



The James Blackstone Memorial Library 2014—2015

The library experienced significant personnel changes this year. After a thorough search process, we promoted Katy Dillman to the position of Development and Outreach Librarian in September. Barbara Cangiano resigned as Associate Librarian for Reference Services in December and Deborah Trofatter was promoted to Associate Librarian for Technology and Reference Services. These internal promotions also created opportunities for other staff hired from within and outside the library.

Funded with a \$15,000 donation from the Friends of the Library, we established our Mobile MakerLab which includes a Makerbot 3-D printer, laptop computers, video camera and editing software, sewing machine, Arduino circuits, and more. Two open houses were held to introduce the program, each with over 100 participants. Throughout the year, library staff and volunteers conducted a series of programs designed to teach participants of all ages skills in designing and printing 3-D objects. In May, the library purchased a second 3-D printer with funds also donated by the Friends. In June, the library received a \$6,500 grant from the Library Services and Technology Act to expand MakerLab offerings in 2015-2016.

In October, we held a successful Hogwarts fundraiser which earned over \$14,000 for the library. We also developed two new fundraisers: Murder at the Blackstone in May 2015 which earned over \$4500, and Caddystacks, mini-golf in the library planned for Fall of 2016. Donations and direct appeals earned \$31,886, and we participated in The Great Give in May, which earned \$2,600. Development staff implemented new software for donor tracking and we established a leadership circle with associated cultivation events.

Staff are encouraged to take advantage of professional development opportunities on a regular basis: six staff attended the CLA conference this year; staff attended

an in-house mental health first aid workshop, Book Expo America, Management training and our annual inservice training in February focused on improving communication skills.

We continue to look for support for our building renovation program designed by AKV Architects. Our plan preserves the architectural integrity of the building and reallocates space in order to become more functional and better serve the needs of the community. In the meantime, the library building committee has made progress on addressing some important maintenance concerns: parking lot and sidewalk repair, plaster repair in the green room, and installation of exterior lighting and a handrail.

Other highlights of the year include the addition of the Mango Languages database and new technology classes. Attendance at library programs, especially those for families, is strong.

The Friends of the Library holds the position of the largest contributor to the library, next to the Town of Branford. Their annual book sale earned \$58,000 in gross receipts in September 2014; proceeds support arts and cultural programs, materials for the collection, museum passes, and continuing education for staff—significantly enhancing the resources we offer to the Branford community. At their annual meeting in June 2015, the Friends donated \$10,000 to the library which will be used to enhance our materials collections.

Statistics	2014-2015
Registered Cardholders	10,289
Material Circulated	231,167
Reference Questions	73,507
Children’s Program Attendance	8,925
Auditorium Events Attendance	4,267
Lucy Hammer Room Bookings	1,889
Average Patrons Per Day	563

Library Materials

Books	65,176
Newspapers/Periodical Subscriptions	143
Audiovisual Material	10,186
Electronic/Digital collection	9,879
Total Collection	85,384

Karen Jensen
Library Director

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