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**MICHELLE OBAMA SURPRISES CHILDREN AT PARA LOS NIÑOS EARLY EDUCATION CENTER IN SKID ROW, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FIRST BOOK**

*Mrs. Obama's visit is a part of Penguin Random House's one million book donation in the Obama family's name*

Thursday, November 15, 2018 (Los Angeles, California) — Today, while in town for her *Becoming* book tour, former First Lady Michelle Obama made a surprise visit to the Para Los Niños Tina and Rick Caruso Early Education Center, located in Skid Row, to spend time and read with a group of four year-old children from an underserved area of Los Angeles.

The visit was hosted by Para Los Niños a leading LA-based nonprofit that offers a wide range of high-quality coordinated student and community services, including three charter schools, six early childhood education centers, mental health and family support services, workforce development, and parent and community engagement to 6,000 children, youth, and adults annually. As part of Mrs. Obama's visit, she led storytime with the students, reading both *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, and *llama llama red pajama* by Anna Dewdney.

“As one of the few early childhood centers in Skid Row, we work with some of the most vulnerable children and families in Los Angeles,” says Drew Furedi, Para Los Niños CEO. “A visit from former First Lady Michelle Obama is such an honor for us, and so inspiring for our students to set goals and instill the love of reading for life.”

Para Los Niños partners with fellow non-profit Child360. Child360 works to advance early childhood education program quality and capacity by supporting the development of the whole child, growing a qualified and diverse workforce, and strengthening family engagement.

Child360 is also one of the first recipients to receive books from Penguin Random House's one million book donation in the Obama family's name to First Book, a longstanding organization dedicated to promoting equal access to education by providing new books, learning materials, and other essentials to children in need. A selection of these books were available for the children to take home.

*Becoming* is a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling as Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address.

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