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**Austin's Longest Running Bilingual Celebration of Books, Reading, Culture and Family Learning
Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros**

Celebrate books, reading, culture and family learning at our 13th Annual Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros, one of Austin's largest bilingual symposiums! This year the Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros has been expanded to include a number of Library programs throughout April and May. Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros 2011 features entertainment for all ages. All programs and activities are free and open to the public.

The centerpiece of the month-long event will be the traditional family celebration on **Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the St. John Branch Library and Community Center, [7500 Blessing Avenue](#). Join us for performances by children's dance groups and musical groups from around Austin. The event will also include hands-on educational activities, free books, and the opportunity to meet some of your favorite PBS characters, including Clifford the Big Red Dog, Maya, and Miguel.

ía de los niños ~ Día de los libros events at the Austin Public Library

During April and May the Youth Services department will host Storytime, crafts and afterschool programs celebrating the Spanish language and Latino cultures for a variety of ages. Program listings, times and locations can be found at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/kids.htm>, or by calling (512) 974-9820.

About Día de los Niños

Día de los Niños, or Day of the Child, is an annual celebration throughout Mexico, which recognizes children, pays homage to their importance in society, and endorses their wellbeing. Pat Mora, a Texas native and nationally recognized author of children's books, first heard of this Mexican holiday in 1996. Mora saw a natural link between promoting literacy and supporting the wellbeing of children. After contacting several organizations, including the American Library Association, and engaging the work of individuals and organizations, Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros became a reality on April 30, 1997. This event is now celebrated in numerous libraries and schools throughout the United States.

Austin first celebrated this event in April 1998 and has continued the tradition each year at selected Austin Public Library locations. The event seeks to promote family sharing of books, reading and learning, to increase family awareness of community resources that provide shared literacy/learning

opportunities for parents and children, and to celebrate culture and heritage as powerful tools in promoting learning and communication within families.

Austin's Día de los Niños ~ Día de los Libros has been honored for its success as an innovative, collaborative community outreach project. It has received several awards, including the Highsmith Award for community collaboration, the Hotho Award for model family literacy outreach, and REFORMA'S Mora Award.

Each year over 2,000 children and their parents attend this unique community celebration and over 4,500 new books are given to children to support reading in the home. This year 40 community organizations and over 100 volunteers will be present on April 30th to provide activities and information to participants. Please come and join us.

2011 Presenting Sponsors:

Our Presenting Sponsors this year are ¡Ahora Sí!, and the Austin Public Library.

Additional sponsors include:

ACE-A Community for Education, Austin Voices for Education and Youth, BookSpring, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, KLRU - PBS, Roy Lozano's Ballet Folklórico de Texas, St. John Community School Alliance, Univisión Radio: La Qué Buena 104.3 y La Jefa 107.7 FM and Univisión 62 TV.

For more information, contact Michael Abramov, Austin Public Library 512- 974-7567, or visit www.main.org/ninos.