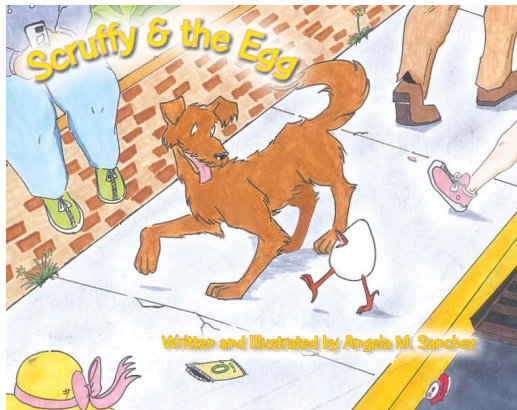


For Immediate Release:

FORMER HOMELESS STUDENT WRITES AND ILLUSTRATES CHILDREN'S BOOK

LOS ANGELES – Book Launch, Saturday December 16, 11 am - 1 pm

School on Wheels Learning Center, 600 E 7th Street, 90021



Former School on Wheels student, Angela M. Sanchez, Launches Children's Book for Young Readers to Understand Homelessness and Poverty

When people think of homelessness they rarely think of children. Yet nearly two and a half million children under the age of eighteen are homeless in the U.S., the average age being eight. That's how *Scruffy and the Egg* began.

After losing her home in the Great Recession, Angela M. Sanchez and her father found refuge in spinning tales of an abandoned dog, an orphaned egg, and their search for a home. They called it "Scruffy and the Egg." In 2016, Sanchez took to cartooning the stories and adventures of the duo on their own [Facebook page](#). This year, Sanchez independently published the first in a series of picture books about *Scruffy and the Egg*.

When Scruffy, a family dog, is left behind after his owners' home forecloses, he embarks on a quest to find them. Along the way, Scruffy meets his titular traveling companion, an egg that has fallen from its nest. The pair becomes inseparable, discovering that sometimes family finds you. At the core of each story about Scruffy and his half-hatched egg are the values Sanchez says her father passed on to her: family and hope.

Kirkus Indie Reviews praised *Scruffy and the Egg* as "a warm, sweetly-rendered . . . tale." The nationally acclaimed book reviewer further stated, "The relationship between the expressively drawn and lovable Scruffy, whose sharp outline contrasts the textured color in his fur, and the faceless egg is impressively conveyed and will be adored by lap readers and independent readers alike."

The delicate themes of *Scruffy and the Egg*—homelessness, single-parenthood, and adoption—are critical to validating the daily challenges of so many children and families. "But this complex narrative isn't something you usually see featured in children's literature," Sanchez says. "Families who live it are not represented, while families who do not remain unaware. It's time to give nontraditional families—families like mine—a story to share as they search for their homes in the world."

While she and her father were homeless during her last two years of high school, Sanchez forged a deep connection with School on Wheels Inc., a Los Angeles nonprofit which provides academic support to K-12 students experiencing homelessness. It was School on Wheels that provided Sanchez with a tutor when she took AP Calculus in her senior year. "I'd never seen a college campus until my tutor showed me his at Cal Tech," Sanchez reflects.

Now, in partnership with School on Wheels, Sanchez will hold an official book launch for *Scruffy and the Egg* on Saturday, December 16th. The launch will take place at the Downtown Learning Center, School on Wheels' hub in the heart of Skid Row. They anticipate young students from the nearby Union Rescue Mission joining in for a morning of reading, refreshments, and fun. At the launch, Sanchez will donate 50 books to School on Wheels so that the children and families whom School on Wheels serves can share in a narrative that reflects and appreciates the challenging circumstances they face.

"Families come in different combinations and situations," Sanchez says. "Especially at this time of year, we should make sure that they're never left out of the picture."

"Nobody talks about homeless kids," says Catherine Meek, Executive Director of School on Wheels. "Angela's writing and her advocacy work on their behalf are important ways to give voice to these hidden, forgotten children."

Angela M. Sanchez has been featured on [NBC Nightline](#) and UCLA's [Centennial Campaign](#) for her work with School on Wheels and advocacy for higher education. Sanchez is an active member of the [Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators](#) (SCBWI), receiving SCBWI's 2018 Work In Progress Award in Multicultural Fiction for another title she is currently working on. Sanchez has also recently been selected as a 2018 Emerging Voices Fellow, a seven-month intensive mentorship program provided by [PEN Center USA](#) for emerging authors from underrepresented backgrounds.

More *Scruffy and the Egg* adventures continue on [Facebook](#). Sanchez' books are available at several Los Angeles bookstores, from Amazon, or direct from Angela M. Sanchez at www.angelamsanchez.com. Contact Puppy & Sparrow Publishing at 5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1540, Los Angeles, CA 90036; telephone (818) 568-0203; email [puppysparrowpublishing \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:puppysparrowpublishing@gmail.com)

To learn more about School on Wheels, volunteering or donating please visit:
www.schoolonwheels.org

ABOUT SCHOOL ON WHEELS: School on Wheels, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by Agnes Stevens, a retired teacher. Today, hundreds of volunteers work one-on-one with children whose homelessness prevents them from receiving the academic stability and help they desperately need. The mission of School on Wheels is to enhance educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The goal is to

shrink the gaps in their education and provide them with the highest level of education possible. The program spans six counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura, as well as a learning center in Skid Row. PRESS CONTACT School on Wheels, Inc. Sinead Chilton 805.641.1678
schilton@schoolonwheels.org

