



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

“Connecting Our Community”

Avon Grove Library

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A Member of the Chester County Library System

OUR MISSION

We foster lifelong learning and deliver enriching experiences in a safe, welcoming environment accessible to all.

OUR VISION

We transform our community, connecting people with each other and the wider world.

How has Avon Grove Library made a difference in your life?

The above question was posed on our Instagram and Facebook pages during our 2021 Giving Tuesday campaign, as we encouraged patrons to reflect on the impact our library has had in their lives. Here are a few of the responses we received:

The library helped me instill in my girls a love for books and reading. The children's programs including the bilingual programs were what drew us in and so glad we did! We love the library and the librarians are our local celebrities!

[Avon Grove Library] gave me a new way to help out other people [by volunteering].

Thank you for all you do for our community!

We receive countless comments like these ones all year long, both on our social media posts and in real life conversations with our patrons. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, gratitude for the library and the services we offer to our community has only increased as it becomes clear just how vital a role we play in keeping our community connected through trying times.

As COVID numbers continued to fluctuate throughout the year, Avon Grove Library remained open to the public. In addition to providing books, magazines, audiovisual materials such as DVD's and books on CD, e-materials, and other digital resources, we also offered both virtual and in-person programs offering unique opportunities for education and enrichment.

Here are just a few highlights from 2021:

- No more fees for DVD's! As of July, all of Avon Grove Library's **DVDs became free of charge** to library cardholders. We also received a second **Longwood pass**, giving cardholders the opportunity to visit the local Longwood Gardens free of charge.
- Our **Storytimes at the Park** were a huge hit with families who appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while participating in storytime with their little ones. **Stories and Stretching**, a yoga storytime for preschooler hosted in partnership with High Places Yoga and Penn Township Park, was an especially popular addition.
- Our **"Tails and Tales" Summer Reading Program** drew in hundreds of readers of all ages. This year we introduced the **Patch Power Program**, which gave elementary age participants the chance to earn Scout-esque patches by reading and completing fun activities.
- Our **Grab and Go Craft Kits** proved just as popular as they were in 2020. We were excited to introduce **STEAM Craft Kits** using items in our newly acquired "After School Fun in a Box Tinkering Kit," made possible by a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through Pennsylvania's Out-of-School Time project and by the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Commonwealth Libraries.
- Who says libraries aren't relevant? This year Avon Grove Library jumped on the **TikTok and Instagram Reel** trend, creating funny and informative videos that racked up thousands of views on their respective platforms.
- This year's in-person programming included visits from **Bruce Mowday**, author of non-fiction titles such as *Stealing Wyeth* and *Jailing the Johnston Gang*, and **Stephanie and Grace Albitz**, creators of the *Puppy Passport* series for children.
- Young readers were thrilled by the chance to send letters to their favorite Mo Willems characters through our **Dear Piggie and Gerald** program. They were especially excited to receive letters in return, which were written by our creative and hardworking **teen volunteers**.
- In addition to growing our collection of **Spanish and bilingual materials**, Avon Grove Library partnered with local organizations including LCH Health and Community Services to offer several bilingual programs and storytimes.
- In October we introduced the **Avon Grove Library Gazette**, our first monthly e-newsletter that gives subscribers special access to upcoming programs, book recommendations, community highlights, and more.



PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND LEARNING RESOURCES

In 2021, Avon Grove Library provided 2,651 hours of open access to all residents of the eight municipalities making up our service area: Avondale Borough, Franklin Township, London Britain Township, London Grove Township, Londonderry Township, New London Township, Penn Township, and West Grove Borough.

A total of **60,995 people entered the library in 2021**. With attendance at outreach programs (those outside the library) figured in, the **total customer count was nearly 50,000 in 2021**. **7,936** people had Avon Grove Library cards at the end of 2021.

The library loaned 134,829 books, DVDs, periodicals, ebooks, and other materials throughout the year. We are spending grant funds and other resources more and more toward increasing our vital virtual collections.

The **quality of our systemwide collections** is demonstrated by the fact that customer requests for titles from libraries outside our system were few: in 2021, only 80 items were received for Avon Grove customers from libraries outside the Chester County system, while we sent 34 items to non-member libraries.

Our PCs and wifi access are free to all, and they remain popular. **Users logged 2,791 sessions on the library's Internet-connected PCs** in 2021, as well as **3,804 sessions using our wifi**.

GIVING RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTION

Avon Grove Library's knowledge experts assisted customers with research and information questions 1,024 times in 2021. Outreach and other classes taught literacy skills to hundreds of children and teens.

FUNDING: OUR VITAL SUPPORT

Avon Grove Library receives no federal funding directly. Rather, federal funds are channeled through Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Library via the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Our funding comes from the Commonwealth, from Chester County through the Chester County Library System, from the local municipalities we support, and from customers, donors, and grants.

In 2021, the library received a total of **\$427,916** in revenue:

Sources of 2021 Revenue

Municipal funding	\$152,932
State funding	\$97,266
County funding	\$98,149
Grants	\$35,321
Donations	\$33,156
Fees/Other	\$11,092
TOTAL	\$427,916