

LIBROS PARA PUEBLOS PROMOTES READING IN OAXACAN COMMUNITIES

- * **Libros para Pueblos A.C. held its annual conference for training of librarians, at which time they also delivered packages of children's books.**
- * **Through workshops and forums they trained librarians from 70 communities including community, municipal and school libraries.**
- * **They announced a pilot project promoting reading through the use of tablets with internet connection.**

The NGO, "Libros para Pueblos", held its seventh annual conference on Saturday February 27 in order to train librarians, regional coordinators and volunteers working in 70 community, municipal and school libraries in different regions of the state.

This event, which was held for the third consecutive year at the Biblioteca Pública Central "Margarita Maza de Juárez", brought together about 150 reading mediators and community members who came to the capital to receive free training in the promotion of reading (through workshops on reading for preschool children), the role of the librarian in promoting reading and a forum where they could share successful experiences.



Photos: 2016 Annual Conference

The Executive Director of Libros para Pueblos A.C., Judith Marcial Calderon, said: "The aim is to complement our donation program of collection of children's books to libraries and reading rooms. In addition to delivering books to libraries, we train their librarians to promote reading as a fun habit among children and youth in the communities."

Judith Marcial added that in addition to this conference, the organization will hold three additional regional workshops this year for smaller groups. "These training sessions will be in Puerto Escondido and Oaxaca in March and October. We will offer workshops about reading aloud with

children. Children love to hear stories! it is the easiest and most effective way to attract children to the library and awaken in them the desire to read" she said.

She also announced that during the second half of the year we will start a pilot project to promote reading through the use of tablets with internet connection. "Nine volunteer reading mediators will participate. They will work with groups of children and young people from nine libraries located mainly in vulnerable communities. We seek to democratize the use of technology among children who otherwise would have no such opportunity, and use the tablets as a motivating tool to promote reading. "

Like other years, at the end of the meeting, book collections were donated to the representatives of the libraries that are part of the program. "We deliver more than 6,000 copies, including books for children and young people, from both Mexican and foreign publishers. The books will reach the hands of thousands of children and youth in urban and rural communities in Oaxaca" she concluded.



Photos: 2016 Annual Conference