

# Annual Report 2013

Harford County Public Library & Harford County Public Library Foundation



Welcome to Paradise



**"I have always imagined that  
Paradise will be a kind of library"**  
-Jorge Luis Borges





# From the Director

This year has been notable as Harford County Public Library expanded and refined what a public library brings to its community. Sunday hours returned in October and our customers enjoyed special author events and enhanced Sunday programming. In November, the Abingdon Library was transformed into an enchanting venue as more than 600 guests attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Library Gala, *Once Upon a Time... An Evening in the Stacks*.

Providing critical resources and support to small businesses continues to be a Library priority and expanded this year with Entrepreneur's Edge, a collaboration between the Library, Harford County's Office of Economic Development, Harford County Chamber of Commerce, Harford Community College, Harford Business Innovation Center, Northeastern Maryland Technology Council and the Small Business Technology Development Center. Harford County Public Library is the "first stop" for entrepreneurs who are looking to develop that great idea. In addition, the Library was designated as a site for the Grant Collection, a cooperating collection of the Foundation Center of New York.

It was an exciting year as the Library introduced new digital products. Through *Zinio*, customers have access to popular magazines and *Freegal* continues to add new songs to the millions already offered. The Library was a beta test site for a new streaming digital product, *Hoopla*. Customers can watch movies and television shows, and listen to music and audiobooks on their smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer. Life-long education was expanded with the launch of *Learn4Life*, which provides hundreds of online educational courses.

Reading is fundamental and developing early literacy skills is essential to ensure that our youngest customers are fully prepared for school. In March we unveiled the award winning *Little Leapers*, pre- and early literacy skill building kits with STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math) themes. *Little Leaper* kits contain interactive activities, developmentally appropriate toys, books, and more, and include a curriculum guide for parents and caregivers. The Library paid respect to our heritage and commemorated the Civil War 150 and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Korean War with author visits, performances, exhibits, and special tributes.

Paradise can be defined as "a state of delight" and that is what we hoped to achieve for the Harford County community this year. It is knowing what is important in the lives of our customers and providing resources and services to make that critical connection. This year's accomplishments were made possible by the dedication of the volunteers who make up the Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees, the Harford County Public Library Foundation Board, the Friends of the Harford County Public Library, the incredible Harford County Public Library staff, sponsors, volunteers, community partners, and many more. Thank you for being part of this very special year and welcome to paradise!

*Mary Hastler, Director*



## Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees FY 2013

*Front row:* Jack Swab Student Representative; Kenneth R. Avery, Treasurer; Louise A. LeTendre, Chairperson; Alex M. Allman, Vice Chairperson; Dominic C. Cottone; *Back row:* Bruce M. Smith; Lucie L. Snodgrass; Jennifer L. Vido; Mary L. Hastler, Library Director; Judge Susan H. Hazlett; William G. Nicodemus; *Not pictured:* Billy Boniface, Harford County Council Representative









≡ Supporting Education





# Supporting Education

*In the library or on the road, the young or simply the young at heart experience an abundance of learning adventures.*



*Little Leapers*, an innovative and first of its kind, science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math (STREAM) program was launched in March 2013. *Little Leapers* kits use age appropriate books, toys and games to foster and develop pre- and early literacy skills in children aged birth to 5 years. These kits, designed by early literacy librarians at Harford County Public Library include curriculum on how to use the materials to support development of pre- and early literacy skills. Children and families learn together!

The Harford County Public Library Foundation funded *Little Leapers* with a \$40,000 contribution made possible through donations from Title Sponsor Celebree Learning Centers; and Supporting Sponsors M&T Bank, Hart to Heart Transportation, and SAIC. One hundred and twenty kits are available for check-out by customers at Library branches throughout the County. The success of *Little Leapers* drew

national attention and is the model for other library systems seeking to develop equally exciting programs.

*Little Leapers* is an extension of the Library's signature LEAP: Science is Fun! program. LEAP (Learn, Explore And Play) is an exciting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program for third to eighth grade students. The interactive LEAP kits are curriculum-based and provide engaging, do-it-yourself science and math activities for families to explore and play with at home.



*"It is amazing to have found a community partner who advocates for preschool education. The groundbreaking pre-literacy focus of Little Leapers aligns with Celebree's values and those values extend beyond the walls of our childcare and preschool buildings into the greater community."*

-Richard Huffman, CEO, Celebree Learning Centers



## The Mastodon Matrix Project

Encouraging people to get involved in citizen science projects was just one of the themes Dr. Carlyn Buckler, Director of the Mastodon Matrix Project of the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithica, NY, focused on when she visited the Library in January 2013. The Mastodon Matrix Project is an open-ended, educational journey into discovering an Ice Age past. Dr. Buckler shared replicas of the finds her team excavated in New York, including teeth and tusks!



The Library hosted the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' *Horseshoe Crabs in the Classroom* project at the Whiteford Branch. In June 2012, the horseshoe crab eggs arrived at the Library and under the watchful eyes of the Let's Do Science Club, nearly 5,000 visitors watched this ancient species hatch, molt and grow over the course of the year. In May 2013, science club members released the young horseshoe crabs into their new home in the Chesapeake Bay.

Library staff share books, stories, puppets, and finger plays with licensed in-home daycare providers. Last year the *Opening the Gift* librarian held 292 programs, reaching approximately 2,600 children!

Library volunteers visit licensed daycare centers, sharing the joy of books with over 45 preschools and day care centers. The 50 volunteers serving this program reached an average 1,900 children each month.

Library volunteers work one-on-one or in small groups with elementary school students to help struggling readers become successful readers. Last year over 40 volunteers acted as reading role models and mentors to approximately 174 students each week.

New this year! *Sensory Story Time* is designed for children who have sensory integration challenges. The program is targeted for children ages two and a half to eight, and

includes interactive activities which utilize both large and small therapeutic movement to enhance the story time experience.

Celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> year, *The Learning & Sharing Collection* of developmental toys, puppets, puzzles, DVDs, books, magazines and themed kits is based on research that play and the use of toys can help promote early literacy. The collection contains over 17,000 items.

A continuing part of last year's successful *Families Read and Succeed* program, *Learning Parties* provide the opportunity for families to experience hands-on parent and child time together that supports and promotes development of school readiness skills.

The Library offers a wide selection of story times to meet the needs of different developmental age groups. From the *Diaper Gang Story Time*, *Babies Love Books* and *Toddler Tales*, to *Family Story Times* and even *Teen Story Times*, these programs help to create great "book" experiences, enhance reading development and allow participants to engage in new and fun learning activities. The Library also offers uniquely themed story times such as the *Muddy Buddies Story Time* which supported this year's Summer Reading Program theme *Dig Into Reading*. There is something at the Library for every story time chapter in your child's life.





## *Puppy Tales*

For parents, caregivers and their babies aged birth through 35 months, this program is based on the five important early literacy practices of talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

*“What a wonderful experience my three year-old daughter and I had at your Fall Storytime Series at the Bel Air Library. The librarian who conducted the storytime is absolutely terrific. She is so good with the children and plans a really great story time each week, with super fun books, rhymes, and crafts or games! Thank you for making these opportunities available to the children of Harford County.”*

*– parent Katy Scott*

# Digital Bliss

Harford County Public Library introduced an array of new online, on demand digital services. Customers can watch movies, read magazines, listen to audiobooks, play music and take classes, all for free through [HCPLonline.org](http://HCPLonline.org)!



The world's largest newsstand, complete with digital magazines that can easily be viewed on any internet-enabled device.



Download music onto any MP3 player! Access millions of songs from over 10,000 labels including the Sony Music catalog. Every song has a sample clip you can listen to.



Borrow from thousands of movies, television shows, music albums and audiobooks by using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer. The Library was very excited to be one of only seven libraries in the country to serve as a beta test site for Hoopla. The Library and its customers were able to provide valuable feedback to the vendor on this product prior to its launch in the fall.



Experience the same layout and full color images as the print version of books with eBooks through Axis 360. Titles can be downloaded to your smartphone, tablet, iPad, Nook or PC.



Convenient online access to hundreds of educational courses to enhance professional and career development, and personal enrichment.



Discover great, independent films! IndieFlix offers award-winning shorts, features & documentaries from more than 50 countries, including film festival hits from Cannes, Sundance, and Tribeca.











A Historical Voyage

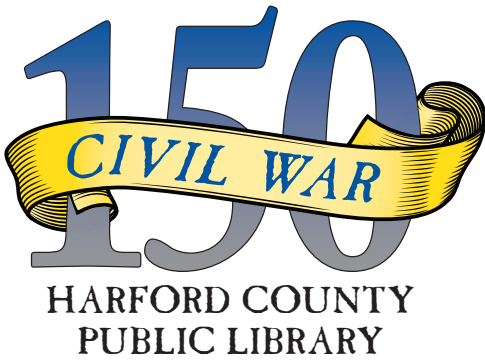




# A Historical Voyage

*Journey to the past to shape our future.*

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the American Civil War, the Library hosted *Civil War 150*, a series of events that included visits from bestselling authors, a musical performance, exhibitions, and book discussion groups that explored this tumultuous time in American history.



To kick off the commemoration and to celebrate National Library Week, the Library held its second annual local photography exhibition. Themed *A Nation Divided*, local amateur and professional photographers submitted their photographic interpretation of the theme. Twenty-eight works were selected from the 196 entries.

A reception held during National Library Week, April 14 – 20, 2013, introduced the winners and offered the opportunity for the photographers to talk about their work. All framed photographs were on sale during the course of the exhibition and proceeds benefited the Library.

Special acknowledgements were mentioned for organizations that supported the event. These included Debbie Frantini of Fast Frames for doing a fabulous job on the framing, Jim's Bottleworks for supplying refreshments, and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board for assisting with the exhibition costs.

*The Mask of Lincoln: Photography and the Making of a President* exhibition portrayed how Lincoln used the new art of photography to project a “Presidential” image that would inspire a sense of leadership and strength to the Nation. The 12 panel display was developed by the Library in conjunction with a scholarship from the Smithsonian Institution. Highlighting this little known aspect of Lincoln’s legacy enabled the Library to obtain a grant from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. This grant allows Harford County Public Library to offer the exhibition to other community sites to display at their venues with little expense.



### ***Dr. Duke and Mr. President***

One hundred and ninety guests of the Library enjoyed a unique, musical role-playing experience entitled *Dr. Duke and Mr. President* in June 2013 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace. Conceived and performed by Dr. Duke Thompson, Director of the Maryland Conservatory of Music, Dr. Thompson played popular songs of the era first as himself and then in character as President Abraham Lincoln. Preceding the concert, guests were invited to a reception hosted by General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant (played by Will and Bernadine Boyce) at the Havre de Grace Library.



*Divided Allegiance: The Booths of Tudor Hall* (pictured left) was open from May 4-June 8, 2013. The exhibition explored the unique and, at times, dysfunctional nature of the Booth family. Once the exhibition closed, the panels were transferred to the Harford County Historical Society to display in Tudor Hall, the Harford County family home of John Wilkes Booth.

In celebration of Black History Month, Penny Musco performed a one-woman play entitled *Steal Away*. She wove together historical accounts of those who sought free land by taking advantage of the Homestead Act, and the largely untold story of the 20,000 to 40,000 former slaves intent on finding a better life in the Midwest and the Great Plains.

In honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Korean War, six local veterans of the conflict shared how the war changed their lives (photo pages 8-9). Several Korean-Americans, hoping to learn more about their heritage, attended the discussion, including a former North Korean soldier who defected during the war and was able to eventually immigrate to the US.

In conjunction with the Korean War 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a photo exhibition entitled *GIs and the Kids*, was on display at the Library. This exhibition told the story of how American soldiers helped save the lives of thousands of orphaned Korean children. The exhibition was created by The Korean War Children's Memorial Project. These commemorative programs were supported through the generosity of the Korean War Veterans Association – Maryland Chapter 33.

### ***Clara Barton: Red Cross Angel***

Award-winning actress Mary Ann Jung entertained guests with her moving portrayal of *Clara Barton: Red Cross Angel*. This living history presentation demonstrated how Barton defied society's conventions and risked her own life in order to help others. Audience members participated in the program by becoming Yankees and Rebels, "nay-sayers" and "believers," to better understand why Americans fought against each other in the Civil War. This program was funded in part by the Friends of the Fallston Library and a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council.









# Magazines



...dise will be a  
Jorge Luis Borges

Engaging Conversations





# Engaging Conversations

*Authors open a meaningful dialogue.*

A highlight of National Library Week was the Library Foundation's annual *A Night Out @ the Library* featuring *New York Times* best-selling author, Jeff Shaara, in April.

## A NIGHT OUT @ the Library

A renowned, military history author, Jeff Shaara mesmerized more than 200 attendees with his presentation on his relationship with his father, Michael Shaara, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning *The Killer Angels*, and how his father's death led him to his successful writing career. Mr. Shaara's novels about the Civil War, the American Revolution and World Wars I & II have received great acclaim. Earlier in the day, Mr. Shaara attended a luncheon hosted by the County Executive and the Library Director. The lucky winners of this package (auctioned off at the 2012 Foundation Gala) enjoyed a leisurely luncheon and conversation at Tudor Hall.

To kick-off the *Civil War 150* series, best-selling author Christopher Tilghman spoke about his

latest novel, *The Right-Hand Shore*. Guests listened to Mr. Tilghman's stories about the Mason family and their former slaves' attempts to create a just and viable community in the chaotic years after the Civil War. The author signed books and made connections with community members that had once lived on his family homestead on the Eastern Shore, where his novel was based.



Jeff Shaara





## Kwame Alexander

Kwame Alexander, author of several popular children and teen books, spoke to more than 50 guests at the Library in June 2013. Mr. Alexander has written for all age groups and received the NAACP Image Award Nomination for Outstanding Children's Literature. During the program he read from his books *Indigo Blume* and *the Garden City* and *Acoustic Rooster*, as well as a book of poetry, *Crush*, that he wrote for teens. He shared the details of his recent travels to Ghana where he is working with a group to promote literacy in a small community. Mr. Alexander also encouraged middle school and high school students in the audience to be inspired to write. Harford County Public Library was able to offer this special program thanks to the support of the Harford County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

*One Maryland One Book*, Maryland's statewide community reading program, is designed to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through a shared reading experience. The book selected for the 2012 program was *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, by Steven Galloway. The Library was pleased to welcome Mr. Galloway to the Veronica "Roni" Chenoweth Activity Center, where 200 guests gathered to hear Mr. Galloway speak. The Maryland Humanities Council stated "A common love of literature brings people together like few things in life. *The Cellist of Sarajevo* offered Harford County readers an exceptional opportunity to explore humanity in wartime with an author who manages to rise above time and place and openly explore how war can change one's definition of humanity."

Ken Lang, a former Baltimore homicide detective turned award-winning true crime author, visited the Library in March 2013. Mr. Lang shared his experiences investigating some of the most intriguing and gruesome murder investigations in Baltimore and surrounding counties. The specifics of the cases are captured in his books and the audience was intent on hearing every detail.

The Library was host to the Harford Writers Group's Writers Discussion Panel in the fall of 2012. Six writers from the Group talked with an enthusiastic audience about how they got started and what keeps them writing. Based on the positive response to this program, the Library identified dozens of local authors who have written and published books in a variety of genres, and in March 2013, launched *Local Author's Day*. Guests met with a diverse range of authors to chat about their work, get advice and purchase their books.

## William Martin

Also as part of the *Civil War 150* series, the Library hosted William Martin, author of *The Lincoln Letter* and other Peter Fallon mysteries in May 2013. A full room of attendees were engaged as Mr. Martin spoke and were honored to meet him afterwards for a book signing.











≡ Capturing Magical Moments



# Capturing Magical Moments

*Beyond books...the Library is so much more!*



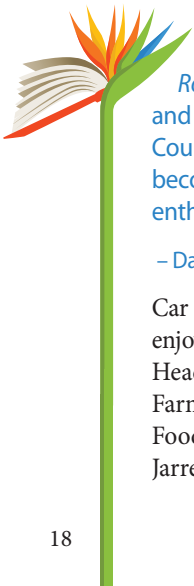
## ***Touch a Truck***

One hundred of the County's youngest truck enthusiasts and their parents gathered at the Library's *Touch a Truck* program. This program was one of many offered in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program. William Caraway of Dixie Construction Company provided a large construction vehicle and was on hand to answer questions about the truck and the construction profession.



## ***Romancing the Chrome***

In April 2013, more than 200 cars and 1,700 spectators raced to Jarrettsville to celebrate Harford County's car culture at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Romancing the Chrome* Car Show hosted by Harford County Public Library and the Jarrettsville Lions Club.



*"We are delighted with the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Romancing the Chrome Car Show and our partnership with the Harford County Public Library. The event is becoming a spring tradition for car enthusiasts throughout the County."*

*– David Goff, Jarrettsville Lions Club*

Car enthusiasts and onlookers alike enjoyed live music by The Diamond Heads and concessions by Pond View Farm and Pit Crew, WOLO Gourmet Food Truck and Catering, and Jarrettsville Creamery and Deli.

Attendees explored a variety of exhibits from vendors, including the Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company, The Harford County Sheriff's Department, Harford County Public Library and several of the event's sponsors: Keene Dodge, Mr. Tire, Harford Sanitation/Waste Industries, WXCY, Race On, LLC, Bill Schilling & Chad Shrodes/Long & Foster Realtors, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Atlantic Tractor, WAMD, and the Jarrettsville Friends of Harford County Public Library. WAMD Radio broadcasted live from the event, interviewing sponsors, Library staff and car fans! Proceeds from the Car Show exceeded \$13,000 and benefited the Library and the Jarrettsville Lions.





### *Let's have a parade!*

The smiling faces of volunteers both young and old helped to make this year's Independence Day parade float an award-winning creation. The float, themed after the Library's summer reading program, *Dig Into Reading*, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Havre de Grace Parade and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Edgewood Parade in their designated parade categories!

The Library's *Literary Spelling Bee* has become an important and entertaining attraction at the annual Harford County Farm Fair. Started in 1997, the *Literary Spelling Bee* continues to attract competitors from kindergarten through adult. Participants are asked to spell age-appropriate words from popular as well as classical literature.



The Library held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Mini Comic-Con*, an event that drew young people from around the county to meet and share their love of comics and graphic novels. An assortment of teen and young adult superheroes, fantasy, geek, horror, space, anime, and other comic characters of all types were present. Authors Marie Lamba and Gregory Frost shared their insights on fantasy and science fiction writing. Steve Conley, illustrator for *Star Trek* and other graphic novels, showed

an enthusiastic audience how to develop a comic book from creating characters to writing a good story. Gamer and Wilmington University Professor Scott Shaw introduced participants to creating video games and the software used to bring the game to life. During the event, fans were able to take photographs, talk one-on-one with experts in costuming and role playing, and learn new board and role playing games lead by Whitman Bottiger of Critical Hit Games.











≡ Community Connections





# Community Connections

*Working and playing together*

More than 600 guests attended the Library's 8<sup>th</sup> annual Gala on Saturday, November 3, 2012, making it a record-breaking event for the Library.

Combined sponsorships, ticket sales, raffle sales, contributions and spirited live and silent auction bids generated over \$100,000 (net of expenses) in support of Library programs, materials, and the new early literacy initiative, *Little Leapers*.

Guests were treated to a delicious feast by Laurrapin Grille, a signature martini bar by Liberatore's Ristorante, bourbon and wine selections from Jim's BottleWorks, craft brews from DuClaw Brewing Company, coffee from Coffee Coffee, and an array of decadent desserts from Wegmans, Flavor Cupcakery, WOLO, and Jarrettsville Creamery & Deli. The event featured entertainment by the renowned Zim Zemarel Orchestra.

Notably, Margaret and Tony Evinger of Havre de Grace bid \$26,500 to win the *BackYard Crashers* package, a backyard makeover valued at nearly \$50,000, donated by Rock Solid Hardscaping, Nature Unlimited, Picture Perfect Patios, and supporting sponsors Maryland Paving, Ivy Hill Land Services,



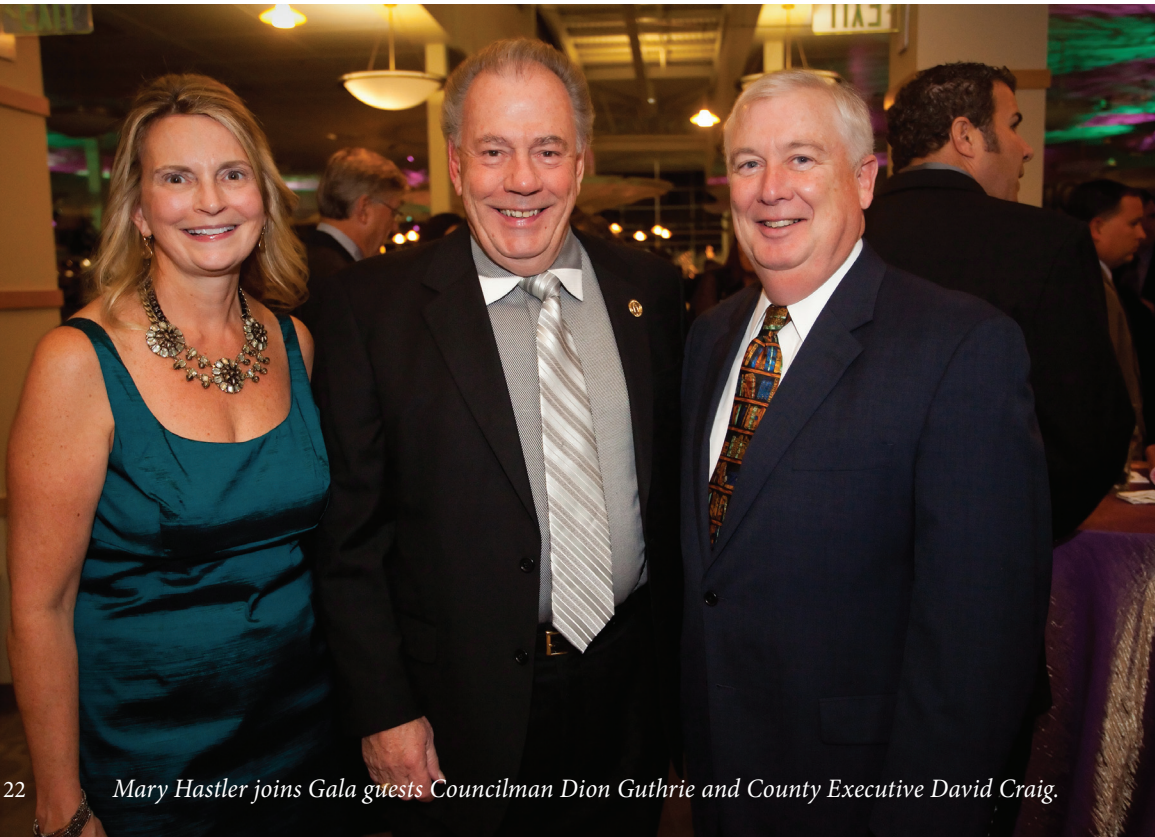
## ONCE UPON A TIME

an evening in the stacks

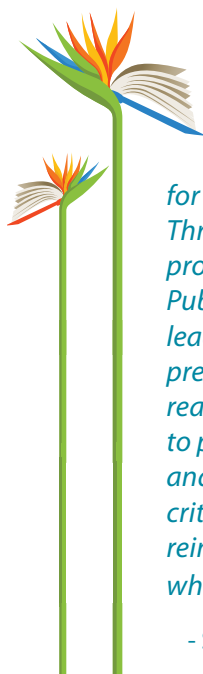
and EP Henry. This is the second year *BackYard Crashers* has been offered at the Gala.

The winning ticket was drawn for the stunning three-carat diamond tennis bracelet donated by Saxon's Diamond Centers. Saxon's, a long-standing Library partner, was recognized at the event for their outstanding commitment to the community.

Celebree Learning Centers played a prominent role in the success of the event with a \$25,000 donation as the title sponsor for the *Little Leapers* program. The announcement was made at the Gala and celebrated with a champagne toast. "We are truly honored by the tremendous investment in the *Little Leapers* program by Celebree Learning Centers and grateful for the contributions of all of our sponsors, volunteers, and guests. The evening was truly a magical night for the Library," -Dave Patzer, Library Foundation President and Event Presenting Sponsor.







*“Research has shown that the development of early literacy skills is a leading precursor for educational success. Through its resources and programs Harford County Public Library is playing a leading role in the effort to prepare children for school readiness. We are thrilled to partner with the Library and the Foundation on this critical program, and to reinvest in the communities where we live and work.”*

- Shawn Pyle, President, Dixie Construction Company

### Early Literacy Support

Excitement is building for the Harford County Public Library’s Early Literacy Interactive Space in Bel Air, thanks to Dixie Construction Company. Company officials joined Harford County Public Library Foundation directors in February for a \$25,000 check presentation. Plans for the new interactive center include engaging design elements and sophisticated play areas that will encourage the emergence of literacy skills essential for school readiness in children.

The Harford County Public Library Foundation has raised over \$75,000 for the Early Literacy Interactive Space. With the completion of the design, funds will be used to purchase furniture, materials and décor necessary to transform the center into an invigorating learning environment.

Enthusiastic staff from BB&T’s Madonna and Upper Crossroads Branches worked tirelessly on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, to plant new gardens at both the Jarrettsville and Fallston Libraries as part of their annual *Lighthouse Project*. BB&T generously donated the plants for the entire project, a bench for the Jarrettsville garden, and volunteers for the effort. BB&T’s *Lighthouse Project* encourages employees to spend time outside of the office and give back, improving the communities they serve and making their communities better places to work and live.

Five hundred and forty-four community members volunteered their time and energy to assist with daily operations at the Library. This amazing group of people volunteered a total of

31,086 hours, which is the equivalent of \$302,000 paid work hours! No matter how small of a job or how few hours, each volunteer made a huge difference to the Library and the community.

Each branch of the Library has a supportive Friends group who advocate, fundraise and volunteer on behalf of the Library. They promote the Library throughout the community and at budget and legislative hearings. Last year the Friends donated over \$48,000 towards programming and special purchases, including furniture, a gaming system and a garden.



# Paying It Forward

## Staff Connects with the Community

Each year Library staff do their part to give back and support the communities in which they live and work.

The Harford Community Action Agency, Inc., which provides food for those in need, held a *Harvest for the Hungry* food collection campaign in March 2013. In connection with the campaign, the Library held a contest for staff to develop the most creative food collection displays. The contest winners were recognized for their efforts but, more importantly, the Library donated 1,810 pounds of food to the Agency.

The Library served as a drop off site for *The Aegis Empty Stocking Fund*. Donations of unwrapped new toys and games were given to the fund for distribution to deserving County residents during the holidays.



Staff members are strong supporters of the United Way, the March of Dimes and many other charitable organizations in the community.

Harford County Public Library employees presented a check to the Humane Society of Harford County in the amount of \$500. The funds were raised through a staff bake sale to benefit the organization. Library employees have been holding annual bake sales for six years to benefit various charities, including the March of Dimes and Animal Rescue, Inc.

*"Thank you so much to the Harford County Public Library staff for thinking of the homeless animals in Harford County. You are truly making a difference in their lives."*

- Mary Leavens, Executive Director,  
Humane Society of Harford County



The Library was a collection drop off site for The Greater Excellence in Education Foundation's (GEEF) annual *Tools for Schools* supply drive. The drive provides resources to a school supply center where teachers can shop for free learning materials for students in need. In addition to serving as a collection site, the Library staff also donated several boxes of supplies.

The Havre de Grace Library "Volunteers", a teen volunteer group, participated in the Havre de Grace *Relay for Life* fundraiser, an event that helps support cancer research on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Fifteen teens held a car wash in the Library parking lot and attended the all-night event, helping the group to raise over \$1,000.

Havre de Grace Library staff were also pleasantly surprised by local teens who set up a lemonade stand and generously donated their proceeds to the Library to support programming efforts.

Harford County Public Library was designated as an official cooling center for the County when temperatures soared to over 100 degrees in the summer of 2012. It also served as a site for people without power to use computers and charge cell phones. Staff set up areas for games and other fun indoor activities for customers to enjoy while staying cool!

Harford County Public Library branches serve as collection sites year-round for used cell phones that are donated to SARC. The phones are refurbished and provided to those in need.





## Handmade Gifts

Each year, beginning in October, Library staff and customers begin knitting hats, scarves, and mittens to be donated to the Welcome One Emergency Shelter operated by the FCCAU (Faith Communities and Civic Agencies United). Over 850 items were donated, wrapped, and labeled for men, women, and children for the holiday season. The Library also set-up "mitten trees" during the holidays to collect winter clothing articles which then were donated to local community groups.

==== Paying It Forward





# Making Dreams Happen

## Business & Economic Development

The Library partnered with the Harford County's Office of Economic Development, Harford County Chamber of Commerce, Harford Community College, Harford Business Innovation Center, Northeastern Maryland Technology Council and the Small Business Technology Development Center to form *Entrepreneur's Edge*. Through *Entrepreneur's Edge*, individuals link with business resources in the County to research grants, and to access attorneys, business consultants, financial institutions and training resources.

Utilizing local experts to help the business community navigate current issues, Harford County Public Library presented *Game Changers: Health Care Reform* on March 28, 2013, to business professionals at the Abingdon Library. Paul Brooks, Vice President, and Keith Creamer, Corporate Benefits Consultant, of Brooks Financial Group lead attendees through the maze of Health Care Reform by exploring some of the

widespread myths and misconceptions. More than two dozen business owners and human resource professionals attended the program to seek answers to their concerns related to the changes in health care provisions. The program was sponsored by Shaffer, McLaughlin & Stover, LLC, and moderated by Betsy Campion of Campion Insurance.

With the support of the Library Foundation and the Community Foundation of Harford County, Harford County Public Library became a site for the Grant Collection, a cooperating collection of the Foundation Center of New York. The Grant Collection provides vital information and tools for securing grant dollars. A comprehensive print collection and access to the online resources are available at the Bel Air Library. In conjunction with this initiative, the Library partnered with Harford Community College and the Community Foundation of Harford County to create the Harford Grant Academy, a yearly 12-week series of virtual and physical class style meetings for non-profit fundraisers and grant writers to network and strengthen their skills.

You can find all the resources you need to help you launch a small business or take it to the next level! Through the Library website, customers can access *Demographics Now* and *Reference USA*, business research portals to obtain information ranging from locating businesses by name, type, and location, to assessing business vitality, performing market and site location analysis, and creating sales leads. The *Small Business Resource Center* is a comprehensive database offering content that covers the major areas of operating a business, including accounting, finance, human resources, management, marketing, tax and more.

Library staff offer one-on-one assistance to customers with resume writing, completing online job applications or other online applications. Whether customers attend a class, schedule an individual appointment or seek general guidance, staff and volunteers are available to assist with navigating the online job seeking process and many other essential topics.



Paul Brooks, Mary Hastler, Betsy Campion, and Keith Creamer





The Library hosts an ever-expanding wealth of online small business resources to provide Library customers with assistance and answers to many business and career questions. Click on the “Business and Career” link at [HCPLonline.org](http://HCPLonline.org) to access these free resources!

## Recognition for a Job Well Done!

Harford County Commission on Disabilities Employment Committee Committee Media Award

SmartCEO Baltimore Brava! Award

Library Journal Star Award

Maryland AskUsNow! Rockstar Award

The Daily Record Top 100 Women in MD

Special Preservation Award for *Journey Stories* from the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission









≡ An Appreciation of the Arts





# An Appreciation of the Arts

Visual • Film • Dance • Theatre



One hundred pieces of artwork, created by the students at John Archer School, were displayed at the Abingdon Library in April 2013. Entitled *A Celebration of Hands and Heart*, this exhibition was born out of a partnership between the Library and the School with the goal of creating an awareness of the

artistic talents of special needs students. An open house followed the exhibition and celebrated the accomplishments of the students.

*The Joppatowne Youth Art Show* presented the works of children from kindergarten through Grade 5. Ribbons and cash prizes were awarded to the winners by members of the Harford Artist's Association. The art show was sponsored by the Joppa Friends of the Library.

The Joppa Library's *Kreative Kids* program provided children the chance to learn about some famous artists and study their works. The children were instructed to create their own art inspired by Monet and Van Gogh.

Established in honor of a long-standing Friends member, the Aberdeen Library created an Art Wall, and in partnership with the public school system, showcases student artwork throughout the year.

Artwork from the Whiteford Library's surrounding schools is displayed in the spring at the Library. The community enjoys viewing these varied collections each year.



Harford County Public Library rolled out the red carpet for teens and their families at the Abingdon Library in March 2013, at a special screening and awards ceremony for the teen *Film This! Book Trailers* contest (*winners pictured below*). Throughout the winter months, teens created and submitted short videos showcasing a favorite book, similar to a movie trailer. At the *Film This!* premiere, the finalists' videos were viewed and the winners announced. All entries can be viewed by searching "HCPL Film This 2013" on YouTube.







The Harford Ballet Company performed *The Nutcracker* for the holidays and *Beauty and the Beast* in the spring at the Library.



The Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, a performance group that uses the staging conditions from Shakespeare's time as closely as possible, performed two plays at the Library in January 2013, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Othello*. Guests experienced *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* much as they would have in Shakespeare's time, including doubling of the actors and full interaction with the audience, complete with the throwing of food (fake tomatoes!). Performances were held at the Fallston, Aberdeen, Abingdon, Havre de Grace, Joppa & Whiteford Libraries.

## Traveling Around Mobile Services

Bringing the magic of books and computers to the senior population is what the Silver Reader is all about! Each week this mobile service vehicle visits senior housing, assisted living, long-term care, adult medical day care and senior center locations throughout Harford County. The collection includes large print books, audio books, music, movies, magazines, and computers for those who cannot get to a Library branch.



In March 2013, the Library, in partnership with two of the Harford County Senior Activity Centers, piloted a computer training program called *Internet Communication Today*. Seniors were taught the basics of computer literacy by Library staff. These classes included searching the internet, accessing online Library resources, along with how to utilize email, mobile devices and social media services, such as Facebook, Twitter, Skype and Pinterest.

The Rolling Reader vehicle serves school-aged children in kindergarten through eighth grade. It visits 20 centers throughout the County, including the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs during the school year, and visits camps during the summer months. Last year children borrowed 8,000 items from the Rolling Reader. You can also find the Rolling Reader at community events, so stop by and see what it is all about!



# The Pure Joy of Reading

*This says it all!*



The value of reading is celebrated each summer as children throughout the County from birth through high school participate in the Library's Summer Reading Program. With over 16,000 participants and almost 100,000 books read, this year's *Dig Into Reading* theme and stellar support from the business community created another successful summer of reading!

Sponsors of this year's program included HarCo Federal Credit Union, Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Association, Chick-fil-A, Morris Mechanic Foundation, Aberdeen Rotary Club, Darlington Friends of HCPL, Berardino Family Trust, Advanced Eye Care, The Aegis, Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union, Huntington Learning Centers, Celebree Learning Centers,

Growing Smiles Pediatric Dentistry, Huether-McClelland Foundation, and Wegmans Food Market.

Children and teens sign up for the Summer Reading Program at any Library branch. The *Read To Me* program, for the youngest participants from birth through pre-school, were encouraged to listen to 25 books; elementary school children participated in the *Dig Into Reading* program by reading ten books; middle school and high school teens participated in *Beneath the Surface* and read three books.

As a way to increase a child's interest in reading and to boost self-confidence, children are invited to read with a calm and loving Karma Dog! Since dogs don't laugh or put pressure on a child the way peers might, children are able to increase their vocabulary and become better readers in a safe and comfortable environment. Children become eager to read to the dogs and can't wait for the next visit.

*To Read or Not to Read? There is NO question!* The 2013 Harford County Public Library Winter Reading Program celebrated all things Shakespeare. Open to adults and high school teens, adults were challenged to read five books and teens to read three books to complete the program. Incentives were provided upon registration and completion. The 2013 Winter Reading Program was supported by the Friends of the Harford County Public Library and the Harford County Public Library Foundation.







**I Can Read!**

When Marley's family gets angry at him, Marley runs away from home. Who knows how long he could get into such big trouble? Will Marley's family find him?

1. Ideal for sharing with your partner.
2. Single sentences for simple word recognition.
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For more information about the "I Can Read Book" series, see the back cover.

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**Marley's ADVENTURE**

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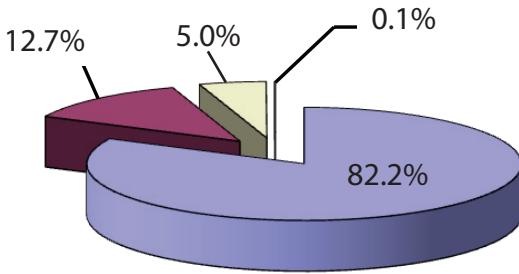


# Harford County Public Library FY 2013 Financial & Statistical Statement



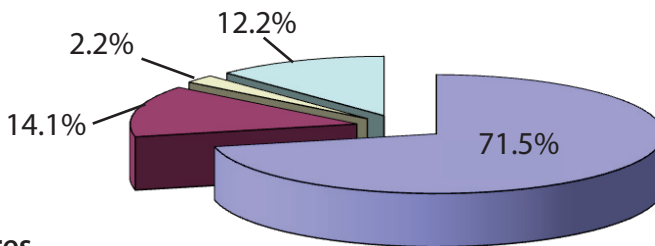
Circulation*	4,110,684
eBook Circulation	152,372
Information Questions	515,534
Programs	4,019
Program Attendance	197,211
Website Page Views	10,536,127
Walk-in Customers	1,892,426
Volunteer Hours	31,086
Meeting Room Use:	
Number of Groups	335
Number of People	8,044
Interlibrary Loan - Received	14,845
Interlibrary Loan - Loaned	6,930
Full Time Equivalent Personnel	240.93
Public Access Computers	351

\*includes all digital products



## FY 2013 Revenue

County	\$16,054,666
Library	\$967,912
State	\$2,473,823
Federal/Grants	\$11,250

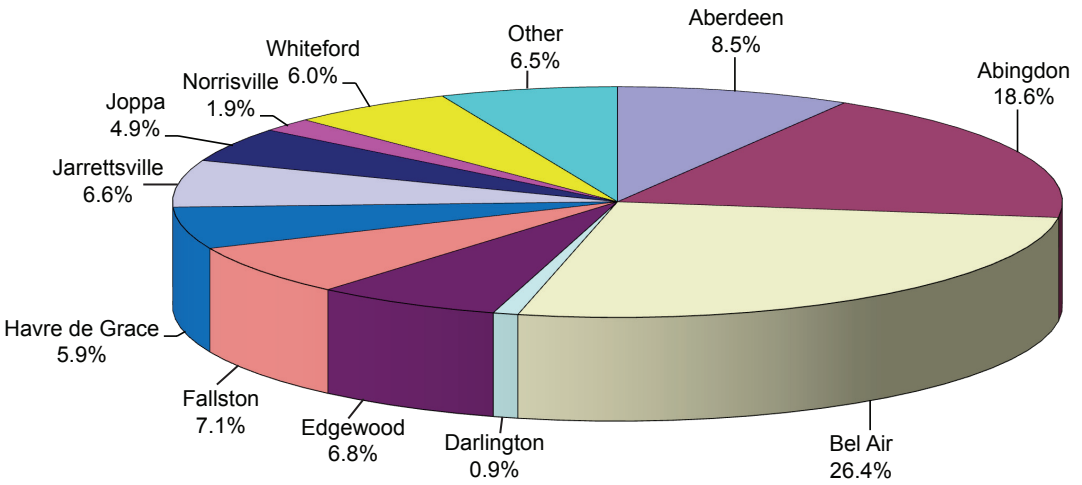


## FY 2013 Expenditures

Personnel	\$13,089,019	Materials	\$2,571,926
Equipment	\$404,016	Other	\$2,233,021



### Circulation by Branch



### Value of Library Services\*

Quantity	Library Services	Retail Value	Value of Services
1,018,442	Adult Books Borrowed	\$ 20.00	\$20,368,840
997,601	Childrens Books Borrowed	20.00	19,952,020
1,330,087	DVD's Borrowed	4.00	5,320,348
154,977	Audio Material Borrowed	15.00	2,324,655
152,372	Electronic Books Borrowed	20.00	3,047,440
885	Little Leaper Kits Borrowed	189.00	167,265
53,072	Magazines Borrowed	3.76	199,551
21,004	Interlibrary Loans	25.00	525,100
335	Meeting Room Use	100.00	33,500
52,301	Adult Program Attendees	16.00	836,816
144,910	Youth/Teen Program Attendees	15.78	2,286,680
416,473	Hours of Computer Use	12.60	5,247,560
800,123	Database Searches	6.83	5,464,840
515,534	Customer Queries Answered	7.00	3,608,738

**Total Value**

**\$69,383,353**

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



# The Library Foundation



*Front Row:* Mary L. Hastler, Durbin P. Vido, David E. Patzer, Linda VanDeusen, Amber C. Shrodes, Mark DiBerardino; *Back Row:* Mary E. McClelland, Kathleen M. Wajer, Rick Herbig, Esq., E. Louis Wienecke, Carolyn Lambdin, Bruce Smith, Esq., Elizabeth Hendrix, Al Williamson; *Not Pictured:* Alex Allman, Tim Capurso, Tanya Cook-Ellis, Cynthia Hergenbahn, Claudia Holman, Katherine Kelly, Louise LeTendre, Mark Welsh

## ***From the Foundation Director***

The Harford County Public Library and the Foundation are grateful for the partners, staff and volunteers who helped make this an outstanding year. As a result of tremendous advocacy and support, the Harford County Public Library Foundation generated record revenue through its sponsorship and fundraising efforts. In turn, the Foundation contributed nearly \$175,000 to the Library for programs, materials, and initiatives.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, *Once Upon a Time: An Evening in the Stacks*, played a leading role in the Foundation's fundraising success. Sold-out for another year, proceeds exceeded \$100,000, net of expenses. Each year, the Foundation provides Gala revenues to support the Library's 11 branches, programs, and annual initiatives, including the summer and winter reading programs. This year, the Foundation also contributed \$40,000 to implement *Little Leapers*, an unprecedented early literacy initiative. Celebree Learning Centers supported the program as a Title Sponsor.

In December, Dixie Construction Company contributed \$25,000 to the Foundation for another exciting initiative – the Early Literacy Center in Bel Air. The donation was used to launch the design phase of the project.

This spring, the Foundation organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Romancing the Chrome* car show and *A Night Out @ the Library* with Jeff Shaara for National Library Week. More than 1,700 automobile enthusiasts attended the car show in Jarrettsville, which generated net proceeds exceeding \$13,000 for the Library and the Jarrettsville Lions Club. *A Night Out at the Library*, featuring New York Times Best-Selling Author Jeff Shaara, was the Foundation's most successful *Night Out* fundraiser to date with over \$6,000 in net proceeds. Nearly 200 guests were mesmerized by Mr. Shaara's life story and infinite knowledge of the Civil War. Both events received outstanding media coverage, fulfilling the Foundation's joint mission to raise support and awareness for the Library.

In addition, the Foundation is proud to have maintained strong partnerships with many Summer Reading Program sponsors and to have attracted three new partners for this important initiative in 2013. The Foundation was also thrilled to receive over \$8,000 through the generous contributions of numerous donors to the Annual Giving Campaign.

These exciting accomplishments are the result of hundreds of partnerships, including private firms, community organizations, individual donors, volunteers, employees and customers.

The Library Foundation is grateful for your support and honored by these significant investments in the Library. Together we are building an invaluable resource our entire community can share and enjoy.

***Amber C. Shrodes, Foundation Director***



## About the Foundation

The Harford County Public Library Foundation was established to coordinate public and private support for Harford County Public Library, its programs and activities. The Foundation is a private, non-profit, 501C3 organization seeking donations, grants and bequests from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Created in 1998, The Foundation's mission is to augment the financial resources of the Harford County Public Library, promote awareness of its services, and facilitate its development as a creative environment within the county that encourages the acquisition of knowledge and the love of reading.

A viable example of a public-private partnership in action, the Foundation's Board of Directors represent a diverse cross-section of the community and share a commitment to improving our region.

Each year, the Foundation initiates a number of fundraising efforts including author discussions,

cultural events, and the Library Gala. In addition, the Foundation seeks community support for the Library's summer and winter reading programs, exhibits, business resources and STEM initiatives. The Library Foundation leads the Library's capital campaigns by developing creative sponsorship opportunities, cultivating partnerships, customizing appropriate promotions for donations, and maintaining a constant line of communication with project contributors.

### Your tax deductible gifts support:

- 11 Library branches
- Rolling Reader & Silver Reader
- Annual Summer Reading Program
- Annual Winter Reading Program
- STEM & STREAM programming
- Early literacy programs
- Capital campaigns
- Author discussions and speaker series
- Purchase of new materials
- Small Business Center & job seeker resources

#### Board of Directors FY2013

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Bruce Smith, Esq.  
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Al Williamson

## Foundation FY 2013 Statement of Activities

### Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$126,534
Gala Event Revenue	140,272
Other Event Revenue	35,266
In-Kind Contributions	98,235
Interest Income	202
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$400,509</b>

### Program Expenses

Donations to HCPL	\$174,949
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### Supporting Services

Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,020
Gala Event Expenses	69,175
Other Event Expenses	30,131
In-Kind Expenses	98,235
Other	43,401

<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$241,962</b>
<b>Total Supporting Services &amp; Donations</b>	<b>\$416,911</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(16,402)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$200,730</b>
<b>NET ASSETS – End of Year</b>	<b>\$184,328</b>



# Memorials

*In Memory of Anna Chaky*  
Neighbors of Emil Chaky

*In Memory of Benjamin Boniface*  
Marty, Wendy, Taylor &  
Kendall Barry

*In Memory of Milo W. Williams*  
Neighbors of Bea Ross

*In Memory of Eileen Robinson*  
Eleanor Q. Mason

*In Memory of Katharine Cadotte*  
Jarryl & Betty Wolford  
Tammy & Steve Vajo  
Jennifer & Mike Winebrenner

*In Memory of Evan Scarff*  
Mary Ann Sekowski

*In Memory of Jacqueline Henning*  
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Wallace J. Owings  
Patricia Schline  
Employees of Donnale Ltd Co.

*In Memory of Esther Dombrowski*  
The Williams Family

*In Memory of Melva Wajer*  
Friends at Harford Co. Office  
of Economic Development

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Maude McCarty  
Josephine J. Matlack  
Thomas C. Wade  
Rob and Elaine McIntyre  
Barbara Rightmire Coble  
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Linda W. Forster  
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Monica L. Pats

*In Memory of Thomas Murtaugh*  
Doris Scholl & Phyllis Anderson  
Tom and Pat Bordner

*In Memory of Kurt W. Bittle*  
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*In Memory of Ginger Christensen*  
Janet Pomp

*In Memory of Anthony Joseph*  
Sanzone  
Cynthia Stiemly

*In Memory of Mike Weiss*  
Cynthia Stiemly

# Thank you to our Donors

*You are growing a paradise!*



## Community Pillars \$10,000 +

Celebree Learning Centers  
Dixie Construction Company  
Anthony & Margaret Evering  
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Saxon's Diamond Centers  
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## President's Circle \$5,000 +

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Chick-fil-A  
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Liberatore's Ristorante  
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Nature Unlimited, LLC  
Picture Perfect Patios  
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Rosedale Federal Savings &  
Loan Assoc.  
Select Event Rentals  
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WOLO

## Librarian's Circle \$1,000 +

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Baker & Taylor  
Bel Air Friends of HCPL

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*If we have inadvertently made an error or omission, we apologize. Please call 410-273-5600 so we can correct our records.*



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