

Childhood is a special time in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity. At Street Library, children and their families have opportunities to live out their fundamental rights.

Isabelle sits next to her mom, who opens a beautifully illustrated book and begins reading the story aloud in Navajo. Isabelle's mom asks if she can borrow the book for a while, since she has no children's stories written in Navajo at home, and she wants her daughter to learn her language and be proud of her identity.



On their very first day at Street Library, Allyssa and her mom approach the art table. They've never had the chance to try origami before. They decide to make a lantern. Three hours later, Alyssa and her mom leave Street Library carrying a string of several lanterns of different colors, a festive sight that catches everyone's eye!



Adopt an ATD Fourth World Street Library this giving season,

and support communities in their efforts to nurture children's well-being!



Moments like these make up our weekly Street Libraries in New York City and New Mexico. A peaceful and beautiful space, stimulating learning tools, attentive and supportive facilitators — with these conditions in place, children like Isabelle, Allyssa and others, along with their families, step up and bring to life so many of the basic rights that make up a healthy, safe and meaningful life for children and their families.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. While nations are still working towards ensuring every right for every child, children and families have stepped up to do their part. In under-served communities around the US, children and their families are using the resources and spaces available to them, like Street Libraries, to nurture and uphold these rights for themselves and others.

By adopting a Street Library, you're helping ATD Fourth World continue to provide the spaces that make this possible!

Please donate to Street Library today!



Street Libraries, called Story Gardens in some locations, bring books, art activities, and creative workshops to under-resourced communities, and create respectful and stimulating environments where children and families gain valuable skills and relationships that are essential to overcoming the daily challenges of poverty.

Other moments from Street Library when a child's right was supported.

Dylan is quiet and rarely speaks. He's an observer. Then, one day, we set up a puppet theater. Dylan performs with one puppet after another. What talent we've just discovered! Back at home, Dylan cuts holes in his stuffed animals so he can continue to work on his new passion: puppeteering.



Maya runs straight to the puzzles when she arrives at Street Library, carefully observing each piece before placing it right where it goes. "I don't go to school," the five year old explains. Not yet, anyway, since her mom is still working hard to get Maya's birth certificate. Meanwhile, Maya is already an eager and engaged participant, finding ways to learn until she too can attend school. "Maya knows everything!" the other neighborhood children say proudly.



Ava has a wide smile as she arrives at Street Library with her sisters. Her dad beams with happiness. His daughters don't live with him right now, but he gets visitation with them some Saturdays and brings them to Street Library so the family can have fun moments together. "My daughters keep me going," their dad says.





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November 2019