



September 14, 2017

Dear Library Supporter:

Attached is our annual report highlighting major programs at the Pittsylvania County Public Library during 2016-2017. They illustrate the core mission of the public library in Pittsylvania County: supporting and empowering our community. We have also put our report in video form, available on our website, www.pcplib.org, on our Facebook page, and on YouTube (search: PCPL 2016-2017 Annual Report – Updated).

Our hashtags highlight our missions: *#earlyliteracysupport* and *#readingisforeveryone*, *#lifelonglearning*, *#communitybuilding* and *#communitypartnerships*, *#health&wellness*, and, most important, *#improvingourfuture*. Hundreds of library programs provide free lifetime learning and social interaction for citizens of all ages, from the award-winning *Mother Goose on the Loose* program for babies and toddlers to adult fitness, food, and crafting classes. We collaborated with educational and community groups to address community needs and issues. We created an Open Educational Resources page on our website to link students and career changers to free educational opportunities and other learning support. Special events included an author talk and art show about cancer survival, our yearlong celebration of the 250th anniversary of Pittsylvania County, the *Finding Our Roots* local history and genealogy festival, and the *Our Civil Rights* discussion series. In all, we welcomed 25,233 participants at library programs during 2016-2017 – a 50% increase over last year.

Another core mission is *#libraryoutreach*. Our Bookmobile and youth services staff reach out to public and private school students, homeschool groups, daycare providers, and senior care facilities, providing books, story times, and reading programs. In May, we established *Little Laundromat Libraries* at nine facilities across the county to make books available for children and parents to read and share between loads of laundry. With our Friends group, we have expanded our support for community programs by offering free book giveaway events after our book sales to benefit local non-profit operations.

Of course, as a library, we remain devoted to books and reading. We added almost 10,000 new items to our shelves, in addition to the ever-expanding digital catalog. Patrons checked out 336,231 items (96,000 more

than last year!). Our patrons read a staggering 11,424 books during the eight-week-long Summer Reading program. We also worked hard to make sure that our collections are current and attractive, along with our library buildings.

Throughout it all, the Library's outstanding Board of Trustees and Friends groups offered guidance and support. These engaged advocates enhance library operations through their efforts, and we are immensely grateful.

We are working with the County administration and Board of Supervisors to move our Mt. Hermon branch to a new and larger home. With our Board, our Friends, and the generosity of regional foundations and the local community, we are raising the funds needed to furnish and landscape the building to create a warm and vibrant community hub in the coming months. Its opening will be a major highlight in the coming year.

This is an exciting time for the library. We are grateful for the strong support provided by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the county administration, our Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library groups, and the Library of Virginia. Our 16 full-time and 10 part-time library staff members serving in our five branches and the bookmobile remain dedicated to providing continued outstanding service to the county.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Tuite
Director
Pittsylvania County Public Library