your life this month

This March 2nd was [Read Across America Day](#), an annual celebration to share the love of reading with children. This month and all year round, the National Education Association (NEA) encourages children to read with events, resources, and partnerships.

To celebrate the event's 20th birthday this year, the NEA created a [reading calendar](#) with a book for each month that highlights this year's theme of community and diversity. The calendar presents content like games, videos, puzzles, and lessons to go with the month's book, each specifically chosen to celebrate diverse readers and writers.



In addition to strengthening bonds, reading with young children has innumerable benefits for their cognitive development. Reading to babies and toddlers helps prepare them for school, develop language skills, and lengthen their concentration. Just as important, among the practical skills that will help them later in life, reading also helps children and teens to develop empathy, as they identify with characters and feel what they are feeling. Reading fiction in particular [has been found](#) to teach values about social behavior and psychological awareness of the inner lives of others.

So this March, and all year round, enjoy your favorite stories with kids in your life!

Silver LININGS



On March 14, 2018, Morrison Child and Family Services will host our 5th Annual [Silver Linings Luncheon](#) in the Governor Ballroom at the Historic Sentinel Hotel in downtown Portland. More than 300 of our city's most prominent business and community leaders will gather to celebrate the programs and services Morrison provides.

Silver Linings is an opportunity to increase public awareness of Morrison's community impact. It is also a chance to visit our program gallery and to meet the staff who work directly with the children and families we proudly serve. Every year, we present a video to share a behind-the-scenes view of one of our programs. This year, we highlight our [SAGE Youth Residential program](#).

SAGE, which opened in January 2015, is a secure residential program for long-term stabilization for teenaged girls (ages 11-17) who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). Commercial sexual exploitation includes a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse and/or exploitation of a person for the financial benefit of any person, or in exchange for anything of value or the promise thereof, given or received by any person. According to the National Hotline for Human Trafficking, in 2017 there have been 3,186 verified reports of human trafficking and 1,438 of those were reports on minors.

This year's keynote speaker is local attorney, victims' advocate, and policy adviser Joel Shapiro. Joel has extensive sex trafficking policy experience, including serving as Chief Counsel to U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, where he crafted the first federal legislation focused on child sex trafficking, as a policy advisor to Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel, and as the lobbyist for the "Kids Are Not For Sale in Oregon Coalition." Joel presently represents victims of sex trafficking and other crimes in civil litigation. Joel also serves on the Oregon Department of Justice's Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, and continues to advocate on behalf of sex trafficking victims at the Oregon Legislature. Joel holds a B.A. in Political Science from Grinnell College, and a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School.

To learn more about how your company can sponsor our event or how to join us as a guest, please contact Deanna Kavanaugh at 503-258-4244 or deanna.kavanaugh@morrisonkids.org.

Join the Carl Morrison Legacy Society
Morrison's Planned Giving Society Needs You

To sustain Morrison's impact on our communities, we invite our supporters to consider a planned gift to Morrison by becoming a member of the [Carl](#)

[Morrison Legacy Society](#). Including a gift to us in your will, living trust, or an account designation is a flexible donation option that allows you to make an impact. The promise of a future gift to Morrison will cost you nothing now, but it can make a huge difference to the children, youth, and families who will be served by Morrison programs in the future. You can help the next generation thrive.



Contact Kinsey Wright at kinsey.wright@morrisonkids.org to learn more about how you can support Morrison Child and Family Services with a Planned Gift.

Get to Know Morrison

Featured Staff: Linda Thiel

Morrison's featured staff member for March is Linda Thiel, the Business Manager for [Breakthrough](#) and [Counterpoint Day Treatment](#), who has been with Morrison for a whopping 28 years!

One of the things that drew Linda to the field of helping children and their families who are going through challenges is Linda's own family history. Her mother and grandparents immigrated to the US from the Philippines near the end of WWII, when her mother was 5 years old, with very few possessions and speaking no English. Linda grew up aware of the trauma and stress her family went through at that time, and how hard they worked to adjust to the culture and to make a living in their new country.

During her time with Morrison, Linda has had ample opportunities for growth, learning, and increasing responsibility. As a business manager, she enjoys supporting her teams so they can focus on the treatment work. At Morrison, Linda has always felt that she makes a difference in a supportive place.



She especially appreciates that Morrison supports special projects that enhance the treatment environment, such as gardens, play and activity structures, and volunteer-led workshops for music, yoga, and more. Being a part of these enhancements for the day treatment milieu is one of the things that has sustained Linda in this work over so many years.

When youth complete their treatment, they often speak at graduation and express appreciation for the dedicated staff and proctor homes that are critical to their success. Linda remembers one youth saying that he was grateful for staff who all have their own lives but put them aside to support him and the other boys. Stories like these remind Linda that even one person can make a lifelong difference to a child. When people feel that there is not much they can do to help, she reminds them that whatever they can do is more help than the person had before. Like Mother Theresa said in one of Linda's favorite quotes, "We can do no great things, just small things done with great love."

In her free time, Linda enjoys home improvement projects and traveling. She often visits her two children who attend college out of the area and spends a lot of time moving them back and forth. She travels as often as she can, mostly in the US or to Maui to visit her mother. She did, however, recently accomplish a goal to become scuba dive certified and to visit Thailand. Her future trips will take her below the waves where she can scuba. Another way Linda gets to experience new cultures is by opening her home to adult international students who are studying here to improve their English. Linda has developed friendships with people from all over the world and we are so glad that she has been a friend to Morrison for almost three decades!

Sustainability Tip of the Month

World Water Day is March 22nd

In honor of [World Water Day](#) on March 22nd, this month's sustainability tips are about how to protect this precious resource by reducing water pollution and waste at home.



1. Conserve water: Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, shaving, and soaping up. Only turn on the tap when you are actually using the water and challenge yourself to cut back on your water use, like with a shower timer.
2. Consider what goes down the drain. For water treatment to work effectively to protect our water, we must manage our waste properly by limiting what goes down the drain. Here's how: collect cooking oil and fat in a container to put in your solid waste collection; do not flush pills down the toilet; do not pour hazardous waste down the drain - instead check with your local collector to properly dispose of hazardous materials; do not flush napkins or other "flushable" materials because they clog the sewers like London's famous "[fatburgs](#);"
3. Use phosphate-free soaps and detergents.
4. Compost food scraps instead of using a garbage disposal.
5. Do not use pesticides or fertilizers that can pollute water run off.
6. Do not litter. Pick up litter whenever you can to keep it from clogging and polluting waterways. You can make this fun by organizing clean up groups or adding litter collection to your daily activities, like Swedish joggers do when "[plogging](#)."
7. Use targeted irrigation in your garden to keep from wasting water. Water your lawn in the early morning a few times per week when necessary or replace water-intensive grass with drought resistant plants.
8. Only do full loads of laundry and dishes to ensure maximum efficiency and water conservation.
9. Consider the water-use implications of your purchases. Many of our favorite products actually require hundreds or even thousands of gallons of water to manufacture. Always reduce and re-use before buying new.
10. Deepen your knowledge of our water challenges and your appreciation for the world's water resources.



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Our Mission

At Morrison Child and Family Services, we partner with families and communities to provide effective and responsive services for children and youth coping with adversity and trauma.

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