The greater West Chester community continued to use and enjoy its library throughout 2015. Staff helped over 1,000 new customers register for library cards. The new members, along with several thousand seasoned card holders, checked out WCPL materials—books, magazines, audio books, DVDs, CDs and e-materials—165,210 times.

The long awaited replacement of the library’s outside chair lift finally got underway in late fall. The Borough of West Chester and the library together received an $8,000 Keystone Grant from the Commonwealth towards the project. The grant, combined with funds the library board raised for this project, covered the entire cost of replacing the lift.

The library also received a major gift from the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation in memory of Col. Joseph Barber. The gift will enable the library to add much needed public seating and work/study space on the Lower Level.

All seven municipalities in the library’s service area made allocations in support of library services and programs in 2015. Pocopson Township approved an additional one-time allocation of $8,000 to the Library to be used for purchasing materials for the collection. We are grateful for their generous and valuable support of library programs and services.

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

Fun Events Bring Fund Raising Success

The library added a new fund raising event in 2015—the Literacy Links Invitational, a mini-golf event held in the library April 24 and 25. The popular event raised just over $30,000 for the library from sponsors and attendees. The event featured a full 18-hole mini-golf course throughout the library. On Family Day, held on Saturday, golfers had the fun of attempting a hole-in-one on the 18th hole which involved having the ball go down the stairs from the second to first floor in a specially constructed chute. Children found that especially fun.

The library’s other two major fund raising efforts, the Annual Appeal and the Holiday Home Tour, brought in the remainder of the library’s donation income. The Annual Appeal brought in $42,847, a 17% increase over 2014. The 5th annual Holiday Home Tour featured homes in the northwestern portion of the borough. This year over 700 ticket holders enjoyed the tour. The event grossed just over $21,000 in support of the library’s programs and collections. In addition, WCPL received donations in memory of Sarah Smithson Kirkpatrick and Alan Olin.

The library also received generous gifts from the David and Nancy Knauer Unitrust and from the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation. The West Chester Downtown Foundation and the Rotary Club of West Chester each made grants to the library in support of teen programs and services.
Adults enjoyed a variety of programs

The Library hosted a number of on-going programs for adults over the course of 2015. The 3rd Wednesday Book Discussion Group continued to meet, as did the Quilting @ the Library group. The library hosted twice-monthly conversation evenings for English language learners moderated by volunteers from the Volunteer English Program. Native English speakers are also encouraged to attend.

The library offered the following adult programs in 2015:

- the first of a series of salons organized by TEDxWestChester.
- lecture on Van Gogh by local art historian and lecturer Fred Dixon.
- Saturday afternoon meetups for area knitters, crocheters and hand-spinners.
- workshops on long term care planning and maximizing social security benefits.
- workshop on preventing identity theft by presenters from Clarifi (a non-profit financial counseling organization).
- Chester County Day slide preview (annual event).
- MicroSoft Word hands-on workshop presented by Library staff members.

WCPL participated in the Pocopson Founders Day in September.

The Library was a stop on Chester County Day on October 3. Board members and CCDay volunteers served as hosts and guides for the day; 627 tour-goers visited the library.

Children’s programs educate and entertain

The 2015 Summer Reading Club theme was “Every Hero Has a Story,” focusing on literary, community, and personal heroes. Children tracked minutes read on paper logs to earn a Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal depending on how many days during the 10-week program they had read a certain number of minutes. A medals ceremony presided over by Mayor Carolyn Comitta capped the SRC. Registration for the SRC stood at 545 by the end of the 10 weeks; 132 of those registered earned a medal (Gold – 102, Silver – 24, Bronze – 6).

This year the Library took the SRC program to the West Chester Area Day Care to offer children there a chance to participate. All of their readers — about 50 children — earned a gold medal; children in the preschool groups also earned rewards. Mayor Comitta presented the medals and rewards to the children in early September at the WCADC. For some of the children there, this was their first encounter with a program and award for “just” reading.

Special programs during the 10-week 2015 SRC:

- Each week staff held a “Thursdays With Heroes” featuring a different local hero each week — visitors included a Revolutionary War re-enactor, a local girl who has raised funds for Alex’s Lemonade Stand, the Sheriff Department’s K-9 Unit, therapy dogs, and other local heroes.
- Musician Damien Drago presented a history of the American Revolution through songs and music; this program was held at the Chester County Historical Society through a special partnership with them.
- The American-Swedish Museum (Philadelphia) sent an interesting outreach program titled “Viking Heroes and Norse Sagas.”
- Chuck Shaw, chess coach for the Kids’ Chess Club, held a one-week chess camp that was so popular we had to add a second week.
- Volunteer Jaan Troltenier presented “Art Goes to School.”

In April the Library hosted a very special visit from author Mike Berenstain who has taken over the Berenstain Bears series created by his parents Stan and Jan Berenstain. The Chester County Book Company organized the visit which brought in a nice crowd of children and parents.

The Children’s Department offered other special programs in 2015. Miss West Chester University 2015, Nia Andrews, hosted the 7th Annual Princess Tea. Staff held outreach story times at the YMCA’s Oscar Lasko Center, Kindercare, and WCASD’s Pre-School Parents’ Club. Volunteer Chuck Shaw continues to work with children every Saturday in the Kids’ Chess Club. Several of his students competed in regional chess tournaments again this year and won trophies.

“We feel very fortunate that Mr. Shaw devotes his time each Saturday to teaching kids chess at the library. He is an excellent chess player and experienced coach...So many kids and parents in the community have benefitted...from the club.

‘Parent of Kids’ Chess Club member’

West Chester Area Day Care kids all participated in our SRC 2015—and they all won medals!
Financials

Our 2015 financials show income of $565,462 and expenditures of $506,516 with an excess in income over expenses in the amount of $58,946. While this is a testament to the hard work of 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, it should be noted that some of these funds in excess of income are classified for specific projects and programs.

End-of-Year 2015 balances in special funds -

- **Holiday Home Tour** - These funds were raised to support library services and programs.
  - $19,666.91

- **Board Directed** – These funds may be expended to cover special projects as voted on by the Board.
  - $68,522.34

- **Capital Projects** – These funds are earmarked for special capital projects, including the lift replacement and Lower Level study carrel project.
  - $41,054.49

- **Grants** – These funds may be expended for purchase of library materials (books, DVDs, ematerials, etc.).
  - $7,828.98

**Income - 2015: $565,462**

- Government - $301,969
- Operating - $33,871
- Fundraising - $122,983
- Legacy giving & grants - $85,008
- Miscellaneous - $21,631

**Expenditures - 2015: $506,516**

- Personnel - $307,505
- Materials (books, ematerials, etc) - $62,852
- Operations - $25,955
- Fundraising - $13,697
- Occupancy/Debt reduction - $96,507

Author/illustrator Mike Berenstain shows how he creates the Berenstain Bears during a visit to WCPL.

““You are the best librarian ever!”

““You have the best library.”

““Thank you for reading a book.”

Kindergarten visitors from West Chester Friends School
Thank you to our donors and funders.

$5,000 -
Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation
David and Nancy Knauer Unirunit

$1,000 – $4,999
Anonymous (2)
ACE Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Les Bear
Mark and Betsy Beaugard
Mr. and Mrs. David Bunn
Communications Test Design, Inc.
DNB First
Alexandra C. Dow
1st Resource Bank
Fulton Bank
Chad Goodwin
The Hankin Group
Gail A. Hoffman
James Jordan
The Nelson Family
New Century Club of West Chester
Robert W. Baird & Co.
Rotary Club of West Chester
M Sarkari
Patricia Valencia
West Chester Downtown Foundation
Woman’s Exchange
Carlos Yuste and Martha Kirby

$500 – $999
Anonymous
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Erin Beaver
Conrad O’Brien
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O’Neill Family Charitable Trust
Rovito Law LLC
Carol Schmersahl
Schmersahl Family
Side Bar & Restaurant
Howard and Theresa Sundwall
William Lyster May Foundation

$250 – $499
Arthur Hall Insurance
Melanie and Daniel Baer
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William H. Bunch Auctions
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Rencic Dermatology
The Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center
Double Thank You, Inc
EDiS Construction
Gail Marie Fellows
Michael Foley
Friends of the West Chester Library
Dawn Gise
Eileen and Warren Gondolf
Matt Holliday
James and Dawn L’Heureux
Marta Laynas, Esq.
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Parkway Center

$100 – $249
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Andes
Mark Ashton
Darryl and Martha Biery
Boyle’s Floor & Window Coverings
Brandywine Valley Heating & Air Conditioning
Linda Bravacos
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Kim Brumbaugh
Anne M. Carroll
Jean and Charles Cheeseman
Albert Jay Clark
Joan and Chuck Cloutman
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David and Marilyn Shale
A. Roy Smith
Jean Speiser, Esq.
StanAb LP
Team Jean Homes, Inc
Univest Bank and Trust, Co
Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees
WSFS Bank
Wall & Walsh, Inc.
West Chester Library & Labor Capital, LLC

Teens and children answer the question:
“What do you like about books and libraries?”
- Teen: “Nice place to chill and hang out.”
- Child: “Reading helps you get smarter.”
- Child: “Books take you on adventures.”
- Teen: “Library has books, WiFi, and cool people”
Stephen and Kristi Crum
Custom Printing & Promotions
Jean Marie Dalton
Doris W. and Reese P. Davis
Linda DiValerio
Dan and Meg Diskin
James and Louise Elkins, Jr.
Gail A. Fleisher
Dale and Susan Frens
Frank and Susan Gabriel
Catherine Gail Ghostley
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Robert Graham and Sandra Kwisz
Edward Grossman, DDS
Nancy Halladay
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Michael J. Hazley, Inc.
Linda Hickman
Virginia G. Hines
Nancy M. Hoffman
Nancy L Huhn
Joanna Hutzel
Al and Carol Intintoli
Robin Ishak
James J. Terry Funeral Home
David and Sallie Jones
Jane W. Jones
Junior New Century Club of WC
Rachel Kagan and Michael Galey
Virginia O. Kettenring
Scott J Kirkland
Don Kirkpatrick
Bruce and Mary Knapp
Kohler Law Offices
Brian and Eve Kramp
Brian and Stephanie Krug
Kathleen C. Landells
Vivian Lasko
Richard and Elizabeth Lawson
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Jeffrey Leppert
Lexus of Chester Springs
Donna and Roland Lindsay
Robert LoBue
Dr. and Mrs. Lonoconus
Edward Lotkowski
Anne Love and Nick Hislop
Calvin and Florence Lu
Mary Kay and Bob McCann
Linda J McCormick
Judy McDonald
John and Karen McKenna
Mark P. and Susan Mixner
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Richard C. Nelson, DDS
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Joni L Oppasser
Martina and Bruce Osman
Alan B Palmer
Christine and Michael Parsons
David and Connie Patten
Martha J. Peta
Peggy Pillard
Mark and Kimberly Pimley
Amanda and Steve Raihall
Janet Reynolds
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Margaret and Thomas Rivello
Fred and Meryle Rothman
Mary Jane Rubinio
Maria and Eric Rufe
Bonnie and Ted Sadack
Charles and Jane Saddoris
Cynthia H. Sarnoski
Scott and Kelly Stefanides
Marianne Seitzer
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Maryellen Shields-Hill
Nathaniel Smith and Lynette McGrath
Terry Ann Spadoni
John and Katharine Stamboolian
Benjamin and Patrice Steverman
Robert and Nina Stratton
Thomas and Vicki Sutton
William and Kathleen Talley
Nancy B. Terry
Jaan Troltenier
Charles and Mary Ulmann
Vanguard Group Foundation
Victor G. Vely
Verlo Mattress Factory Stores
James and Marie Wambold
Eileen H. Weaver
Wellspring Physician Acupuncture
Jennifer P. Wertman
Richard and Carla Westerman
Dr. Robert J. Wicks
John T. and Lynn P. Wildrick
Barbara N. Williams
Cathy Wilson
Jesse Wilson
Gail and Larry J. Wygant
Lisa Yackel
Charles and Geraldine Young

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Ann and Joseph Armstrong
Nancy and Alan Askinas
Ted and Joan Baldwin
Tom and Ann Bare
Oksana Baydina
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bernberg
Heather Blackburn
Christine Boyle
Patricia A. Brannan
Marilyn I. Branton
Bretz Family
Katharine S. Brigham
John and Wendy Buckley
JoHannah Bunn
Dawn D Burns
Susan Butte
Mary Ann Campbell
Kathie Caparo
Vivian S. Carlow

John Carlson
Martha Carson-Gentry
Mary Cauffman
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Brady Clark
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Marsha Gerhardt
John L. Gottier
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Jennifer Haines
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Elizabeth B. Hart
Elaine M. Hawes
The Hazard Family
Wilhelm Heeb
“I ransack public libraries, and find them full of sunk treasure.”
  – Virginia Woolf

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Deborah G Hess
Louise W. Highberger
Joseph L Hildenbrand
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Helen A Hood
Michele Huppman
Claudia Hutter
IBM Employee Charitable Campaign
Karen W Inverso
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Lena Kravets
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Glenn and Rohna Paskow
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Sidney Pinnie
Wallace and Alfreda Pippin
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Deborah B. Wiechee
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Marjorie Yoder
John and Kate Young
Sandee Young

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Karen and Ed Bailey
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Pauline Ann Baur
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Nancy A. Bristol
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Marie and Louis Casiato
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Janis Clay
Laura L Comeau-Stanley
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Edward and Eileen Conroy
Andrew and Irene Crichton
Barbara Crowe
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Wanda and Anthony DiRocco
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Michele L. Dunleavy
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Joseph and Elaine Kadish
Jean and John Kerrigan
The Kowalski Family
William B. Lalicker
Linda Larkin
Fay R. Leary
Veronica Ann Liberi
Guy C. Lisowski
Bruce and Susan Longenecker
Teens and Tweens found activities and books to keep them busy

The Teens/Tweens Tuesdays program continued throughout the year and attracted new participants regularly. Generally a dozen 12 to 15 year olds attend every week for crafts and games, and snacking and socializing.

Library staff member Clara Kelly re-established the Teen Advisory Board late in the year. The TAB consists of 10-12 high school students interested in organizing and presenting programs of interest to their peers. Ms. Kelly, along with several other staff members, organized the following teen programs:

- “Battle of the Fandoms” trivia night.
- Teen Summer Reading Program.
- Classic Video Game Night.
- Three-day “Percy Jackson” themed program.
- Harry Potter Party.

Ms. Kelly also visited local high school classes to register students for library cards and to promote library services. Volunteer Marissa Caldwell, a WCU education major, helped organized the Teens/Tweens Tuesdays programs during the 2015 spring semester. Staff member Kristen Chelmow presented an introduction to the library and basic research practices to a group of teens enrolled in a WCASD STEM summer camp.

Teens and Tweens found activities and books to keep them busy

WCPL volunteers, who range in age from 14 to over 80, gave 2,115 (1.2 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, repair books, and help with a variety of projects especially in the Children’s Department. Several volunteers also help staff the Lower Level information desk, assisting customers in using PCs, finding books, and using the online catalog. The regular volunteers, those who come weekly, are joined by many who volunteer for a few hours to fulfill high school graduation projects and others who complete community service requirements.

Also among our volunteers were West Chester University students who help with programs. Student members of the campus branch of the PSEA helped Children’s Department staff with story times and the 1-2-3 Play With Me sessions, as well as the Lego clubs.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers for their unstinting and cheerful help.

West Chester University early education majors, members of the Student PSEA of WCU, volunteered with the Children’s Department’s Lego and Jr. Lego Clubs, and the Friday morning 1-2-3 Play With Me sessions throughout the year.
West Chester Public Library

415 North Church Street
West Chester, PA 19380

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

wcpl@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.

Printed for WCPL by Chester County Library System.

Staff

Victoria E. Dow, Director
Barbara W. Ruf, Assistant Director
Eleanor Diener, Head, Children’s Dept.
Clare Quinn, Development Manager
Bridget Cannon
Kristen Chelmow
Meg Diskin
Lorraine Ferrara
Barbara Fleck
Clara Kelly
Lauren McCauley
Wendy McSwain
Timothy Miller, Jr.
Kelley Newman
Mary Louise Woodcock
Afsheen Zabrani

Selected statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs and Attendance</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of programs</td>
<td>512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total attendance at programs</td>
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<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
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<td>Volunteer FTE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borrowing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult &amp; Teen books, DVDs, magazines</td>
<td>66,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s books, DVDs, magazine</td>
<td>82,814</td>
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<td>16,364</td>
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<td>165,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change over 2013</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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</tbody>
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