Library Foundation Board
Chip Stacy, President . Howard Kerr, Vice President . Shelley McMillon, Secretary / Treasurer

Friends of the Library
Brenda Compton, President . Kathryn Jones, Vice President . Luci Henderson, Treasurer . Emily Douglas, Secretary | Bookstore Volunteers . Friends Membership . Ex Officio: Hadi Dudley

Supporting Our Library
The Bentonville Library Foundation spearheaded a successful holiday giving program with Tim Summers serving as the campaign chair. A $5,000 donation launched the initiative and the non-profit organization raised more than $14,000. Proceeds directly support Bentonville Public Library.

The Friends of the Bentonville Library sponsored the Summer Reading Club with a generous donation of $5,000. The group continues to support public offerings and professional development for library staff.

Both organizations stepped up to support staffing and services at BPL with significant contributions for the Teen Services Librarian position, as well as garnering private donations to meet the project goal.

Volunteers for the Foundation and Friends provided a combined 2,175 hours during the year too! From attendance at meetings, special events and bookstore help, the gift of time also supports BPL.

Organizations Feature Library Books
The Bentonville Garden Club and Republican Women of Bentonville continue a time-honored tradition of donating new materials to Bentonville Public Library.

Rotary Donates Classics
Several new classics were added to Bentonville Library’s collection. The Rotary Club of Bentonville began the initiative in 2011 as recognition for speakers by donating a book to BPL in the guest’s honor. This serves as lovely recognition which benefits our library, while promoting reading and literacy!

Our Mission:
To engage our community, encourage discovery and promote literacy by offering lifelong learning opportunities.
From the Library Director

The year 2013 was a good year for Bentonville Public Library. We continue to see extraordinary support and extremely high usage from our community. Important achievements and growth areas are outlined below.

- **Program attendance** at 38,429 grew by more than 3,600 over the prior year. All audiences (children, teens and adults) noted an increase in program participation.

- Once again, we recorded our busiest summer ever! Summer learning loss is reduced at BPL with more than 22,800 hours logged by community children and teenagers.

- For the first time, BPL’s physical circulation slightly dipped, while eBook check-outs doubled. Our total circulation reached an all-time high with $560,778—nearly 15,000 more check-outs than last year.

- I believe that adaptability leads to success for modern library services. This was demonstrated at BPL by the relocation of over 50,000 books, audiobooks and DVDs. The library began circulating reference materials; we also reallocated funds from purchasing reference texts to other important collections, such as young adult materials. Staff critically reviewed digital resources, canceling nine services and replacing key databases with six products to include legal forms, historical data and readers’ advisory.

- A new **Teen Services Librarian** was hired July 1st to spearhead initiatives for young adults.

- **Leadership** at BPL continues to be a source of pride. BPL’s **Tech Loan Program** serves as a model program that other libraries strive to emulate. Our **Materials Recovery Program** is an ongoing success, recouping more than $50,000 for BPL. In 2013, I began my elected term as the **Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Councilor** on the American Library Association Council. It has been an outstanding learning opportunity for me personally, and Bentonville Public Library is receiving positive attention from other library professionals through this national platform. The reference librarian served as a delegate for state and national legislative advocacy through her service on the ArLA Board. Four BPL librarians published seven articles in Arkansas Libraries journal, reporting on key library issues.

Bentonville Public Library Budget

**Library Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Salaries</td>
<td>$569,001.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Benefits</td>
<td>$139,025.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Materials &amp; Digital Resources</td>
<td>$197,056.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Operating &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>$212,042.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$1,117,125.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Library Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost-Recovery Fees &amp; Overdue Fines*</td>
<td>$57,843.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Funds &amp; Donations**</td>
<td>$36,386.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$94,229.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fees/Fines increased by $6,635 over 2012 due to BPL’s Materials Recovery Program.

**Scholarships totaling $5,400 listed in Grants & Donations were distributed to two staff attending library science programs. These scholarships were funded by the Arkansas State Library.

Statistics & Usage

**Collection Use:** 560,778

**Library Loans:** 296,031

**Computer Usage:** 34,893

**Staff Assistance:** 37,849

**Program Attendance:** 38,429

**Material Requests Filled:** 20,768

**New Library Cards:** 5,464

**Inter-Library Loans:** 186

**Proctored Exams:** 70

**Meeting Room Groups:** 1,936

**Meeting Room Attendees:** 20,832

Technology Offerings @ BPL

**Mobile App Launch**

This grant-funded project integrated the library’s digital services with a customized appearance. The app is compatible with multiple platforms.

**Tech Loan Program Grows**

BPL’s initiative encompasses new devices and a fresh stock of eBooks: 43 devices are preloaded with more than 930 titles! An iPad Mini was added to our fleet to accommodate patrons with disabilities. The program is totally funded by private donations. Special thanks to the Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary Club, the Walmart Women’s Officer’s Caucus and private donors.

**Downloadables Expand**

Zinio Magazines and OneClick Digital joined Freegal Music as free digital content that users can download with a BPL library card. Featuring popular magazines and hundreds of audiobooks, these projects were added through discounted consortium pricing models in partnership with other regional public libraries.
Teen Services @ Bentonville Public Library

A new Teen Services Librarian was hired July 1st to spearhead initiatives to develop viable young adult (YA) collections, programs and services for local teenagers.

Meet Sarah Gowdy—she is a young lady who “grew up” at BPL—beginning as a part-time clerk when she was in high school. Upon earning a graduate degree in library science, focusing on young adult literature and services, she was eager to serve community teens. The professional personnel’s salary for 18 months is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Bentonville Library, Bentonville Library Foundation and private donors, partnering with the City of Bentonville’s provision of benefits.

- The Teen Services Librarian is responsible for the Teen Volunteer Program and Teen Advisory Board (TAB). She communicates with, teaches and manages our community’s young leaders in their service to the Library.
- Last fall, the Teen Department expanded its footprint with a staffed service desk, fiction collection and study tables as a featured space located in the main library.
- BPL’s Young Adult Collection is growing to support education—specifically the Common Core State Standards. Key subjects help teens prepare homework projects. Popular fiction materials invite YA readers to enjoy a good book in the Teen Zone.
- New programs were added while existing programs were expanded and improved! Writing workshops, craft, book discussions, film events and other programs were offered. Program attendance for young adult events grew 619% over July-December 2012.
- Teen Read Week—For the first time, BPL celebrated Teen Read Week, a national library initiative that promotes reading with teenagers. TAB members participated in BPL’s “I’m a Teen, and I Read!” campaign.
- Films & Issues—This new program was created to foster conversations in the community about current issues facing teens around the country. The Library’s premiere Films & Issues series focused on bullying.
- Life Skills Workshop—This new program was designed to teach teens how to succeed in life out of school. “How to Rock an Interview” was the debut workshop.
- ACT Prep Workshop—A quality program that is free to attend. To meet public demand, BPL offered more courses and expanded the class size capacity, growing this important program 335% over the same timeframe in the prior year. Gowdy published an article about our ACT Prep Workshops in Arkansas Libraries journal, providing other libraries an opportunity to learn from BPL’s successful model.

Youth Programs

- BPL offered 651 library programs for youth and families which were attended by 34,144 children, caregivers and educators. Despite offering fewer programs in 2013, attendance totaled over 5,000 more than the previous year.
- For the 4th year, BPL partnered with Bentonville Public Schools to promote “One District, One Book,” featuring The Sisters Grimm by Michael Buckley. The program culminated in a finale event—“A Fairy Tale Ball” hosted by Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.
- The Children’s Department continued outreach to local organizations, including the Bentonville Public School district and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

Staff Prep for Summer

- BPL staff attended the Arkansas State Library Children’s Services Workshop to learn about the year’s summer reading program. This is an annual collaborative training opportunity for children’s library staff across the state.
- Pekel published an article about the session for Arkansas Libraries journal.
- Sue Ann Pekel [left] and Kayla Symons [right] are photographed with author and presenter Rhonda Gould.

Summer Reading Club Milestones

- Studies show that students who read during summer months have higher reading achievement scores. Thank you to our Friends of the Bentonville Library, Anderson Merchandising and other donors for sponsoring our summer reading programs: Dig Into Reading and Beneath the Surface!
- 1,733 children and teens read 22,852 hours during June and July.
- 7,597 people attended summer events at the Library.
- 110,954 items checked out during our two month reading program.

BPL Improvements

Children’s Furnishings Re-Upholstered—Ten color-coordinated pieces were made vibrant anew with durable fabric for heavy use.

Collection Access—Library personnel, volunteers and Public Works staff helped move over 50,000 books and shelving units in the children’s, teen and adult departments. BPL designated special collections, began circulating reference collections and standardized the appearance of materials. User-friendly access promotes a more efficient use of library spaces.

Rain Garden Installed—BPL was awarded a grant from the Illinois River Watershed Partnership to install a rain garden project on Main Street. This environmentally-friendly feature serves as an educational garden that collects and naturally filters water flowing from the library’s parking lot. Special thanks to our City of Bentonville Team: Community Development & Planning, Parks & Recreation, Public Works and the Street Department. The Master Gardeners of Bentonville County volunteered to plant the garden and agreed to adopt the ongoing maintenance of our project.
The American Dream Starts @ your library

Bentonville Public Library was awarded a second “American Dream Starts @ your library” grant through the American Library Association and Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

- The $10,000 grant supports family literacy, specifically English Language Learner families in our community.
- Many new materials were purchased for all reading levels including children, families, teens and adults.
- A product of this award, the Library hosted Family Literacy Days partnering with the ESL Department from the Bentonville Public Schools.
- Dig Into Reading and Many Cultures, One Community celebrated literacy, community and cultural diversity through music, special storytimes and fun activities.
- American Dream stories were shared through digital interviews capturing immigration experiences.
- Special thanks to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, American Library Association, City of Bentonville, Bentonville Public Schools, Delta Sigma Theta, Nickelodeon and BPL Teen Advisory Board.

City Partners Promote Library Success

During the course of the year, many partners emerge to support BPL services. Key professionals in the City of Bentonville support us through various in-kind capacities. The Library recognizes and thanks:

- Community Development & Planning Department
- Electric Department
- Custodial Staff
- Parks & Recreation Department
- Police Department
- Public Works Department
- Street Department
- Wastewater Department

Adult Services

- The Reference Department noticed a remarkable increase in technology assistance.
- Our patrons appreciate the staff’s tech-savvy skills and BPL’s new downloadable materials.
- Program attendance for adults also grew through summer reading participation with Groundbreaking Reads, an Ikebana exhibit, book clubs and local history presentations.
- Still on the Hill returned for the 6th annual fall concert, while Tim Ernst’s 5th annual appearance was postponed due to winter weather.

Adult Volunteers

Connor Andreasen  Merresa Gilbert  Sumedha Malitra  Parker Smith
Tanima Agarwal  Nicole Gnecco  Emma Mancera  Tiffany Stephenson
Brandon Barker  Lori Hale  Pamela Mobley  Argita Tat
Anthony Biamont  Melissa Halsema  Sae O’Connor  Melissa Thompson
Jordan Brian  Mark Henkle  Denise Ollivier  Courtney Thars
John Bryant  Tracie Hopkins  Cathy Otto  Afshan Toor
Sandy Buckley  Jhunghyun Juhng  Mohammed Rahman  Uma Udharaju
Kristin Cook  Mouini Korivi  Alagar Raja  Dhana Varikunda
Margaret Curry  Lakshmi R Kotha  Trek Robinson  Pamela Villegas Quintero
Judy DeGarmo  Banashree Kundu  Shily Roy  John Watson
Ray Dixon  Ben Kuykendall  Georgia Russow  Autumn Weese
Cynthia Fincher  Dhana Lakshmi  Ganga Sharma  Holly D Wertens
Sarah Fitzpatrick  Llahona Lavea  Richa Shendye  Pamela Willis
Vidisha Veni Gade  Mark Lloyd  Jessica Smith  McCall Wood

The Value of Volunteers

At BPL, our volunteers are the greatest! From shelving to book repair to craft prep, many people give time and talent! From service on boards to program expertise, we are grateful for everyone who serves. In 2013, 286 volunteers gave 7,152.83 hours. * This is valued at $152,784.45!

*Library volunteers only; Genealogy, Foundation and Friends volunteered a combined total of 3,569.5 hours to support BPL.

Teen Advisory Board 2013-2014

 Teens apply and are selected through a panel interview process. These young leaders advise on library services that support our community’s teenagers.

[Left to right front] Xanat Nissenson, Teja Makkapati, Sarah Oakley, Mason Jones [left to right back] Sranita Devarasetty, Winona Gbedey, Trevor Bartlett, Colin Doege, Brenner Orendorff, Jack Barry

[Not photographed] BPL Staff: Sue Ann Pekel & Sarah Gowdy

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John Bryant  Tracie Hopkins  Cathy Otto  Afshan Toor
Sandy Buckley  Jhunghyun Juhng  Mohammed Rahman  Uma Udharaju
Kristin Cook  Mouini Korivi  Alagar Raja  Dhana Varikunda
Margaret Curry  Lakshmi R Kotha  Trek Robinson  Pamela Villegas Quintero
Judy DeGarmo  Banashree Kundu  Shily Roy  John Watson
Ray Dixon  Ben Kuykendall  Georgia Russow  Autumn Weese
Cynthia Fincher  Dhana Lakshmi  Ganga Sharma  Holly D Wertens
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Teen Volunteers

- Yatis Dubasi
- Torren Echols
- Jordan Eckes
- Saivipulteja Elagandhula
- Hayden Etz
- Abby Fairbetter
- Sarah Fetter
- Emily Floyd
- Jessica Forsberg
- Bobbie Forte
- Paige Francis
- Reshma Gadde
- Saiethe Gadde
- Stephanie Galen
- Ana Garcia
- Daniel Garcia-Carvajal
- Veronica Garcia-Carvajal
- Jahnavi Gattu
- Mrudula Gattu
- Aaron Gbedey
- Winona Gbeday
- Taylor Genser
- Abbie Gibbs
- Callie Glaze
- Kendra Goff
- Ali Gomez
- Jeimmy Gonzalez
- Remington Gould
- Marcus Griffin
- Aziza Gunn
- Michelle Hamilton
- Cheryl Harp
- Fatima Haseefa
- Layla Haymore
- Ryan Hendrix
- Nathan Hicks
- Ryan Hicks
- Shurlana Hunt
- Zachary Hutchins
- Sarah Jaskson
- Caitlin Jancys
- Mason Jones
- Indran Kamaalanthan
- Alexis Kane
- Jody-Ann Knight
- Madeline Knight
- Danille Koerner
- Aneesh Komanduri
- Tyler Kowalski
- Akshay Kumar
- Gourab Kundu
- Hannah Lancaster
- Teja Makkapati
- Vakula Mallapally
- Meenakshi Manavazahahan
- Victoria Mantel
- Pooja Naik
- Nikhita Nakka
- Teja Nakka
- Kaitlyn Nichols
- Xanat Bess Nissenson
- Sarah Oakley
- Palak Ojha
- Brenner Ordendorff
- Srividhya Pallay
- Rachina Paruchuri
- Sahithi Parvathareddy
- Hannah Pekel
- Rosario Perez
- Emily Philips
- Ashley Phonsyry
- Michael Pierson
- Michael Pitts
- Delaney Pollard
- Sarah Price
- Priyanka Priyadarshini
- Mohammad Rahman
- Agribho Roy
- Anthony Rupprecht
- Moushumi Sahu
- Hannah Scherer
- Emily Sellers
- Kruti Shah
- Trace Short
- Kira Simonson
- Tooree Sims
- Noah Skaggs
- Kayla Spitzer
- Heather Spradlin
- Sabrina Stephenson
- Aninditha Sudhakaran
- Matthew Talbot
- Hoora Tariq
- Abby Terlouw
- Ashley Thomas
- Austin Thompson
- Devon Thompson
- Hayden Thompson
- Shelby Thompson
- Cameron Turner
- Christian Turner
- Nadi Turner
- Michelle Valeria
- Saranya Varanasi
- Isabella Varno
- Angel Vizcaino
- Allison Wiley
- Anna Wiley
- Aaron Williams
- Abigail Williams
- Ariya Williams
- Candy Young

Program Volunteers

- Matt Allen
- Katherine Auld
- The Ayers Family
- Katrina Baker
- Madison Bigelow
- Jenny Brown
- Nancy Busen
- Steven Byess
- Carissa Clifton
- Stephen Coler
- Dr. Lisa Das
- Coli Escher
- Lesley Evans
- Jessica Gallegos
- Binod Gupta
- The Hofmann Family
- The Lai Family
- Marshall Mitchel
- Jennifer Michaels
- Randy McCorry
- Julie Murdock
- Stephanie Murry
- Scott Nigemann
- Christy Paxton-Tureman
- Roman Rios
- Teresa Robinson
- Holly Smardo
- Sandra Underwood
- Mike Vass
- Tracy Wenzinger
- Anitha Yenemi
- Cody the Dog
- Jesse the Dog

Junior Partners

- Lisa Bowman
- Raiden Bowman
- Benjamin Bury
- Hoo Bury
- Joe Cabrera
- Noah Cabrera
- Jonathan Diaz
- Juan Diaz
- Michelle Diaz
- Nancy Diaz
- Brayden Grandier
- Keagan C Grandier
- Sherri Grandier
- Tristan Grandier
- Brigham Hill
- Lisa Hill
- Sklyer Mandella
- Traci Mandella
- Aditi Mohanty
- Tanvi Naik
- Orion O’connor
- Ava Pippin
- Ally Swindell
- Kevin Swindell
- Angelica Yang
- Estrella Yang
- Kalyu Yang
- Nia Yang
- Derician Yang

Genealogy Volunteers

Volunteers from the Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society dedicated 1,395.4 hours assisting library patrons with family history research. 2013 Volunteers: Cary Anderson, Pat Artman, Joyce Ater, Myra Baker, John Bates, Jacquie Carpin, Nancy Feree, Wanda Haines, Marilyn Johnson, Marion Jordan, Alice McElwain, June Melton, Carol Miles, Dorothy Miller, Frances Thompson, Kim Watson, Mary Wynne.
Community Partners

Abridgedoodl | Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP)
--- | ---
Alpha Delta Pi Sorority | IRWP Clean Water Rainiers
Amazeum of Northwest Arkansas | Malco Theaters
American Library Association | Lewis & Clark Outfitters
American Red Cross | Maid-Rite
AMP Sign & Banner | Master Gardeners of Benton County
Anderson Merchandising | McDonald's
Arkansas Arts Council | Music Together
Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra | Nickleodeon
Arkansas State Library | Northwest Arkansas Naturals
Auntie Anne's | Northwest Arkansas Community College
Barnes & Noble | NW Ark Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce | Operation Recreation
Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary Club | Outdoor Cap
Bentonville Convention & Visitor's Bureau | Ozark Hill Hikers Walking Club
Bentonville Garden Club | Rogers Historical Museum
Bentonville High School - French Club | Republican Women of Bentonville
Bentonville Public Schools | Reef Ready
Bentonville Public Schools - ESL Center | Rotary Club of Bentonville
Care A Child Tutoring | ShurTech Brands
Central Garden & Pet | Southwind Yoga
Chick-Fil-A | Starbucks
Compton Gardens | Stretch and Grow
Cycle Path Café | Swasthan Seva Foundation
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art | Teen Action & Support Center
Delta Sigma Theta | Treetop Sisters
Diamond Comic Distributors | Trike Theatre
Dollar General Literacy Foundation | University of Arkansas
Ebony Kids | Vintage Stock
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America | Walmart Corporate Teams
Kumon Math and Reading Center | Walmart Volunteerism Always Pays
Literacy Council of Benton County | Walmart Women's Officer's Caucus
Little Giggles Indoor Creative Play | Walton Family Foundation

Walmart Teams Volunteer

Special thanks to the corporate teams that volunteered at BPL: Global Integration, Walmart Leverage Middleware and Data, Information Systems Division, Corporate Systems Program Management, Seasonal and Celebrations, Walmart US Replenishment, Replenishment, Development

Walmart Donates for Technology

The Women’s Officer’s Caucus gave $766 to the Library Foundation to support BPL’s eReader Loan Program. The gift sponsored two devices, ebook content and loan “kits.”

Professional Development

At BPL, we are committed to representing Bentonville in a positive and professional manner, while learning and growing as library leaders. Networking with regional, statewide and national colleagues is an added benefit for our staff.

Left: Martha Morrison, Hadi Dudley and Heather Hays attended the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Annual Conference in Hot Springs. Dudley and Hays serve on the Executive Board for the Arkansas Library Association.

Below: BPL staff Hadi Dudley, Fallon Zschiegner-Bleich and Sue Ann Pekel are photographed with the State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, at the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter meeting in Seattle. Pekel was afforded the opportunity to attend ALA’s Annual Children’s Book Awards announcement—an exciting event for any children’s librarian. Zschiegner-Bleich was recognized as an ALA Emerging Leader, while Dudley began her 3-year term as ALA Councilor. Dudley and Pekel published articles about the meeting in the Arkansas Libraries journal. Dudley and Zschiegner-Bleich received travel funds from ArLA.

American Libraries

Hadi Dudley and Sarah Gowdy attended the American Library Association conference in Chicago. Dudley serves as the Arkansas Library Association’s Chapter Councilor. The association sponsored her travel costs. Dudley published an article about the conference for Arkansas Libraries journal. The Friends of the Library sponsored Gowdy’s travel expenses for her first national conference.

Arkansas Advocacy

Hadi Dudley, Tim Summers and Heather Hays attended “Love Your Library Day” at the Arkansas Capitol in Little Rock. Hays published an article about the event for Arkansas Libraries journal.

National Advocacy

Heather Hays [second from right] met with Senator John Boozman [center] and other Arkansas library supporters for National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. Hays serves as the Arkansas Library Association’s Legislative Committee Chair. The association sponsored her travel costs for the advocacy event. Hays published an article about the event for Arkansas Libraries journal.