...As we launched new services and products including the award-winning Innovation Lab. In November, we held the groundbreaking for the new State-of-the-Art Havre de Grace Library with an opening date of spring 2016. Also in November, the Library Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan for Harford County Public Library—Lead...Engage...Exceed! This new plan will guide HCPL for the next three to five years as we establish priorities and funding allocation to carry out the three core pillars of community, leadership, library spaces and anticipating services. We were honored to be awarded by The Daily Record for Innovator of the Year 2014 for Little Leapers 3.5 which tackles closing the digital divide for our youngest customers through a mashup of STEM, early literacy, skill building, and technology.

Education continues to be a library priority and instructor-led courses are available through Gale courses. Hundreds of educational classes are offered at no cost to the participant. Each highly-interactive, instructor led course runs for six weeks and new sessions begin monthly. Library card holders may choose from accounting and finance, computer applications, design and composition, health care and medical arts, language and arts, law and legal, personal development, teaching and education, writing and publishing, and more!

In May and June, librarians visited 60 schools and 949 classes, building excitement and anticipation for the “Every Hero Has a Story” 2015 Summer Reading program and discussing books and Library offerings with 28,326 students. More than 16,780 children and teens participated in summer reading by reading a record 109,997 books! Superheroes abounded throughout the library as we celebrated and thanked our local heroes for all that they do for our communities.

We were delighted to host the incredible “Ironman” Cal Ripken, Jr., as one of our not-to-be-missed author nights and are looking forward to the many New York Times bestselling authors’ visits planned for the upcoming year. The future is exciting as we celebrate the grand opening of the new Havre de Grace Library and the introduction of the library’s first interactive early learning center, Schooner Cove. Harford County Public Library is an amazing place that educates, supports, and nurtures our communities through innovation and creativity.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Library Staff, I want to thank the Library Foundation, the Harford County Public Library Friends groups, Library sponsors, residents of Harford County, Harford County Government, elected officials, the business community, and the Harford County Education Community for their amazing support! Harford County Public Library is an integral part of the community and a dynamic economic driver providing opportunity to all through education, STEM, literacy, workforce development and more.

As noted British journalist, writer and publisher Holbrook Jackson said, “Your library is your portrait.”

Mary Hastler, Chief Executive Officer, October 2015
As a community workspace, the Innovation Lab offers those that are interested in computers, engineering, technology, science and digital design an opportunity to meet, learn and collaborate! The Innovation Lab is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) initiative, and additional resources, determined by customer feedback, will be added each year over the next five years.

“Harford County Public Library is providing sophisticated resources for the creation of original content, a place for hands-on activity and developing new skills.”

“This library is where the magical world of reading opens up to children, where parents can see discovery happen, where community members can come together to talk, discuss and learn, and now where cutting-edge technology is available...”

-Thomas S. Wintz, Sr., President and CEO Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association

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The Innovation Lab, a digital media lab that provides a dedicated space for hands-on and do-it-yourself learning in video production, self-publishing and 3D printing, opened its doors in January 2015 at the Abingdon Library. The Lab offers customers access to three Apple iMac desktop computers, sophisticated software, three 3D printers, a professional green screen, studio light box, studio-quality microphone, HD camera/camcorder, stereo headphones and flat-screen television. Hands-on workshops, training and classes are also available. Funding for the Innovation Lab came from a $25,000 grant from Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association and a $5,000 donation from the Friends of the Abingdon Library.

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A new addition to the Library is the Superhero Action Figure Kits, made possible by a sponsorship from Walmart. Each kit includes a 12-inch superhero figure—choices include Batman, Captain America, Falcon, Hulk, Iron Man, Superman, Thor, Wolverine, Armored Spider-Man, and Ultimate Spider-Man—books featuring the superhero, and a journal for children to record a story about their adventures together. All the contents come neatly packed in a backpack to carry home.

The Superhero Action Figure Program is a great addition to the Library’s resources helping girls and boys develop their literacy skills through play!

Claudia Haines, Youth Services Librarian at the Homer (Alaska) Public Library and contributor to the Little eLit blog, and Tanya B. Smith, Program Coordinator for the Fred Rogers Center Early Learning Environment, presented workshops at the Bel Air Library and the Abingdon Library in April to discuss with parents and caregivers the benefits of exploring early literacy with preschoolers. As children play on tablets in the Library’s children’s section, digital media experts demonstrated story apps for parents and caregivers, showing them how young readers could interact with both pictures and text to enhance their literacy experience. Emphasis was on the importance of considering the three C’s: child, content, and context.

Library staff from Harford County Public Library and nearby library systems attended a seminar to learn strategies for incorporating digital tools into early literacy programming in ways that support early childhood development. The digital symposium was made possible by a $10,000 grant from Comcast.
County Executive Barry Glassman, Library Board Chair Alex Allman, Mary Hastler, CEO, and county dignitaries attended the Havre De Grace Library groundbreaking in November. The new Library building will more than double in size to meet the growing needs of the community. Among the additions to the new library is Schooner Cove, a dynamic interactive children’s services area for children birth to age 5, designed to spark imaginations, and encourage reading and discovery. Schooner Cove will include six distinct areas: shipping yard, schooner, story area, little lagoon, ranger station and entrance. As the title sponsor, APG Federal Credit Union donated $100,000.

Other highlights of the Library include Lafayette’s Landing, a mezzanine-level space where children six and older can play, learn and interact with technology and participate in age-appropriate programming; expanded wireless Internet access and 10 additional computers; a designated business resource center; expanded shelving for print and non-print collections; additional space for quiet study, tutoring, computer training and programming; and increased space for community meetings and activities. Architectural firm Manns Woodward Studios Community Architecture + Master Planning designed the building and Lewis Contractors serves as the project’s general contractor. The new building is expected to open in the spring of 2016.

“At APGFCU, our mission is to build the financial health of our community... By providing financial education for our neighbors of all ages, and we view our partnership with Harford County Public Library as a great opportunity to fulfill our mission. We are honored to pledge our support of Schooner Cove in the new Havre De Grace Library. We are local people helping local people.”

-Don W. Lewis, President/CEO
APG Federal Credit Union

“The new Havre De Grace Library will provide customers with an environment unlike any other in the area. Everyone who uses it—children and adults—will find the new Library to be a comfortable, welcoming place for the community.”

-Alex Allman, Board of Trustees Chair
MORE THAN 700 GUESTS ATTENDED THE GRAND TOUR: AN EVENING IN THE STACKS, ANNUAL LIBRARY GALA HELD ON NOVEMBER 1ST AT THE ABINGDON LIBRARY.

MOUTHWATERING INTERNATIONAL CUISINE CATERED BY LAURRAPIN, AN IMAGINATIVE DRINK MENU, OUTSTANDING MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT BY MOOD SWINGS AND OVER-THE-TOP DECOR TRANSPORTED GUESTS TO EIGHT EXCITING EDWARDIAN-ERA PORTS, INCLUDING NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, NEW ORLEANS, HAVANA, TOKYO, VENICE AND MONTE CARLO. COMBINED SPONSORSHIPS, TICKET SALES, RAFFLE SALES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION BIDS RAISED $101,000 NET FOR THE HAVRE DE GRACE LIBRARY RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT AND OTHER INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.

THE POPULAR "BACKYARD CRASHERS" AUCTION ITEM, A CUSTOM YARD MAKEOVER, WAS PURCHASED BY CINDY HEIGHT OF PORT DEPOSIT AND RAISED $40,000. PICTURE PERFECT PATIOS, NATURE UNLIMITED, EP HENRY, MARYLAND PAVING, LAWNSCAPE, GW STEPHENS, TOWN SECURITY GROUP/AUDIO EXTREME, MARYLAND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. AND QUALITY ONE, INC. COMBINED TO CREATE THE EXTRAORDINARY PACKAGE.
THE STRATEGIC PLAN

LEAD. ENGAGE. EXCEED. HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN IS BASED ON ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN THREE GOAL AREAS—LEADERSHIP, LIBRARY SPACES, AND ANTICIPATING SERVICES. THESE GOALS WILL LEAD TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE LIBRARY'S CONTINUED VISION OF BEING A PREMIER LIBRARY SYSTEM THAT IS RECOGNIZED FOR DELIVERING INNOVATIVE SERVICES.

LEADERSHIP GOALS INCLUDE INCREASING THE LIBRARY'S ROLE IN CONVENING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, ENHANCING DECISION MAKERS' AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIBRARY AS A LEADER AND A VITAL PARTNER, AND INCREASING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RELEVANT ISSUES.

LIBRARY SPACES GOALS INCLUDE CREATING AND ENHANCING THE PHYSICAL LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT, TRANSFORMING THE LIBRARY'S ONLINE EXPERIENCE, AND PROVIDING DYNAMIC AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCES TO THE COMMUNITY BEYOND THE LIBRARY WALLS.

ANTICIPATING SERVICES GOAL INCLUDES INCREASING AVAILABILITY AND EFFICIENCY OF CUSTOMIZED SERVICES AT THE POINT OF NEED, INCREASING THE LIBRARY'S ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE NEEDS, AND INVESTIGATING AND EXPANDING NON-TRADITIONAL SERVICES.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN WILL MAKE HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY A LEADER AND A VITAL PARTNER IN COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS & POSITIVE CHANGE, PROVIDE A DYNAMIC AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCE WHEREVER THE LIBRARY ENGAGES WITH THE COMMUNITY, AND PROVIDE TIMELY, RELEVANT AND VISIONARY SERVICES EXCEEDING CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

FANS OF BROADCAST STORYTELLING TUNED IN FOR THE FIRST DAY OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK AND THE LAST CHARM CITY SUNDAY ON APRIL 12TH, WHEN AARON HENKIN, CO-CREATOR AND PRODUCER OF “THE SIGNAL” ON WYPR RADIO, SPOKE TO A ROOM FULL OF GUESTS AT THE BEL AIR LIBRARY ABOUT HIS “OUT OF THE BLOCKS” SERIES, WHICH DOCUMENTS THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF BALTIMORE THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH THE PEOPLE HE ENCOUNTERS ON ONE CITY BLOCK.

“IT’S GREAT EVERYONE COMES OUT AND SUPPORTS ROMANCING THE CHROME BECAUSE IT’S THE COMMUNITY THAT BENEFITS” - CELEBRITY JUDGE GREG CARLOSS, ASSISTANT PRODUCER OF MPT’S MOTORWEEK.

THE HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION, ALONG WITH THE JARRETTSVILLE LIONS CLUB, PRESENTED THE 4TH ANNUAL ROMANCING THE CHROME, THE LARGEST CAR SHOW OF ITS KIND IN NORTHEASTERN MARYLAND. BEAUTIFUL SPRING WEATHER BROUGHT OUT NEARLY 200 AUTOMOBILES AND OVER 2,000 SPECTATORS TO JARRETTSVILLE. THE SHOW FEATURED GREG CARLOSS OF MPT’S MOTORWEEK AS A CELEBRITY JUDGE. KEENE DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP RAM SERVED AS THE HEADLINING SPONSOR OF THE FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT WHICH ALSO FEATURED MUSIC, CONTESTS, FOOD CONCESSIONS (POND VIEW FARM & PIT CREW, FAT BOYS CAFE AND JARRETTSVILLE CREAMERY & DELI), A BEER GARDEN AND MORE. OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDED HARFORD SANITATION SERVICES / WASTE INDUSTRIES, JOHN W. CAIRNES REALTY, WXCY 103.7FM, APG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, DIETZ & ASSOCIATES AND FISHER AUTO PARTS.

POWERFUL PICTURES ALSO TELL STORIES, WHICH IS WHY THE JARRETTSVILLE LIBRARY DISPLAYED THE WORK OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS IN EXTRAORDINARY GLIMPSES, OUR HARFORD COMMUNITY JURIED PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW. SUPPORTED BY THE HARFORD COUNTY CULTURAL ARTS BOARD, THE EXHIBIT CELEBRATED THE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT RESIDENTS FIND TO BE “ABOVE & BEYOND” THE EVERYDAY.

TO OPEN THE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW, AIR FORCE STAFF Sargent JEREMY MCCARTIN, NAVY COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHY INSTRUCTOR, SPOKE TO A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE AT THE JARRETTSVILLE LIBRARY ABOUT WHAT IT TAKES TO GO INTO COMBAT WITH A LENS TO CAPTURE THE HISTORY BEING MADE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
The second annual Just Write Writer’s conference was a huge success with eleven regional authors, three editors, two publishers, an agent and 108 registrants. The Conference offered an exclusive opportunity for attendees to interact closely with the presenters and the relaxed schedule allowed time between sessions to ask questions, get books signed, converse and network. Attendees participated in workshops covering adult, young adult and children’s writing; how the publishing process works; and provided tips on how to make characters, dialog, settings, and even real life read more realistically. Five moderated discussion sessions engaged the audience and panelists in talks about their writing habits and what they learned through trial and error. The day also offered an opportunity for novice writers to have their work evaluated one-on-one by a published author; and a literary agent was invited to talk about how an agent works.

The Library celebrated Good Nutrition Month in November with a special Foodie Week. Programs celebrated the variety of food and the part it plays in our daily lives including a presentation on the history of spices and a visit by the celebrated Julia Child performed by Mary Ann Jung. Two-time Pulitzer Prize nominated columnist Leah Eskin kicked off the week with stories from her Chicago Tribune column “Mom on the Range” and her memoir/cookbook, “Slices of Life: A Food Writer Cooks Through Many A Conundrum.” Jason Hisley, the winner of Cupcake Wars, entertained a crowd of young and old about what it takes to be a great baker, a successful small business owner and compete on the Food Network.

More author encounters included mystery writer Maggie Barbieri, who discussed her book “Once Upon A Lie” at the Jarrettsville Library. Kevin Sherry, the mind behind some of your kid’s favorite books including “I Am The Biggest Thing In The Ocean” and “The Yeti Files” shared his passion for creating silly characters and writing books for them to inhabit. And Nadia Hashimi, author of “The Pearl That Broke Its Shell,” discussed her novel about two generations of Afghanistan women, one gaining their freedom in the early 20th century and her great-granddaughter losing her freedom in the early 21st century. Meet the Author events are supported, in part, by grants from the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.

The 4th annual Comic Con drew over 200 attendees to participate in creating mini weapons of mass destruction, Frankentoys, masks and more! Staff joined in on the fun by dressing the part.

New York Times bestselling author, Maggie Stiefvater, entertained the crowd with chatter about werewolf nookie, fast cars, dead Welsh kings and bagpipe music.

Author Encounters

Baltimore author and a writer for the HBO show “The Wire”, Rafael Alvarez, spoke at the Just Write Conference about how to do a DIY book tour, the art of non-fiction and how to turn an interview into a conversation. Local historical fiction novelist Erika Robuck, author of “Call Me Zelda,” “Hemingway’s Girl,” and “Fallen Beauty” was the guest speaker at the wrap-up reception, a new addition to the conference. The Maryland Humanities Council generously supported the Conference making it within reach for all our customers.
Residents traveled around the county the second Sunday of each month for Charm City Sunday events. Author Daniel Stashower presented his True Crime Edgar Award winning book, "The Hour of Peril," a story that documents the "Baltimore Plot" to kill Lincoln as he traveled by train to his inauguration. Other "charming" guests included author of "Wicked Baltimore: Charm City Sin and Scandal," Lauren Silberman; Joe Gold from Heavy Seas Brewery; retired Baltimore City detective and author Dick Ellwood; and Elaine Eff, the expert on Baltimore’s painted screens folk art.

Another home run for the Library was Triple Crown Day! Presented by the Library Foundation and held in conjunction with Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding (CTR), the day featured Kate Chenery Tweedy, daughter of Secretariat owner Penny Chenery and author of the new book, "Secretariat’s Meadow: The Land, the Family, the Legend." Attendees had the opportunity to talk with Kate and ride Equicizers, non-motorized mechanical horses that are controlled by the rider’s movement. Three stops were made starting at the Bel Air Library then Whiteford and finally the Jarrettsville Library giving the entire county easy access to meet Kate and ride an Equicizer! Attendees of all three events received a free copy of "Secretariat’s Meadow."

Journalist and author Steve Vogel, a National Public Radio, Smithsonian Channel, and CBS Sunday Morning regular, visited the Fallston Library to discuss his novel "Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks that Saved the Nation." The story takes readers into the battle of Baltimore with a fast-paced, vibrant account of the people, places and situations of this historic conflict during the War of 1812.

Author & “Ironman” Cal Ripken, Jr. greeted fans at the Abingdon Library in March. Cal and his co-author Kevin Cowherd discussed their latest children’s book, “Out at Home.” Together they talked about the challenges of growing up and emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive outlook and never giving up on goals. All guests were able to meet Cal for a book signing & picture taking.

Proceeds from the sold-out event benefitted the Library’s Summer Reading Program.
Heroes Among Us!

In June, author Anna Rosmus visited the Jarrettsville Library to talk about standing up for principle and doing what is right, regardless of the cost. As written in her books “Against the Stream: Growing Up Where Hitler Used to Live” and “Out of Passau: Leaving a City Hitler Called Home” her visits to the local archives in the 80’s uncovered more than the town wanted to acknowledge. Her work caused unprecedented uproar as well as international praise.

The letters of Vietnam servicemen made up much of the Above & Beyond programming. The Delaware Public Archives provided a moving panel exhibition for the Bel Air Library that was supplemented by the obituaries and memorial tracings of the soldiers from Harford County who perished in the war and photographs and artifacts from soldiers and their families.

Vietnam Mailbag: Voices From the War 1968-1972 featured the letters and stories of Vietnam servicemen, collected by journalist Nancy Lynch over the war years. Ms. Lynch appeared at several library branches to talk about how she received the letters as a young columnist and her desire to pay tribute to the writers and other soldiers who served. She also held a program on how to preserve the letters in our lives so they will last for future generations.

In the spring, the library paid tribute to those people who go above & beyond the ordinary – those who live lives of selfless service, defend their principles, fight for country and support new ideas. These values were explored through exhibitions and special programs.

Vietnam Mailbag opened with the real voices from the war with five Vietnam veterans who gathered to talk about their perspectives on the war. Veteran’s Voices: Vietnam included a civilian librarian with the Army present in Saigon at the end of the war; a Navy sailor who enlisted before the war, an officer, a draftee NCO, and a career Army Lt. Col. This revealing program was moderated by journalist Cindy Mumby.

The third exhibition was the annual juried photography show, Extraordinary Glimpses which displayed selfless service in a variety of ways, from a biker riding cross country to raise money for AIDS research to a green mount cemetery worker who lives in Aberdeen. It was those who do arduous and thankless work that benefit the community and country that were celebrated!

In collaboration with the Maryland Humanities Council, the library held the Veterans Reading and Discussion series. This unique program gave veterans an opportunity to read thought-provoking writings and share their ideas and service experiences with a group of like-minded people. Harford County Public Library was only one of three county library systems to participate in this program.

The Abingdon Library featured a panel exhibition, Boosting Morale: Art out of Conflict, exploring the many ways conflict can create something of beauty or use. WWI artillery shells formed into vases, and carved in commemoration were on loan from the ANC Museum in Dover, DE. Fashion born of fighting, such as field and bomber jackets, were also displayed.

Modern Conflicts were discussed by Dan Fesperman, popular fiction author of “Unmanned.” He shared the research he did on US bases where drone soldiers are stationed.

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Can’t get enough of science? The Library has clubs targeted for specific age groups plus a highly successful partnership with NMTC (Northern Maryland Technology Council) that conducts Science Cafes at the Bel Air Library. Each cafe has a noted speaker and presentations included the origin of Ebola and the science of shoes.

Moving onto the arts! Ignite Creativity, a teen art workshop covered topics on clay, photography, poetry, watercolors and upcycling, the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless and/or unwanted products into new materials! Artshop, an interactive, captivating and entertaining event explored a variety of arts including Polynesian and Middle Eastern dance, Capacha bag weaving, faux stained glass, and still life and flower painting.

Staff and parents from several elementary schools were impressed with the works of art displayed by students at the Jarrettsville, Joppa and Whiteford libraries. The Harford Ballet entertained guests to the timeless ballet, Swan Lake.

Each fall the Film This! Book Trailer Contest encourages teens to create shorts of their favorite book. The winners are announced in the spring and given the “red carpet” treatment.

Funding for Film This! is provided by the Friends of HCPL and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.
So much happens in the digital world today! Join those that read and listen to their books, view their movies, listen to their music and read their magazines online. Experience the same layout and full color images as print books with Axis 360 or listen with one click Digital audiobooks. You can enjoy it all with Hoopla – movies, television shows, music, ebooks, audiobooks, graphic novels and comics. And now catch Disney movies on Hoopla! Freegal has songs from over 28,000 labels including Sony and you can listen to a sample clip before downloading. Zinio is a one-stop shop magazine stand online with over 100 publications in complete magazine format. Go to ‘Digital Products’ on the Library website to access any of these digital products!

Children, teens and adults hula hooped for fun and prizes at the Abingdon Library. The Hoopla hoop contest was put on by Midwest Tape, the media provider of Hoopla.

Mary Hastler received a Top 100 Women Award from the Daily Record. “This year’s Maryland’s Top 100 Women are extraordinary. They go above and beyond in everything they do. They lead companies, create change, break barriers, chart new territory and make a difference at home, at work, and in their communities,” said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of The Daily Record.

Bel Air librarian, Conni Strittmatter, was honored with an Emerging Leader Award and Claudia Sumler, a retiree from the Library, was presented with an Honorary Membership Award at the MLA (Maryland Library Association) Annual Conference.

For the entrepreneur starting out or individuals looking to enhance their skills or build their career the Library has many free resources. Safari Books Online, an on-demand library, has more than 1,200 resources on business, creative and technology topics. If you are curious about media tools, or want to build your skills in web design, podcasts, blogs, photography, video, audio or music, you can find how to on Safari. OR If taking a class online is more your interest because the offerings available at Gale Courses, the program has hundreds of online courses focused on professional development, technology skills and personal enrichment. Courses are available to support business professionals, parents, artists, hobbyists and health conscious individuals. The on-line courses are taught by college instructors and experts in the field, ensuring a high-quality, high-impact educational experience.

Harford County Public Library was one of only 3 libraries in the state of Maryland to be selected as an America’s Star Library by the Library Journal. This is the sixth time the Library has received this honor. The Library Journal Index of Public Library Service is a measurement tool that compares U.S. public libraries on number of visitors, circulation, program attendance and public internet usage.

Awards

The Library was honored with a Daily Record Innovator of the Year Award for Little Leapers 3.5, a collection of iPad minis loaded with children’s apps selected by Harford County Public Library’s Early Literacy Librarians to help teach STREAM concepts – science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Little Leapers 3.5 gives children and caregivers the opportunity to engage together in imaginative apps, learn “swipe” technology, and hone critical digital literacy skills. The Innovator of the Year Award recognizes an individual or organization’s innovative spirit for creating new products, programs, services or processes. This is the Second Innovator Award that the Library has received. The first was for Little Leapers introduced in 2013 and consists of pre- and early literacy kits for children from birth to 5 years of age focused on STREAM education.

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Business Resources
GENEALOGY GREATNESS

The world’s largest collection of genealogical records can be found on Family Search, a new resource at the library. You can search millions of indexed records for your ancestors, order microfilm, get genealogical research advice, and learn where to find record collections and more. Ancestry Library Edition has family history records and genealogy research that includes Census, military, church and immigration records. The database also includes slave narratives, newspapers, directories, and tips on how to begin genealogy research. Also available is Heritage Quest Online and historical U.S. newspapers dating back to the 18th century. All available for free with your library card!

DAZZLING DISCUSSIONS

Bold titles! Refreshing talk! Library customers are eating, drinking and discussing books in a whole new way at local eateries. The Bel Air, Fallston, Aberdeen and Havre de Grace libraries held Books on Tap book discussions respectively at Sean Bolan’s, Basta Pasta, The Greene Turtle and Laurrapin and included “Carsick” by John Waters, “The Martian” by Andy Weir and “Wild” by Cheryl Strayed.

Book Groups to Go makes book discussions easy! Ten copies of a selected title along with a book moderator’s binder are pre-packed in a canvas bag! Customers can get them at the Bel Air Library or reserve one to pick up at any branch. New this year is Jr. Book Groups to Go; perfect for teachers, parents, homeschoolers or scout groups. Activities are also included.
To support early literacy efforts, a team of Edgewood and Joppa staff members conducted several Family Learning Parties. These “parties” enabled the Library to work with families on the important skills necessary for a child to be ready for kindergarten and supported parents in their role as first teachers. The series included Language and Literacy Learning Parties, Science Learning Parties, and Social/Emotional Learning Parties. This program was made possible through a partnership with the Judy Center and the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Every hero has a story, and the 2015 summer reading program saw participants read over 100,000 books! Visits from the Maryland Zoo & the Franklin Institute also added to the fun. And once summer came to an end, over 16,789 children & teens had participated in the program and over 8,000 turned in their reading logs to collect their completion prize.

During the winter months the library encouraged readers to read during “Destination Unlimited: Read” winter reading program and 5,800 teens and adults chose to join in! The Friends of the Library along with the Library Foundation and Advanced Eye Care supported the program by funding registration and completion gifts.

Even our youngest customers were encouraged to read during the winter months by participating in the Puppy Tales Reading Program. Over 870 children from birth to age 5 practiced the five early literacy practices that help children get ready to read: talking, singing, reading, writing, & playing!

Thank you to our summer reading sponsors: Aberdeen IronBirds, Bel Air Friends of HCPL, Berardino Family Trust, Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association, Wegmans, Ripken Baseball, Har-Co Credit Union, Jones Junction, Rotary Club of Aberdeen, Hether-McClelland Foundation, Morris A. Mechanic Foundation, Advanced Eye Care, APG Federal Credit Union, The Aegis, Growing Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and Darlington Friends of HCPL.

The Fallston Library partnership with the Fallston Senior Center includes monthly discussion groups and gaming fun with Wii and board games. Many book discussions were tied in with Library programming including “My Life in France” in conjunction with the Julia Child Living History Program, “The Hour of Peril” for author Daniel Stashower’s visit to the Library and “The Pearl that Broke its Shell” was read in preparation for the visit from author Nadia Hashimi. The Havre de Grace Library also has an active partnership with seniors in their community.
Havre de Grace librarian Jackie Cassidy created “Story Walk” which consisted of a complete book mounted on individual stakes and displayed at several locations in the city of Havre de Grace. “Story Walk” was supported by the City of Havre de Grace & the Havre de Grace Friends. The Abingdon Library also created their own “Story Walk” along the library’s walking paths.

The Bel Air Library “Acts of Kindness” club was formed based on the simple yet selfless mission of spreading joy to individuals and organizations. Bethany Vangrin, a Bel Air children’s librarian and founder of the club, saw the club as a starting point for young customers - Kindergarten through 5th grade - to get involved in helping the community. Valentine’s Day cards were made for seniors and delivered during visits by the Silver Readers along with flower centerpieces made especially for the Rock Spring Assisted Living facility. Other activities included no-sew blankets and toys for the Humane Society of Harford County, bird feeders from recycled 2-liter bottles for Eden Mill Nature Center, and as a celebration of the Summer Reading theme of heroes, snack bags and cards were made in appreciation of the officers and department members of the Bel Air Police Department.

When the heat index was expected to reach over 100 in June, libraries were designated as cooling centers. In the winter the branches remained open late on some of the coldest nights to serve as warming centers. Both initiatives were performed in cooperation with Harford County Department of Emergency Services, and the Harford County Health Department.

Library staff and customers generously donated to the Deep & Greater Excellence in Education Fund - during their back-to-school drive with an abundance of school supplies to help students in need. Staff and customers also contributed to the Deep Empty Stocking Fund ensuring those less fortunate would have gifts for the holiday season. Each year, library staff collects handmade scarves and hats for the FCCAU - Faith Communities and Civic Agencies United Homeless Shelter. Over 500 knitted items were given out to men, women and children during December.

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Another year older, another year serving the community! With 11 branches there is always one celebrating a milestone and this year Harford County Public Library had two! Fallston Library had over 200 people come out and celebrate their 30th years serving the community. Funded by the Fallston Friends, the event included a cake cutting ceremony, gift basket giveaways, bingo, crafts, and a musical performance by Red Pump Elementary School students. Local author Becky Titelman read her latest holiday stories to a captive audience.

Whiteford Library had a display of photos narrating the branch’s history and residents took part in an interactive exhibit, "The Once and Future Library," where they could write about how they remembered the library when they were younger and how they predicted the library might evolve in the years ahead to celebrate its 35 years serving the community. Beginning as a small, modular unit in 1980, the former Whiteford Reading Center opened as the 7,300 square-foot Whiteford Library in 1992. Then in 2010 the branch was expanded to 13,278 square-foot nearly double its former size.
1,230 volunteers worked 30,085 hours processing library materials, shelving books and DVDs, registering children for the Summer Reading Program, working in the Innovation Lab and more! That is equivalent of 15 full-time staff, a value of over $290,000! Volunteers also met weekly with selected students in 15 elementary schools to encourage their enthusiasm for reading. Others presented story times to over 1,400 preschool children each month in daycare centers and preschools throughout Harford County.

The Friends groups generously contributed over $37,000 to the Library to help provide quality programs for all ages, author presentations as well as supporting the Summer and Winter Reading programs. These 11 groups work with staff to promote and advocate for the Library!

The total Ni Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity made its 8th donation of books to the Harford County Public Library. This year’s donation, “50+ Omega Inspired Years: Tracing an Omega Legacy to ’93,” was added to the library collection during a ceremony in February. The Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Inc. is the first African-American National Fraternal Organization founded at a Historically Black College and University. Their mission is to provide social action in the communities in which its members live through dedication to its four cardinal principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

The library partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs by providing LEAP kits to enhance their curriculum and increase awareness of the library’s STEM materials and programs. A training on the use of each kit was provided to the staff.

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”—Voltaire

Supporters

Bridget Tramontana was this year’s Library Hacks winner. Library Hacks, an online information scavenger hunt, is a partnership between Harford County Public Library, Harford County Public Schools, and Harford Community College. The contest consisted of following clues and answering questions online with the goal of introducing participants to the vast array of online resources available at all the library systems in Harford County. The contest was open to middle and high school students.

The library hosted live streaming of the county’s virtual town hall meeting at all eleven branches as the first event of its kind. The virtual meeting offered residents the opportunity to provide input on the county’s fiscal year 2016 budget through a variety of multimedia options including email, social media, telephone and postal mail.

Each year the library proudly participates in the Independence Day parades around the county. A float themed to support the Summer Reading Program, “Every Hero Has A Story,” joined the Bel Air, Havre de Grace, and Edgewood/Joppa celebrations. And summer wouldn’t be summer without a baseball game or two! Aberdeen Ironbirds provided a game voucher for every participant that completed the summer reading program. The last two years equals over 16,000 seats! And several lucky families were guests of the Orioles having won their seats in a raffle for all readers that completed by July 25.

Each year the library holds its annual spelling bee for the community at the Harford County Farm Fair. Competitors of all ages spelled words like lemonade, veterinarian and paleolithic! All were awarded prizes and the opportunity to get their picture taken with Tales, the library mascot.

The library hosted live streaming of the county’s virtual town hall meeting at all eleven branches as the first event of its kind. The virtual meeting offered residents the opportunity to provide input on the county’s fiscal year 2016 budget through a variety of multimedia options including email, social media, telephone and postal mail.

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FY 2015 Financial & Statistical Statement

Library Services Retail Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Value of Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Books Borrowed</td>
<td>906,298</td>
<td>$18,125,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childrens Books Borrowed</td>
<td>922,643</td>
<td>$18,452,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Materials Borrowed</td>
<td>304,847</td>
<td>$6,096,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>DVDs Borrowed</td>
<td>1,012,986</td>
<td>$4,051,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music CDs Borrowed</td>
<td>141,580</td>
<td>$2,123,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audiobooks on CD Borrowed</td>
<td>104,620</td>
<td>$3,661,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playaways Borrowed</td>
<td>33,062</td>
<td>$1,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Leaper Kits Borrowed</td>
<td>1,971</td>
<td>$372,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leap Kits Borrowed</td>
<td>2,457</td>
<td>$40,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSC Kits Borrowed</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>$267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSC Toys Borrowed</td>
<td>14,751</td>
<td>$6,140,357</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Girl Dolls Borrowed</td>
<td>2,331</td>
<td>$3,42,657</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superhero Kits**</td>
<td>12,181</td>
<td>$6,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazines Borrowed</td>
<td>43,463</td>
<td>$163,421</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loans</td>
<td>32,962</td>
<td>$824,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Room Use</td>
<td>4,977</td>
<td>$44,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Program Attendees</td>
<td>32,148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids/Teen Program Attendees</td>
<td>169,832</td>
<td>$2,679,949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of Computer Use</td>
<td>442,999</td>
<td>$5,581,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Database Searches</td>
<td>2,140,116</td>
<td>$14,616,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer Queries Answered</td>
<td>4,447,113</td>
<td>$3,131,891</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Value</strong></td>
<td>$83,624,664</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The values used are based on the estimated retail value of the materials or services.

**Superhero Kits launched June 2015

*Includes all digital products

FY 2015 Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2015 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$13,749,967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>$2,613,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>$886,704</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$2,239,248</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note: Numbers are from the Audited Financial Statements**
The Foundation

Superhero Definition: Community members who make the Harford County Public Library great!

If you would like to get a glimpse of a real life superhero, walk into your local branch of the Harford County Public Library. You will be privileged to see superheroes who work hard to make our library system so innovative and dynamic. I am also honored to work each day with superheroes in the community who donate their time, energy and resources to make the Library a “Super” place!

“The Grand Tour: An Evening in the Stacks,” the annual library gala held the evening of November 1st at the Abingdon Library, raised $101,000 to support the Havre de Grace Building Campaign, “The Grand Tour: An Evening in the Stacks,” the annual Library gala held the evening of November a “Super” place!

“The Grand Tour: An Evening in the Stacks,” the annual library gala held the evening of November 1st at the Abingdon Library, raised $101,000 to support the Havre de Grace Building Campaign, the annual summer and winter reading programs, the Innovation Lab and other programs. Once again the Backyard Crashers auction package was very popular bringing in a bid of $40,000! The more than 700 attendees were treated to exciting news from Don W. Lewis, President/CEO of APG Federal Credit Union announcing a $100,000 pledge for Schooner Cove, the interactive children’s department in the new Havre de Grace Library!

Approximately 450 people enjoyed the sounds of the Havre de Grace high school string band at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Havre de Grace Library renovation and expansion project. It was gratifying to see the work of so many people come to fruition.

The new year kicked off with a bang with Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association committing $25,000 to the Innovation Lab at the Abingdon Library, the award winning STEM-focused digital media lab featuring a dedicated space for hands-on, do-it-yourself learning in video production, self-publishing and 3D printing.

The Foundation was privileged to support the visit of experts from the Fred Rogers Center and Little Elit for engaging digital symposiums for families and Library staff discussing the benefits of exploring early literacy with preschoolers.

Since spring signals the opening of baseball season, it was only fitting that author and baseball legend Cal Ripken, Jr., along with award-winning sports columnist and co-author Kevin Cowherd, greeted fans in March at the Abingdon Library to discuss their latest children’s book, “Out at Home.”

After weeks of cold, wet weather, the Foundation and the Jarrettsville Lions Club were relieved to see blue skies for the Fourth Annual “Romancing the Chrome,” which brought out nearly 200 automobiles and over 2,000 spectators to Jarrettsville in April.

The Foundation, in conjunction with Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, held its own dreamEquestrian celebration in May with “Triple Crown Day” featuring Kate Chenery Twitty, daughter of Secretariat owner Penny Chenery and author of the new book, “Secretariat’s Meadow: The Land, The Family, The Legend.”

We are so thankful for the wonderful individuals and businesses who supported this year’s summer reading program, “Every Hero Has a Story.” It is truly heartening to see the faces of the young readers as they begin on their summer long reading journey. This year’s kickoff featured a Touch-a-Truck and served as the introduction of the newest addition to the Library’s collection, Superhero Action Figure Kits, which were available to check out for the first time. Sponsored by Walmart, children now have the opportunity to borrow a Superhero Kit which includes a 12-inch Superhero figure and a journal to record their adventures together.

The past year has seen so many accomplishments and we are looking forward to the exciting projects ahead, including the annual gala, the opening of the new Havre de Grace Library and other marvelous adventures. It is through the dedication and support of the community that these wonderful ideas bloom and flower. Thank you to our board members, donors, volunteers, sponsors and staff. You make it happen!

Rebecca B. Jessop, Foundation Director

Foundation FY 2015

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gala Event Revenue</td>
<td>$94,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Event Revenue</td>
<td>$7,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$7,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
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Program Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations to HCPL</td>
<td>$14,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,120</td>
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Supporting Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Expenses</td>
<td>$7,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$48,315</td>
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<td>Total Supporting Services</td>
<td>$56,887</td>
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</table>

Total Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses*</td>
<td>$174,097</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$157,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets – Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$261,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets – End of Year</td>
<td>$418,769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes donations to HCPL

Harford County Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

Back row left to right: Mary E. McClelland, Katherine V. Kelly, Alfred L. Williamson, E. Louis Wienecke III, Rebecca R. Jessop, David E. Patzer, Linda Van Deusen, Claudia Holman, Dwayne R. Adams, Meaghan G. Alegi, Esq.

Front row left to right: Taryn J. Martin, Allen Jackson, Carolyn K. Lambdin, Mark Dibardino, Cynthia R. Hergenhahn, Mary L. Hastler, Alfred L. Williamson, E. Louis Wienecke III, Rebecca R. Jessop, David E. Patzer, Mary E. McClelland, Katherine V. Kelly, Taryn J. Martin, Allen Jackson, Carolyn K. Lambdin, Mark Dibardino, Cynthia R. Hergenhahn, Mary L. Hastler, Alfred L. Williamson, E. Louis Wienecke III, Rebecca R. Jessop, David E. Patzer, Mary E. McClelland, Katherine V. Kelly

Not pictured: Alex M. Allman, Nina Depkin, Jackie Siejak, Jim Welch, Deborah Williams

Honorary Committee: Augustus F. Brown, IV, Esq., Paul Edmeades, Richard Huffman, Steven D. Linkous, Eric E. McLaughlin, Esq., James J. Meehan, Bob Ward

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**LIBRARY HEROES!**

**YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR LIBRARY. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

---

**APG Federal Credit Union**

Cindy Height
Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association

**Comcast**

Havre de Grace Friends of HCPL
Huether-McClendon Foundation

**Picture Perfect Patios**

Richardson’s Flowers & Gifts
Saxon’s Diamond Centers

---

**LIBRARIAN’S CIRCLE** $1,000+

Bonnie Gall
Chesapeake Employees Insurance
Mark & Pam DiBenedetto
Patricia Egerdor
Everton Foundation
Flowers by Bauers
Gray & Son, Inc.
Great Harford Committee
Groening’s
Harford Bank
Harford Community College
Harford Jewish Center Preschool
Harvey & Mary Huettst
George & Cynthia Hergenhahn
J. Thomas Photography
John W. Canary Realty Company
Stephen & Ann kerchner
Kiner’s Chop Shop of Maryland
Knight Sales King Producers, LLC
Laurel Bush Family Dentistry
Loarie LaFontaine
Manor Tavern
M.Como’s Funeral Home
MediaStar Health, Inc.
Midtown Tape, LLC.
Morgan Stanley
Morr’s A. Mechanic Foundation
Debbie Nashville
NHS Salon & Spa
Paul O’Toole
Pausing, Bistro
Point Briny Credit Union
Progressive Radiology
Erri & Stacy Roberti
Weyth, Crenn & Sona
All & Christine Williamson
Moham Zhelfan

**GROUPS BENEFIT STRATEGIES**

Lanese Scruggs
Patricia and Kathy Avera
Mark & Amy Balch
Mark & Amy Bragman
Luba Poon
Jan Sibert
Sunset Bank
Texas Roadhouse
United Way of Harford County
Vanguard Financial
Wells Fargo
Wells Fargo Bank
William & Susan Williams
Yvonne & Mark Williams

**Friends Circle** $450+

Abingdon Friends of HCPL
Bel Air Friends of HCPL
Bel Air Friends of Harford County
The Daily Record
Elgin & Tucker, Chartered
E.Perry
I.ROEE
Ivy, Shepp & Stevens
Keene Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
The Kelly Group

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**VIEWS**

Books
Loans
Programs
Activities

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**Scholar’s Circle**

**$100,000++**

**Community Pillars**

**$25,000++**

**President’s Circle**

**$10,000++**

---

**DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE**

**$2,500++**

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Loarie LaFontaine
Manor Tavern
M.Como’s Funeral Home
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Midtown Tape, LLC.
Morgan Stanley
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