



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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OUR PURPOSE: EDUCATION FOR ALL

Avon Grove Library is a vital educational institution, providing equal opportunity for self-directed learning, research assistance and instruction, and enriching experiences for over 33,000 students of all ages in southern Chester County, Pennsylvania. We deliver high-quality teaching and educational resources for all. Our mission is critical, because the public library is the only institution that provides lifelong education to students of all backgrounds, developing the workforce, advancing the economy, and improving the quality of life for everyone.

PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND LEARNING RESOURCES

In 2014, Avon Grove Library offered 2,569 hours of open access to all residents of the townships and boroughs making up the Avon Grove school district. 113,370 people visited the library over the course of the year, averaging 3.4 visits per resident.

FACILITATING SELF-DIRECTED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The library loaned 161,065 books, DVDs, periodicals, and other materials throughout the year; 77,117 of these items were from the children's collection.

Library specialists processed 4,312 new items while weeding 5,721 old, outdated items from the collections, creating an ever more current and useful accumulation of resources for education and enrichment. At the end of 2014, Avon Grove Library boasted a total of 53,523 print books, audio books, DVDs, CDs, periodicals, kits, large type books, and other items.

The quality of our collections is demonstrated by the fact that customer requests for titles from other libraries were few: only 115 items were received from other libraries for Avon Grove customers, while we sent 93 items to other libraries who requested them.

7,521 people used the library's 12 Internet-accessible computers in 2014, averaging about 25 uses per day.

OFFERING RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTION

Avon Grove Library's knowledge experts assisted customers with research questions 5,575 times in 2014.

DELIVERING ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES

Our library educators taught 757 classes for children and young adults, with a combined attendance of 22,042. Library instructors also offered 79 classes for adults, 1,198 of whom attended.

LEADERSHIP PROGRESSION

Former library director Kim Ringler retired at the end of September, leaving the President and Vice-President of the Board of Trustees in charge of the library during the search for her successor. The Board conferred with Chester County's District Consultant Librarian, writing a new position description and then advertising for a new director. The hiring process carried into the New Year; finally Lori Schwabenbauer was selected from a pool of excellent candidates and began her new duties on March 18, 2015.

The Board of Trustees wishes to express their gratitude to Ms. Ringler for her 21 years of very generous and dedicated service to the people of the Avon Grove Library district. The Board also wishes to thank and congratulate the library staff members for their dedication and willingness to give so much extra effort in order to keep the library and its schedule of classes and events running so smoothly during the hiatus.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financially Avon Grove Library did well in 2014, especially considering the necessary disruptions entailed by the director's retirement. The library ended the year \$25,825.78 in the black due to two factors: higher-than-expected revenues and lower-than-budgeted expenditures.

The library garnered \$9,075.33 more in revenues than budgeted, largely due to higher-than-expected donations from the Friends of the Library and other sources. These donations, along with somewhat higher total revenues from some of the district townships, helped to offset the loss of projected income from the failure to conduct the annual fund drive (normally held every autumn, but postponed in 2014 due to the director's retirement).

At the same time, the library spent \$16,750.45 less than budgeted for 2014. Expenses for wages were much less than projected, while lower amounts for office and processing supplies, telephone lines, professional services, and some sections of the collection development budget all added to the savings.

THE ROAD AHEAD

2014 brought many challenges for Avon Grove Library, most importantly that of a major change in leadership. In 2015, our team of dedicated library instructors and specialists looks forward to advancing the library's mission ever further, promoting equal access to learning resources and curricula, providing opportunities for self-directed education, delivering research assistance and instruction, and offering enriching experiences to students of all ages, who are our students for life.

Respectfully submitted April 3, 2015,

Lori A. Schwabenbauer, MSLS, Director