

September 2021 Client Corner: The Book Nook Lady

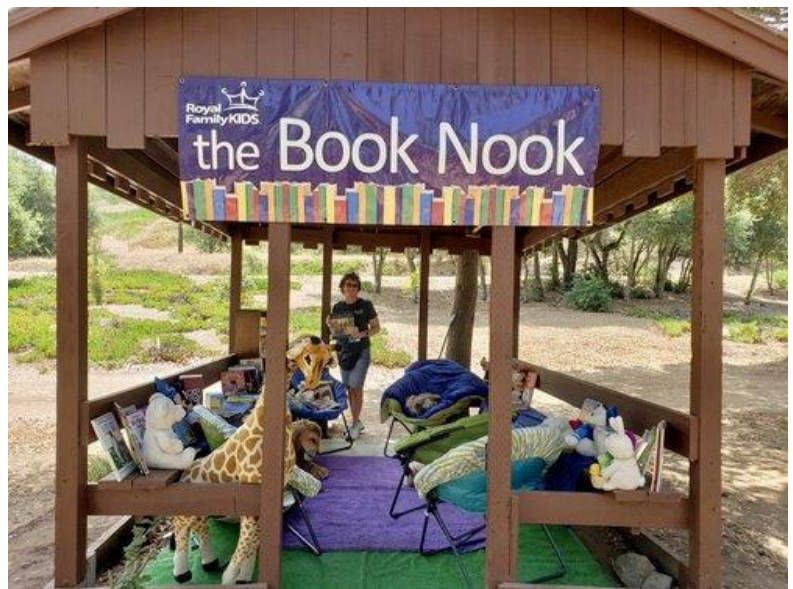
We at Kemp Financial have greatly enjoyed getting to know Ken and Sharon, having worked with them over the past few years. Our first introduction came from Ken's brother, who we (and his family) affectionately refer to as "Uncle Bob". Uncle Bob has since passed, but Ken and Sharon continue his legacy by doing what matters most with their time.



Ken was on his own for a week in the month of July this year and he made the best use of his time by refinishing an end table while Sharon was gone. We hear the table came out remarkably well. The reason for Sharon's time away from home was to continue a long-lasting tradition. For the last 12 years she has participated in Royal Family KIDS Camp where she is known as the "Book Nook Lady". Royal Family KIDS Camp is an aspect of the nonprofit *For the Children* which focuses on promoting physical, emotional and spiritual healing for child victims of neglect, abuse, and abandonment through intervention programs, education and advocacy. The time at camp for these children is an opportunity to get away, just be kids and help to find positive direction from a difficult place.

Sharon was so moved by the mission of the camp, she threw herself in to help and never looked back. Each year she creates an environment for the children where they can sit in the gazebo or in another beautiful area and either read on their own or listen to others read. Hence the moniker of the "Book Nook Lady". Sharon has found joy in being able to bring smiles to the faces of these children all while allowing them to get lost in a good book or story.

The transformation of the children during this time at the camp is something specific that Sharon shared with us. She admits that the number of amazing stories is abundant, yet one really stuck in her mind this year. There was a young girl that was involved in the camp and participating in the activities. Sharon had mentioned that even though she was participating, she was not truly immersed; she had no smile, her walls were up, she was protecting herself. As the week went on, the same attitude persisted, that was until the fire truck showed up. Thankfully, the Fire Department was not there for an emergency, they were there to help spread some joy in the form of "Snow". They parked the truck and began showering the children in bubbles, as if it was snowing in California in July. This young girl who had been stoic all week finally let loose, and her face lit up with one of the biggest smiles Sharon could see as she played in the "Snow."



"This camp is the one week of the year I know without a doubt I am in the center of God's perfect will; Serving God and serving the children. I feel so blessed to work alongside an entire staff who are all 100% focused on these kids for this one week. I've been doing this long enough to see young people who might have become a statistic make something wonderful of their lives!" – Sharon

It is such an amazing experience for these children and such a joy to see Sharon and her passion for helping in this cause. As Sharon begins to usher in a new chapter of retirement, we look forward to seeing Sharon continue to explore "What Matters Most".

Thank you, Ken and Sharon, for your passion for helping others and sharing this wonderful story!

For more information, go to forthechildren.org

The camp director is also a director of OC United, which has continued involvement with foster kids: ocunited.org