

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Literacy Starts Here: First Altrusa Laps for Literacy 5K Fun Run/Walk to Benefit Kids 0-5 Family Event Set for Feb. 18, 2012, at Reid Park Bandshell

Tucson, AZ — January 18, 2012—Honorary Chair Steven W. Lynn of TEP/UniSource will kick off Tucson's first Altrusa Laps for Literacy. Registration is free. Participants are encouraged to make a donation at [altrusaticson.org](http://altrusaticson.org) and have friends and family support their run/walk to raise funds for early literacy services in Tucson.

The state has passed legislation that requires all students going into the third grade to be retained if they are not reading at grade level, starting in 2013. Yet, no provisions have been put in place to make sure children have the pre-kindergarten skills that research clearly has deemed necessary for academic success.

"Now more than ever, we as community have to do all we can to help prepare children for kindergarten," said Mary Jan Bancroft. "If we don't provide the resources families need to instill a love of books and reading, no one else will," said Dr. Bancroft.

Entertainment includes bluegrass music, a ukulele group, dance and comic routines, and more.

### Help Put Books Into the Hands of Children Who Have None

Join in the First Annual Laps for Literacy 5K Fun Run/Walk! Proceeds benefit early literacy programs.

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**  
**Reid Park Bandshell**

**Walk/Run Start Time: 9 a.m.**

Register at [altrusaticson.org](http://altrusaticson.org)

**7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration/Check In**  
**8:30 a.m. Special Guests/Awards**  
**9 a.m. Fun Run/Walk**  
**9:30-11 a.m. Entertainment**



### Proceeds Benefit Early Literacy Programs Provided by:



[altrusaticson.org](http://altrusaticson.org)



[makewayforbooks.org](http://makewayforbooks.org)



Pima County  
Public Library

[library.pima.gov](http://library.pima.gov)

## Thank You Laps for Literacy Sponsors



## Altrusa: History of Community Service

Altrusa International, Inc. of Tucson is a nearly 100-year-old community service organization of diverse professionals that is focused on literacy and children's issues. The organization ([altrusaticson.org](http://altrusaticson.org)) provides support and funding for literacy programs and events, school libraries, tutoring programs, scholarship opportunities, and much more. Altrusa partners with MWFB and the Pima County Public Library to put on the annual Story Town, Tucson's premier family literacy festival.