

Burlington Public Library July 2012 – June 2013 Annual Report

Early Literacy and School Readiness

Serving the youth of our community by developing young readers and encouraging learning and exploration is one of the library's top priorities. This year, the youth services staff held 578 events for youth from birth to age 18 with 21,261 people in attendance. That was up from 523 programs and 19,620 people the previous year.

Due to increasing demand, the library added a sixth weekly storytime as well as continued two weekly Babygarten sessions. A popular new event this year was LEGO club, which attracted an average attendance of over 40 children coming to create and imagine together each month.



Not all library programs happened in the library. Thanks to a Target grant, the library staff continued taking storytimes to area preschools and Head Start classes. The new tradition of a fall storytime at Myers Tree Farm in Sperry became another opportunity to reach more people in the county with youth programming. Staff also continued monthly visits to both Burlington middle schools for book talks as well as outreach visits to their afterschool programs.

Summer Reading for the summer of 2012 ended with 1,627 babies, kids and teens participating. That was up by 8% from the previous year. Over 60 area businesses contributed funding and prizes to make summer reading programs possible. These literacy programs helped young readers maintain and grow their skills over the summer and return to school ready to learn.

Because of the success of our summer reading programs, the State Library of Iowa asked Youth Services Manger Angie Pilkington and Public Services Manager Samantha Helmick to develop and present the 2013 summer reading program training to librarians across Iowa. They travelled the state sharing ideas for reading programs for all ages. Angie was also appointed to the State Library's Children's Services Advisory Council for a three year term.

Lifelong Learning

Learning is a lifelong experience, and your library is committed to providing opportunities for people of all ages to develop new interests and skills. This year, the library staff increased programming for adults with some after hours programs designed to attract younger adults, such as a Bollywood Night. Sunnybrook Senior Living partnered with the library to provide refreshments for the Specifically for Seniors series of presenters. This series has continued to be popular for several years with 75-100 attendees each month.

The library staff keeps the collection current and accessible so that people of all ages can find what they need. This year, Technical Services Manager Tegan Stringfield and her staff added a Christian Fiction section by grouping items already in the collection from this popular genre in one place. Her circulation study this spring found that the top fiction genres among our adult users were mystery, Christian fiction, and westerns. Downloadable content continued to grow in popularity. Downloadable magazines were added to the library's online offerings this year.

Along with programs and collections, the library supports lifelong learning by providing staff to answer questions. The library staff answered an average of 10 reference and instructional questions and 13 directional questions each hour.

Technology access and digital literacy

Thanks to funding from the Library Foundation, the library improved the public network with the installation of a new server and new switches. IT Manager Lois Blythe upgraded the integrated library system software and catalog to better serve customers. Basic technology classes on keyboarding and Internet basics remained well attended with added classes on social networking and smartphones drawing more advanced users. The staff also added one-on-one tech sessions to help customers increase their digital literacy by learning to set up email accounts, and navigate new devices.

FY13 By the Numbers

Items Checked Out 509,483

Downloadable Youth Books Accessed 36,134

Computer Logins 57,916

Wireless Uses

Classes and Events

Class/Event Participants 23,599

Meeting Room Use 4,941

> Interlibrary Loans 2,860

Reference Questions 50,570

Staffing 17.55 FTE

Library Board of Trustees

Mary Krohlow, President Jerry Parks, Vice President Craig Borchard, Secretary Brandon Kipp Jennifer Klever-Kirkman Linda Robinson Roger Sheagren

Liaisons to the Board

Rob Engler, Des Moines County Judy McNeese, West Burlington Florence Paterno, Friends

Accreditation

The Burlington Public Library is accredited at the top level with the State Library of Iowa. The Standards and Accreditation program exists to encourage the ongoing development of high quality library services in Iowa.

Report approved by the Library Board of Trustees October 16, 2013.

Customer Stories

"It's always a good day when you come to the library!"

"WOW!!!! I really appreciate you taking time out of your day to research this for us. With what you sent, I believe we now have enough information to get the remains of my staff person home to be buried with his parents. Today (and I'm sure every day), you did something really special."

"The library is one of the best resources in this entire town. I know personally because growing up without any money I would often come to the library so I could read books. It's in the library where I discovered just how amazing and transporting a great story can be. Growing up with domestic abuse in my home I needed a safe place to run away to and for me the library was that safe place, My safe place."

"The Burlington Public Library and its excellent staff have been a part of my life since we moved to Burlington when I was 5 years old. I am now bringing my own children to the library for Storytime, the Summer Reading Program and weekly visits to check out books, music and movies. Our library is such a TREMENDOUS resource!"

Community Support

- 198 community volunteers donated 7,717 hours of service on special projects, at the Footnotes book store, at the three annual book sales, and with groups such as the First Presbyterian Church group that volunteered to clean up the landscaping and parking lot and Great River Christian School students that came twice a month to assist with projects.
- Received grants from the Fine Arts League, Paint Iowa Beautiful, American Library Association, Friend of the Burlington Library Foundation, and Target
- Enhanced collections, programs, and services thanks to memorial gifts, in-kind and monetary donations from businesses and organizations, and donations from the Friends of the Library.

Library Service Directory

- Fiction and Nonfiction Resources for all ages in print, audio, video and downloadable formats
- Storytimes and other children's programming
- Test Proctoring
- Readers Advisory
- Personalized Reference and Referral Services and Research Assistance
- Meeting Room Space for groups from 2-100 or for individual study
- Notarizing, Faxing, Copying, Printing, and Laminating
- Public Computer Access
- Wireless Access for mobile devices
- ➤ Weekly Teen/Tween events
- Technology Classes
- Resume and Application Assistance
- Checkout & In-house Use of Materials and Equipment
- Reading Incentive Programs
- Research Databases
- Burlington Authors Collection
- Community Bulletin Board
- Homebound Delivery
- Programs and Special Events
- Large Type materials
- Merlin magnifier
- Newsletter
- Online Tutoring for K-12, college and adult learners
- Job Center Resources
- Test preparation print and online
- Magazines and Newspapers in print and downloadable
- ➢ Genealogy and Local History Collection, Online Tools, & Classes
- Online Language Classes
- Interlibrary Loan
- Materials Purchase Requests
- > Spanish Language Resources
- School Visits and Book Talks
- Afterschool Program Presentations
- Babies Need Books Program
- First Library Card, birth to age 5

"The Burlington Public Library creates opportunities for people of all ages to **connect** with others, to **learn** about the world around them, and to **imagine** the futures before them."

- Mission Statement