Annual Report—2018

2018 Highlights

The addition of two new staff-ers and a major fundraising effort were standout developments at WCPL in 2018. On January 2, Hannah Siegele and Clara Kelly started their new careers at WCPL as Assistant Director/Adult Services Librarian and Youth Services Librarian, respectively.

Having worked at Chester County Library in the Circula-tion Department before coming to WCPL, Hannah learned the library business from the ground up. She brings a considerable talent for organization and administration to her new position and quickly learned the finer points of selecting and purchasing materials for the library’s adult collections. She also headed up a staff committee that planned and hosted WCPL’s first-ever escape room for adults.

Clara Kelly has been interested in library work since college and in children’s and teen ser-

Building Our Future

The library launched a special year-long appeal to meet a generous challenge offered by the Borough of West Chester: For each dollar the library raised over $35,000 through its Annual Appeal, the Borough would reduce the library’s mortgage debt obligation by an equal amount, up to $50,000. This initiative drew an out-pouring of support from the community, including 36 donations of more than $1,000 each. The challenge was met by September and surpassed by $30,000 at year’s end. The Building Our Future Appeal made a significant impact on the library’s financial sustain-

The terms of a matching chal-lenge by the Borough of West Chester. The Borough agreed to reduce the library’s construction loan repayment amount by one dollar for every dollar, up to $50,000, that the library raised above its yearly Annual Appeal average of $35,000. The community response to this chal-lenge appeal was overwhelming, and we met and then surpassed our goal. Read more about the Building Our Future Campaign below.

WCPL embarked on a major initiative in early 2018 to nearly triple the income from its Annual Appeal in order to meet the needs of the Borough and the residents of the area. Annual allocations from the municipalities in our service area help fund library programs and services for their residents.

We are grateful for their continued support!

Borough of West Chester
Birmingham Township
East Bradford Township
Pocopson Township
Thornbury Township, Chester County
West Goshen Township
Westtown Township

Building Our Future Campaign

Our goal was to raise $30,000 through our Annual Appeal, which was an enormous challenge, given the library’s financial needs and the limited resources available. However, with the generous support of our community, we were able to exceed our goal and exceed the Borough’s challenge by raising $35,000.

This achievement was made possible through the efforts of our staff, volunteers, and members of the community who donated generously to support the library’s future.

The Reading Room, John Supplee

"The Reading Room," John Supplee place at a January 2019 donor event. Mrs. Elizabeth Strode won the painting.

Signed prints of the painting are available for sale on the library website, and a video of the artist at work on “The Reading Room” can be seen on WCPL’s YouTube channel.

Special points of interest:

- With a generous match from West Chester Borough for funds raised, WCPL paid down a large part of a construction loan held by the Borough.

- Program attendance and number of programs offered increased in 2018 over 2017: library staff hosted 714 programs, an increase of 24%; total attendance was 9,509, a 1.6% increase.
Children’s Programs: Community Outreach

One of the new programs the library added to the many offered to preschool-aged children was Community Corner Wednesdays. Since we no longer have story times on Wednesday mornings, we started inviting businesses and organizations from the community to host a free preschool-age program. Organizations and businesses that have participated in Community Corner Wednesdays include the WC Studio, Motherborn, Theraplay, Tempo Therapy, the Helicopter Museum, and Tot Rock, to name a few.

WCPL hosted two programs that were part of Longwood Garden’s “Community Read” program. The first one was called “Tree Huggers” and the second was “Reptiles and Amphibians with Joan Beauchamp Procter.”

WCPL staff attended a SMART Night at East Goshen Elementary School. We borrowed Cublets™ from Chester County Library’s Youth Services Department to bring to the event, which were very popular with the children. We also used this opportunity to promote summer reading 2018. In May, we celebrated Star Wars Day with activities throughout the day and a screening of The Last Jedi.

Our Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) Kickoff was June 9, 2018, with the theme “Libraries Rock.” We offered numerous programs throughout the summer such as Music and Movement for preschool-aged children, Crafty Tuesdays, Drop-in Story Times, the two Escape Rooms mentioned in the Teen/Tween article below, FUNdamentals of Theater with Uptown, Tinker Days, a Magic Garden craft program, and Family Movie Nights.

Children who participated in the SRC again earned medals for the amount of time they read over the course of the 10-week program. Rep. Carolyn Comitta awarded the bronze, silver, and gold medals at the August SRC awards ceremony. The summer wrapped up with the annual Harry Potter Party held the week after the end of summer reading.

Teen/Tween Programs Expand

The year was marked by innovation and growth for WCPL’s teen and tween programs and services. Five teen-focused pilot programs launched in 2018, and all previous programs maintained a strong attendance. Teen and Tween Tuesdays remained the most popular program for the demographic; the club met weekly and provided a space for 11-18 year olds to hang out in, craft, and develop key STE(A)M skills.

Teens continued to have a direct voice in the development of the year’s programming through the monthly meeting of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB), during which members presented projects of interest and discussed ongoing programs at the library. Our dozen active TAB members proved instrumental in the successful execution of programs for kids and adults. Service projects carried out by TAB members included:

- Hosting a bake sale during the Literacy Links Invitation
- Assisting in events at Star Wars Day in May, the Summer Reading Kick-Off in June, and the Harry Potter Party in August
- Cleaning up the courtyard
- Organizing support for donation drives to local charities such as Safe Harbor and the West Chester Food Cupboard
-ו

The member requirements and structure of TAB were also revised during the summer break to emphasize the role of its members and to encourage their direct participation.

At the start of the year the library purchased the Breakout EDU Kit, making possible the launch of the library’s first-ever escape room. The escape room debut, Escape from the Library Ghost, was fully attended by middle grade and high schoolers. The event was so well received that additional sessions for a Girl Scout troop and the children from the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County were created. The success of this pilot program served as the inspiration for an adult escape room held later in the fall.

Other programs and activities carried out by the Teen Advisory Board and the Young Adult Program Coordinator included the following:

- A Book Club Brunch that met monthly during the summer.
- The reorganization of the Young Adult space to increase usability. For instance, book talkers were featured to highlight new releases and the YA nonfiction was relocated to increase display space for new and themed fiction titles and to encourage a more deliberate cultivation of our nonfiction collection.
- An awareness campaign for WCPL’s off-the-shelf resources launched in the fall. The effort included the distribution of instructional flyers on how to access and use databases and apps and the addition of ebook markers to the YA section featuring the newest items on Libby (Overdrive’s ebook and audiobook app).

Overall, 2018 demonstrated an increase in the total attendance of in-house and outreach programs from 2017.
Financials

The library's financial health is a testament to the hard work of both the staff and volunteers in keeping expenses reasonable and to the diligence of the volunteers, staff, and Board members who raise funds for the Library, but it should be noted that the funds listed below are classified for specific projects and programs.

End-of-Year 2018 Balances in Special Funds -

$126,079  Board Directed – These funds may be expended to cover special projects as voted on by the Board. A portion of this fund is set aside for author events.

$8,338  Capital Projects – These funds are earmarked for special capital projects.

$9,888  PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) funds to be expended for Summer Reading Challenge programs and materials for children K-3. (Report filed with PA Department of Community & Economic Development)

$12,522  Early Literacy Outreach funds for story time program to West Chester area preschools and day care centers serving at-risk and underserved families.

The Woman’s Exchange made a significant donation to WCPL, as they have for many years. Their gift helps purchase materials for readers of all ages.

“I enjoy trips to West Chester Library, the friendliness of the librarians & the ambiance of the historic building.”

“Recently I noticed the note on the slip with the due date that said how much $ you saved by borrowing the book. It really hit home how valuable our library is. And I already knew that it's a treasure! This survey made me realize that I could be using the library in many other ways, too.”

“Keep the library functioning. It is a very important part of our community.”

“I donate money every year and have so for a very long time. Hope the West Chester [library] can continue to function and thrive forever...”
$10,000 and Above
Knauer Unitrust

$5,000--$9,999
Communications Test Design, Inc.
First Resource Bank
David & Sallie Jones
James Jordan
Christopher & Celia Lang
Thornbury Preschool, LLC

$2,500--$4,999
Anonymous Friends
Glenn Ammons and Rachel McMullin
BB & T
Chubb Charitable Foundation
DNB First
First Cornerstone Foundation
MacElree Harley, Ltd
Vanguard Charitable
West Chester Downtown Foundation
Grantmaking Endowment, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation

$1,000--$2,499
Anonymous Friends
Mark & Betsy Beaugard
Benevity
Timothy Vance Blair
Mary & Stuart Brooks
David & Christiane Bunn
CCCF Grantmaking Fund for Chester County, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation
Norman Crandell & Deborah J. Enea
Carla & Andrew DiProspero
Alexandra C. Dow
Christine Faccioli
Dale & Susan Frens
Fulton Bank
Chad Goodwin
Frances I. Hill
Incyte Corporation Matching Gifts Program
Rachel Kagan & Michael Galey
Seamus & Amy Lavin
Fredda Maddox

New Century Club of West Chester
Penna Corporation
Bonnie & Ted Saddiq
M Sarkari
Don & Peg Scholl
Elizabeth Strode
Howard & Theresa Sundwall
Patricia Valencia
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Voge
Helen Fegely Wessling
Woman's Exchange

$500--$999
Caroline G. Dow
Michael J. Hazley, Inc.
Gail A. Hoffman
Jean Gross, Realtor
Helga Knox
Roger & Joyce Lacy
Lance & Caroline J. Nelson
Kathleen Dougherty Niles
Brenna Quinn & Sean O'Hara
Frank & Jane Resides
Kathleen Rife
Paul & Jacqueline Spada
Stillman Volvo

$250--$499
Melanie & Daniel Baer
Martha & Darryl Biery
Austin J. Bowles
Brandywine Coach Works
Brandywine Valley Heating & Air Conditioning
Burkholder Brothers, Inc.
Pine Street Carpenters
Cerner
Chester County Dog Walkers, Inc.
Patrick & Kathryn Comerford
Stephen & Kristi Crum
Gail Marie Fellows
Ed & Lorraine Ferrara
Marie R. Gleason
Rodney S. Gruin
Matthew Holliday

James J. Sassa Insurance Agency, Inc.
Jeffrey C. Beitel, Architecture
Brian & Eva Kramp
Main Line Creative Partners, LLC
Fred & Ann Martelli
Carol, Eric & Elizabeth Metzker
Pepper Hamilton, LLP
Barbara Plevelich
Protection Bureau
RC Taylor Group
Janet Reynolds
Bill & Linda Scott
Maryellen Shields-Hill
Side Bar & Restaurant
Jean Speiser
Robert & Nina Stratton
Team Toyota of Glen Mills
Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc.
Vanguard Matching Gift Program,
David A. Wickard
William Lyster May Foundation
Carlos Yuste & Martha Kirby

$100--$249
Anonymous Friends
Lisa Ferguson Andes
Anne Ansa
Anthony’s Pizza Holdings Company LLC
Tom & Ann Bare
Edwin & Janet Bauer
Lisa G. Bice
John & Wendy Buckley
Pamela Buzzerd
Jean & Charles Cheeseman
Chester County Concert Band
Julie Choi
Beatrice Cicala
Melissa B. Cichowicz
John A. Colgan, III
Richard W. and Martha B. Coyle
Karen Daley
Jean Marie Dalton
Alyssa J. Daly

Kids answer: “What did you learn at the library this summer?”
• “A new dance from Jamaica”
• “How to make a fairy garden.”
• “All about space.”

“What did you do at the library in addition to checking out books?”
• “Volunteered and hung out with friends.”
• “Built towers with Magna-tiles.”
• “Lego Club and Chess Club”

“Why do you visit the library?”
• “It’s safe and fun.”
• “It’s fun to explore.”
• “I love to read!”

Summer Reading Challenge gold medal winner!
Annual Report—2018

West Chester Public Library

Robert LoBue
Edward Lotkowski
Carol Malone
Elaine Manno
Ann A. Marsh
Margaret L. Marvin
Richard K. & Julie C. May
Theresa A. McConnell
Tom & Connie McEvoy
Nathaniel Smith & Lynette McGrath
John & Karen McKenna
Elizabeth McManamy
Lillian D. Miller
Mark P. & Susan Mixner
Suzanne K. Moore
Larue N. Morgan
Phillip W. Mullen
Gregory & Theresa Neiderer
Patricia M. Newland
Eric Newman
Catherine M. Norris
O’Rourke & Sons, Inc.
Susan & Steven Oglesby
Jean R.S. Olmsted
Kimberly Osborn
Mark E. Osmond
Martina & Bruce Ossman
Alan B. Palmer
Dick & Catherine Palmquist
David & Connie Patten
Jacqueline Perri
Martha J. Peta
Steven & Marybeth Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Potter
Lisa Prince
Elizabeth & Donald Prutzman
Thomas & Mame Purce
Steve & Anne Quigley
Clare Quinn
Wendy Quintrell
Mark & LuAnn Reisler
Michelle J. Rhoads
Peter Rittenhouse
Margaret & Thomas Rivello
Kathleen Q. & Donald L. Rodgers

Maria & Eric Rufe
Charles & Jane Saddoris
Cynthia H. Sarinoski
Gregory & Beth Sayler
Linda & William Seybold
David & Marilyn Shale
John Sheehan
Sarah Sheffer
Timothy & Susan Skiles
Valerie Skurla
Allan & Nancy Steenhusen
Scott & Kelly Stefanides
Cynthia Stell
Janie W. Stevens
Benjamin & Patrice Steverman
William & Kathleen Talley
Sylvia C. Tarzanin
Fred G. Tennille
George Trajtenberg, MD
Jen Troutman
Erica Turner
James & Marie Wambold
WCPL Staff
Eileen H. Weaver
Patricia I. Weaver
Margaret L. Westbrook
Westtown Dental Associates
Deborah G Whitney
Dr. Robert J. Wicks
John T. & Lynn P. Wildrick
Cathy Wilson

$75—$99
Deborah Aleardi
Susan Allen
Therese Bell
Trever Brightwell
Mary Burchett
Madeline Buttafogio
Carmela A. Couderc
Peter & Susan Doris
Jim Episcopo
Dan & Sue Gold
Jane A. Guardiola
Amy Hansell
Michael Haynes
Nick Hislop

$50—$74
Anonymous Friends
Daniel & Sara Altman
Ann & Joseph Armstrong
Nancy & Alan Askinas
Ted Baldwin
Pauline Ann Baur
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bernberg
Elizabeth Biebel-Stanley
The Bond Family
Robert B. Brandow

Maureen Kalten
Adell Kochubka
Mary E. Krajsa
Kari G. Lane
Michael J. Lee
Melissa Markowitz
Carol McBride
Mary Kay & Bob McCann
Lynn A. McDowell
Jim McNicholas
Melinda Mercurio
Elizabeth A. Moffett
Alison Rae Morin
George C. Murphy
Mary Kay O’Rourke
Thomas H. Pavelchek
Nancy E. Pitt
Amelia Rayburn
Barbara Reif
Kerie Renihan
Jacquelyn E. Rhoads
Kim M. Risbon
Ann Marie Scheuer
Eric Schmitt
Erin Seiders
Heather Shellhamer
Melinda L. Smith
Rosemarie Stanley
Mary M. Stoltzfus
Susan & Bart Sutton
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Mary Whooley
Jody Yatcilla

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Doris W. & Reese P. Davis
Richard & Carol Davis
Kevin & Carolyn Delaney
Michael & Jacqueline Dewey
Dan & Meg Diskin
Michael & Carol Dolphin
Kathy Einthoven
James & Louise Elkins
Barbara Ely
Gwen Engler
Karen Eriksen
Exelon Foundation Matching Gift Program
Linda Fedor
Fidelity Charitable
Linda Glaum
Eileen & Warren Gondolf
Robert P. Goss
Christina Hack
Martha C. Hagan
Monica Haley & Paul Schneider
Susan M. Harris
Gary & Molly Hess
Linda Hickman
Louise W. Highbarger
James D. & Victoria E. Hipp Dow
Sally Hoey
Nancy M. Hoffman
Holiday Inn Express-Exton
Paula Imperial
Al & Carol Intintoli
Junior New Century Club of WC
Martina Keogan
Virginia O. Kettenring
Scott J. Kirkland
Bruce & Mary Knapp
Gary & Kitty Knox
Debra Kohl
Amy & Joseph Kormann
Brian & Stephanie Krug
Anne Marie & Tom LaCorte
Vivian Lasko
Gordon A. Leidy
Lori LePard
James & Dawn L’Heureux
Donna & Roland Lindsay
Bridget F Lininger

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Annual Report—2018

Linda Y. Lorgus
Calvin & Florence Lu
Kathryn S. Luzzi
Tom & Kendra Macko
Donel R. Manke
The McGuane Family
Ida & Thomas McIntyre
Mr. & Mrs. Victor E. Mello
Susan & Patrick Moran
Lewis & Irene Morgan
Kevin & Kirsten Murtaugh
Edwin & Mary Onimus
Glenn & Rohna Paskow
Tony & Mary Piconne
Peggy Pillard
Wallace & Alfreda Pippin
Paul V. & Nancy K. Plourde
Constance M. Plunkett
Dr. Robert Poole
Catherine M. Prudhoe
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Virginia M. Scheffey
Chris & Steve Simms
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Harlan & Kris Slack
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Sharon Tarasci
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Mira Tryon
Andrea R. Tweedie
W. Rex & Kathryn Van Winkle
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Janet Vokoun
Wegmans
Georgine & Cabell Whittum
Deborah B. Wiechec
Christina C. Wilcomes
Gerard & Margaret Williams
S. Jerome Williams
William D. Winters, Jr.
Eva Wylie
Jean Yoder
Maryanne Zampitella
Limian Melissa Zhao

$1 - $49
Anonymous Friends
Fida Abbott
Robert & Marie Adolph
Joy Louise Alford
Betsy & Randy Altland
Karen & Ed Bailey
Pauline M. Bannan
Stella Barry
Ursula Beren
Donna & James Bigley
Daniel Boland
Gail Bowden
Janet & Richard Boyd
Jim & Karen Bradley
Jeannine Breslin
Lisa M. Bryant
Vincent Buckwash
Thomas A. Capista
Alison Chamberland
Dana Ciaffone
Janis Clay
Priscilla & John Clouser
Michel Comstock
Susan F. Conforti
Kathleen M. Cosden
Andrew & Irene Crichton
Victoria Magro Croul
Kelley M. Curry
Darlene F. Czarnecki
Susan DeGeorge
Helen Dennison
Mahendra & Gloria Desai
Frank & Jill Desiderio
Jonathan R Dollman
Thelma J. Eberle
Bryan Eck
Carolyn S. Fagan
Megan Fant
Susan Farrell
Samantha E. Ferraro
Julie A. Finegan
Wynne Fischer
Caitlin Fisher
Carol V. Flaiq
Nicholas & Marian Fuller
Emily Furlong
Cecily Getz
Elizabeth E. Gincley
Dawn Gise
Debra Grear
Frederick T. Gusz, Jr.
Inger Hatlen
Anne Marie Heil
Valerie J. Higgins
Kelly M. Hisey
Bradford & Sheri Houpnt
Mariani Houpnt
IBM Employee Charitable Campaign
Linda I. Johnson
Missey Kalucki
Christina Kamins
Eugenia M. Kasmer
Lynn M. Kauffmann
Susan Kelly
Brenda G. Kemmler
Stephanie Kessler
Christine P. Kinkead
The Kowalski Family
William B. Lalicker
Linda Larkin
Fay R. Leary
Veronica Ann Liber
Guy C. Lisowski
Philip & Beverly Longo
Jane Ludin
Linda Lyons
Debbie MacCausland
Margaret Manning
John Martin
William & Suzanne McCahan
Dolores & John McCormack
Carol McLachlan
Holly McRee
Kathleen Meade
In-Kind Donations

- Mary U. Brooks
- Chester County Running Store
- Couch Tomato
- Eclat Chocolate
- Fenn’s Coffee
- Halladay Florist
- James Hipp Dow
- Jaco Taco
- Gabrielle Kotke
- La Baguette Magique
- Limoncello
- Main Line Creative Partners
- Malena
- Market Street Grill
- Monkey Fish Toys
- Old Soul Décor
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Prana House
- Clare Quinn
- Rita’s Water Ice
- Tolsdorf Oil Lube Express
- Tropical Homemade Ice Cream
- Velvet Hair Studio
- Yori’s Church Street Bakery
- Zazen Nail Spa

Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers!

WCPL volunteers, who range in age from 14 to 90, gave 1,512 (.8 FTE) hours of service to their community by helping with a variety of library tasks. Volunteers shelve books, pull materials requested by customers at other CCLS libraries, ready new books for check-out, and help with a variety of projects especially in the Children’s Department.

They are joined by many who volunteer to fulfill high school graduation projects, college course requirements, and community service requirements. Student members of the campus branch of the West Chester University PSEA Club helped Children’s Department staff with the 1-2-3 Play With Me sessions and Lego™ clubs. Our Kids’ Chess Club is coached by Nick Christofides.

Last, but not least, are the many volunteers who help with our events, such as Holiday Home Tour and Literacy Links Invitational.

Our regular volunteers who help keep things in order:

- Jean Marie Dalton
- Cameron Howe
- LaRue Morgan
- Teddy Diskin
- Althea Hutchinson
- Jaiden Ransom
- Alexandra Dow
- James Kennedy
- Scott Schaeffer
- James Hipp
- George Kent
- Mary Ann Ulmann

Program Variety @ the Library

A highlight of the year was our first-ever escape room for adults. Held Friday evening, October 26, the Escape the Library Ghost program was a fun and a well-attended success. The 28 attendees were between the ages of 21 and 55, which was a great mix of the age group the event was targeted at. Attendees went through the escape room in three groups. All three managed to escape, albeit with some helpful hints from the friendly library ghosts who were wandering around that night. Staff received great reviews about the event along with inquiries about similar future events.

The library offered the following adult programs in 2018:

- Local author book-signings with Fida Abbott, and Stan Gale
- Chester County Day slide preview
- League of Women Voters voter registration day
- Two APPRISE programs on Medicare
- Workshop on using herbs for health and wellness presented by Jacque Maldonado of The Prana House
- Learn-to-paint workshop presented by Geraldine Guzman
- Participated in the 2018 Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon hosted by the Smithsonian and Colored Conventions – transcribing hand-written documents from the Freedmen’s Bureau, dating from just after the Civil War
- Screened Bye Bye Birdie in conjunction with the Happy Hour on the Terrace event featuring Bobby Rydell
- Workshop on essential oils

The Library continues to host several on-going programs for adults: 3rd Wednesday Book Discussion Group, Quilting @ the Library, and weekly Volunteer English Program English Language Conversation. The conversation and quilting groups both gained a number of new participants in 2018.
West Chester Public Library

415 North Church Street
West Chester, PA 19380

610-696-1721
610-696-7985, Children’s Department

wepl@cds.org
www.wcpubliclibrary.org

Find us on :

West Chester Public Library is a destination for connection, collaboration and enrichment through knowledge and community engagement.

Staff
Victoria E. Dow, Director
Hannah Siegele, Assistant Director
Clara Kelly, Youth Services Librarian
Clare Quinn, Development Manager
Meg Diskin, Early Literacy Specialist
Michelle Guinan, Story Time Coordinator
Erica Howard
Anne Laverty
Enya Lucas
Wendy McSwain, Event Consultant
Elizabeth Metzker, ILL Assistant
Chloe Montgomery
Eric Scotolati
Tanvi Shrestha, ILL Assistant
Alyssa Turner, Teen Program Coordinator
Rebecca Viola
Deborah Wood
Mary Louise Woodcock

Selected statistics for 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs and Attendance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of programs</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance at programs</td>
<td>9,509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Door Count                                      | 92,489 |
| Volunteer Hours                                |       |
| Regular Volunteer & Community Service Hours     | 1,512  |
| Volunteer Full Time Equivalent (FTE)            | 1     |

| Borrowing                                       |       |
| Adult & Teen books, DVDs, magazines             | 60,652 |
| Children’s books, DVDs, magazine                | 74,887 |
| Downloadable ebooks                             | 26,701 |

| Grand Total                                     | 159,240 |