



San Bernardino County

**Ensen Mason CPA, CFA • Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector**

**NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**August 13, 2021**

## **ATC DIVERSITY COMMITTEE DONATES 740 BOOKS TO CHILDREN’S FUND**

**San Bernardino, CA —** An employee-led book drive throughout July conducted by the Diversity Committee at the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector’s (ATC) resulted in a larger than anticipated 740 books being donated by the 300-employee department to the Children’s Fund. The books will be given to children in need during August to assist with increasing child literacy and in preparation for return to in-classroom education.

The books were presented recently in a ceremony at the ATC building led by ATC Mason to Children’s Fund President Dr. Cid Pinedo and Director of Marketing Shari Hunke.

“Because of you, the ATC Department Diversity Committee, over 700 books will be provided to children in our County that otherwise would not have access to new quality and age appropriate books,” said Dr. Pinedo. “Their minds will be fed and their imagination released to dream about their futures! Thank you for helping Children’s Fund live out our vision of a bright future for every child!”

Children that lack access to books will start kindergarten 1,000,000 words behind their peers. Studies show that 74% of third graders who read poorly still struggle in ninth grade, and third grade reading scores can predict a student’s likelihood to graduate high school. Having access to books that family members or other caretakers can use to read to children not only increases their level of preparedness, but also provides them with an example that reading can be fun and engaging.



ATC Mason and the ATC Diversity Committee present Children’s Fund with 740 books in a ceremony at ATC.

The Department Diversity Committee (DDC) is comprised of employees representing the nine divisions of ATC. The DDC’s mission is to embrace and promote an inclusive work environment through awareness and education. Open communication, mutual respect, and thoughtful collaboration will enhance our mission to serve a diverse community, while supporting ATC’s mission to conduct business in a fair, courteous, and professional manner.

ATC Mason commented, “This generous donation demonstrates a big heart and commitment to the children who are our future. Thank you, ATC employees for your generosity!”

ATC is located at 268 W. Hospitality Lane in San Bernardino. Business hours are 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Please visit [www.MyTaxCollector.com](http://www.MyTaxCollector.com) and follow us on social media, @SanBernardinoCountyATC, for the most up-to-date information.

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