



September 12, 2018

Dear Library Supporter:

Attached is our annual report highlighting the people, places, and programs at the Pittsylvania County Public Library during 2017-2018. This report illustrates how we delivered on the core mission of the public library in Pittsylvania County: supporting and empowering our community through our programs, services, and facilities.

The highlight of the year was the opening of the new Mt. Hermon branch library on March 5, 2018. The new building is more than twice as large as the previous leased location, and offers more computers, seating, meeting, and program space for patron enjoyment, as well as a digital sign to advertise services and programs and a beautiful outdoor reading garden. With the new branch came additional staff and extended operating hours. The library is deeply grateful to the Board of Supervisors, County administration, Library Board of Trustees and Foundation, local charitable foundations, and the public for the support and funding that made the new branch possible.

Through early literacy story times, summer and winter reading programs, social and educational programs, exercise, crafting, and discussion programs, the library supported free lifelong learning and social interaction for citizens of all ages and interests. We collaborated with educational and community groups to address community needs and issues. More than 1,100 people signed up for a library card last year, bringing our total cardholders to over 35,200. We welcomed almost 20,000 participants at library programs during 2017-2018. People visited the library for all reasons more than 154,000 times during the year.

Our Bookmobile and youth services staff reached out to public and private school students, homeschool groups, daycare providers, and senior care facilities to provide books, story times, and reading programs. Since their establishment in May 2017, our *Little Laundromat Libraries* have expanded from nine to 11 facilities across the county to make books available for children and parents to read and share between loads of laundry. The initiative won an award for Outstanding Children's Program from the Virginia Public Library Directors Association. Our programs in collaboration with the county, the Pittsylvania Historical Society, the Friends of the Library, and Chatham First to celebrate the county's 250th anniversary also won an award.

Of course, as a library, we remain devoted to books and reading. We added almost 8,000 new items to our shelves in addition to the ever-expanding digital catalog. Patrons checked out over 402,000 items, or more than 4.6 items for every citizen in the county.

Throughout it all, the Library's outstanding Board of Trustees, PPL Foundation, and Friends groups offered guidance and support. These engaged advocates enhance library operations through their efforts, and we are immensely grateful. The PPL Foundation raised more than \$230,000 to equip and furnish the Mt. Hermon library.

This is an exciting time for the library. With interested citizens and officials, we are developing a long-term plan to expand library services into underserved districts in the county and improve our existing branches. The planning and fundraising for exciting renovations at our Gretna branch are just beginning. 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 12 part-time library staff members serving in our five branches and the bookmobile remain dedicated to providing continued outstanding service to the county, now 246.5 hours every week!

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Tuite
Director
Pittsylvania County Public Library