



King County
Library System
Foundation

Annual Report 2009


Literacy
Learning
Libraries

KCLS Foundation

Annual Report 2009

The King County Library System Foundation creates opportunities to bring literacy, learning and library access to all members of our community.

The KCLS Foundation extends the library's ability to meet the needs of our community members, to be innovative and to be relevant to residents who have an expansive range of ages, cultures, languages and interests.

King County Library System spans 2,300 square miles and serves 1.3 million people through 46 libraries and an array of online services and community outreach programs. While King County is renowned as one of the top markets for book sales and is one of the most technologically advanced communities in the United States, it is also an area that includes tens of thousands of adults and children who are not proficient readers. The King County Library System is the third busiest circulating public library in the country with more 21.3 million items checked out in 2009, yet there is a significant portion of the population that does not use library materials for information, education or enrichment.

The KCLS Foundation provides the venture capital for library initiatives and pilot programs that address community needs, the funding for value-added programs and resources and the critical support to help ensure that our public library system is vibrant, relevant and central to our lives.

Each year, nearly 150,000 children and adults benefit from KCLS Foundation-supported programs.

Here is a summary of program support in 2009.
For more information, visit www.kclsfoundation.org.

Literacy: Encouraging Readers of All Ages

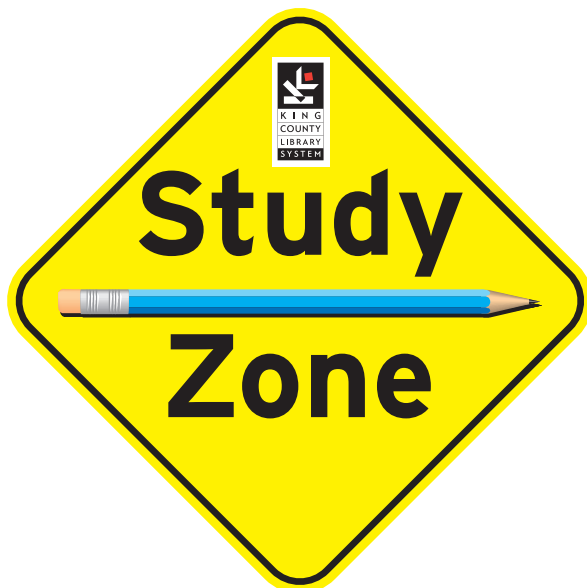
Literacy is the "entry pass" to education, society, culture and quality of life. Providing opportunities to enhance Early Literacy skills throughout our community.

- Reading to and with young children is one of the most effective ways parents can support brain development and early learning skills. In 2009, the KCLS Foundation continued to support the Ready to Read program with funding for **Fiestas de Alfabetización**, which provides early literacy training to Spanish-speaking parents. Fiestas involved 784 parents in the workshop series and 972 children participated in the programs.
- The KCLS Foundation provided support for the **Books for Babies** program. Public Health Nurses delivered 6,605 board books in seven languages, early literacy DVDs and reading tips to new mothers in low-income areas of the county. The **Come to the Library** DVD, also funded by the Foundation, features library spokespersons Dewey & Sketch, stories and reading tips. The DVD is also distributed free to offices of local pediatricians.

Learning: Enhancing the Pursuit of Knowledge

Motivating the improvement of reading and comprehension skills and encouraging the pursuit of knowledge.

- The popular **Summer Reading Program**—Be Creative @ Your Library—attracted 43,645 young readers and rewarded 23,754 readers for reaching their 1,000-minute goal. Pizza Hut generously supported the program, which helps kids maintain and enhance their reading skills during the summer. In addition to general support, the KCLS Foundation provided funding for buses to bring thousands of summer school students to libraries for programs and activities.
- Reading skills are vital to academic achievement, especially in the early grades. **Ready, Set, Read!** challenges kids to set goals and establish the reading habit. Eighteen school districts promote the program in elementary grades. In 2008-2009, the Foundation provided 10,067 books to students who completed their 400-minute goal.
- The **Global Reading Challenge** combines great books and quiz show questions in a fun and fast-paced contest. In 2008-2009, 1,666 fourth- and fifth-grade students on 238 teams from 18 school districts competed in these challenging “battle of the books” competitions. The program encourages students to work together as a team and the competitions are spirited, with the motto “You Always Win When You Read a Book.”
- Students seeking help with homework can visit **Study Zones** in nearly all libraries. Volunteers contributed more than 7,522 hours and tutored 5,940 students in Math, Science, Social Studies, English and Reading. The KCLS Foundation also funded free SAT classes for students in low-income communities.
- In 2008-2009, 5,805 teens read 32,577 books in the **Read 3, Get 1 Free** program. For each set of three reviews, a teen selected a free book as a reward (10,859 distributed). The Foundation also provided prizes for the **Read • Flip • Win** contest where teens filmed book reviews and trailers.



Be Creative
@ Your Library
King County Library System
2009 Summer Reading Program

Starts June 15!

KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
kcls.org

IF YOU ARE IN MIDDLE, JUNIOR HIGH OR HIGH SCHOOL... READ 3 BOOKS, WRITE 3 THOUGHTFUL REVIEWS, GET A PRIZE BOOK FREE!

R3 READ GET FREE
READ THREE, GET ONE FREE

2010 SUMMER EDITION

FREE!

YEAH!

KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
kcls.org
In partnership with the King County Library System Foundation

**Look to your
library for
information...**

**especially
now.**

Libraries: Reaching Out, Enhancing Access

Outreach Programs bring in visitors, many of whom experience the library for the first time. These programs enhance the patron experience and encourage repeat visits.

- The **Game On!** program is successful in bringing in new and returning youth, mostly boys, to local libraries. In 2009, the 813 Game On! events attracted 13,265 youth to libraries to test their skills with video games.
- The KCLS Foundation sees significant value in building a new generation of librarians who will serve our community in the decades ahead. The KCLS Foundation provided seven **scholarships for KCLS staff members** seeking their masters' degrees in library and information science.
- The KCLS Foundation welcomed more than 1,000 visitors to new library preview events. The Foundation presented awards to members of Friends of the Library groups and hosted more than 100 guests at the annual Friends of the Library recognition event.
- To assist residents during challenging economic times, the KCLS Foundation supported the award-winning **Look to Your Library** events, including a full week of extended hours and in-person coaching.

Celebrating Authors and the Joy of Reading

- The KCLS Foundation's annual **Literary Lions Gala**, held at the Bellevue Library, welcomed 325 guests and featured 30 local authors, including keynote speaker Garth Stein and emcee Nancy Pearl.
- Believing that reading is transformational, the KCLS Foundation funded extensive training in **readers' advisory** topics. Nancy Pearl, America's favorite book reviewer, presented workshops for all KCLS staff members. The Foundation also funded research into reading habits of residents in preparation for launching a major reading initiative for adults in 2011 titled TAKE TIME TO READ.
- The **Big Read** program, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, brought together thousands of readers to discuss the featured book, *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London. KCLS also presented programs for children, featuring a companion title, *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen.

Looking to the Future and Transforming Lives

Libraries are wondrous places to explore, with miles of books and resources to fill minds with ideas and information. Libraries provide abundant opportunities for our family, friends and neighbors to access vital resources that launch new projects and transform our lives. Investments in Early Literacy and reading programs will reap substantial benefits for our entire community.

Thank you for your philanthropic support and for helping to create a community of readers.



Garth Stein & Nancy Pearl

Transforming Lives The Story of One Young Reader

Given his unique challenges, nothing has ever come easy to our son, Will. Diagnosed at birth with a profound hearing loss, Will benefited from an early diagnosis, intervention services, hearing technology and a specialized oral-deaf preschool. Now Will can hear and understand spoken language, and he communicates at levels above his age group and rarely stops talking.

Will picked up a board book and at 2½ years old sounded out his first word. We assumed reading was around the corner. But as he got older, and the print in his books became smaller and more words appeared on each page, Will began to resist reading – vehemently. We chose to home-school him for kindergarten and to focus on basic skills in a pressure-free environment. Then we discovered that his vision was impaired, making reading difficult and frustrating.

After several months of vision therapy, phonics training and hours and hours reading aloud to him, Will slowly dropped his resistance and cautiously showed an interest in trying to read. He asked to try school again and started Kindergarten in June. During Will's second week of school, local librarians gave a presentation to his class about the summer reading program, Be Creative @ Your Library. Will came home very excited and he explained how you track your reading time by coloring in circles on an artist's pallet for every 20 minutes that you read, and best of all, there were prizes: a Pizza Hut personal pizza when the reader reaches 500 minutes and an 80-piece art kit at 1,000 minutes. **The summer reading program provided Will the incentive to read and read and read.**

Each morning we discussed how much we had read at bedtime the night before and Will would fill in the circles. Throughout the day, we would track the amount of time Will read. He used the same crayon, Crayola pine green, to color in his circles.

Will was so proud once he completed his first pallet in early July, and enthusiastically went on to filling in another. Mid-month, when the prize day arrived, Will was already at 1,260 minutes. Soon after his 'home' library branch (Fall City) opened, Will entered the library and was greeted warmly, and he proudly showed his completed pallet, which the librarian initialed at the 500 and 1,000 minute marks. Ceremoniously, Will received his certificate of completion, a bookmark, his Pizza Hut coupon and his treasured art kit. **He was told that he was the 1st person in Fall City to claim his prizes and this made him feel like the most accomplished reader on the planet.**

Will completed three more 1,000-minute pallets. He used the same crayon, until it snapped in half under the pressure of a dedicated hand. Each time, the librarian initialed his pallet and congratulated him with words full of praise, respect and enthusiasm. Instead of prizes, Will would write his name on a construction paper cut-out of a crayon or a paint splotch, which were displayed in the library window.

On September 15th, Will completed his final pallet. A full-time first grader, Will now reads at a 4th grade level.

Be Creative came along at the perfect time for Will. He moved from being a cautious reader who just needed a little confidence, incentive and praise (from people other than his parents) to a thriving and voracious reader whose skills are more developed and whose interest in learning more is limitless. **The program really got through to Will and turned his emerging reading skills into a love of reading!** And all this happened between June 15 and September 15, 2009.

Anne D.





*Jeanne Thorsen,
Executive Director
KCLS Foundation*

Our Vision

A community of avid readers and eager learners served by a public library that offers abundant learning opportunities for everyone. A community of lifelong learners that turns to and relies on the public library for inspiration and information.

A library that overflows with intellectual adventures, innovative programs and incredibly easy access to information. A library that is a vibrant and relevant component of our community.

Our Mission

The King County Library System Foundation promotes literacy, learning and libraries by providing support beyond public funding for initiatives and resources that enable the King County Library System to better serve the needs of our community.

Your Gifts Support Your Community and Your Library

Numerous organizations generously match their employees' donations, including Adobe Systems, AT&T, Avaya Global Services, Bank of America, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Boeing, Costco, Expedia, IBM, JP Morgan Chase, Google, MSNBC, Microsoft, Puget Sound Energy, Starbucks Coffee Company and ZymoGenetics.

The KCLS Foundation receives designated workplace gifts through Coalition for Charitable Choice, King County Employee Giving Program, King County Library System Workplace Giving Campaign, Microsoft Giving Campaign, TRUIST, United Way of King County and Washington State Combined Fund Drive. We greatly appreciate this community of literacy and lifelong learning.

The KCLS Foundation welcomes gifts of cash and pledges, honor and memorial gifts, in-kind gifts, stocks, bonds, bequests and other planned gifts. In 2009 the Foundation received \$872,030 in contributions, pledges and other support. The Foundation distributed \$620,022 in support of library programs and activities and spent \$397,963 on management and fundraising costs.

The KCLS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Foundation appreciates and acknowledges the generous corporate, foundation and community support provided through contributions of Board leadership, financial resources and in-kind services.

Leave A Legacy

You can transform lives by leaving a legacy for literacy, learning and libraries and by including the KCLS Foundation in your will or estate plan. Your legacy gift can benefit your favorite community library, provide future funding for books in the collection, ensure quality programming for children, teens and adults, or fund innovative pilot projects.

There are many creative ways to fulfill your charitable goals. You can leave cash, stocks, savings bonds, real estate and/or life insurance policies. And, by naming the KCLS Foundation as the primary or contingent beneficiary of your retirement assets, you can provide for the future through tax-advantaged strategies.

We welcome the opportunity to talk about your dreams for creating a community of readers and learners. For more information, contact Jeanne Thorsen, Executive Director, 425.369.3450, jthorsen@kcls.org or visit our website at www.kclsfoundation.org.

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The KCLS Foundation appreciates and acknowledges the generous individual, corporate and foundation support in our community.

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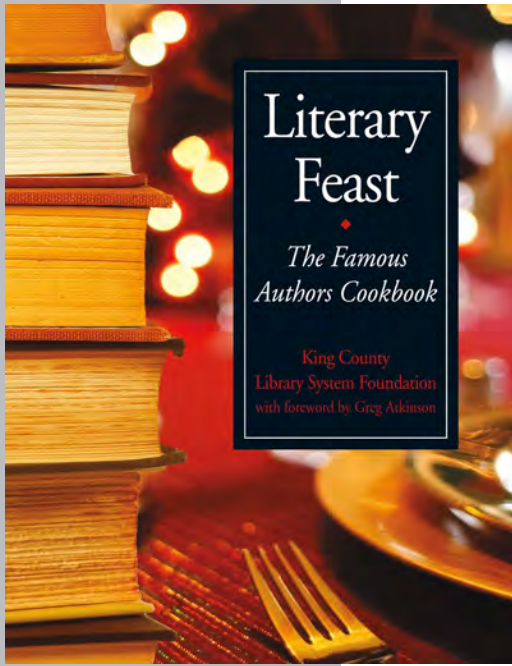
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The KCLS Foundation created *Literary Feast: The Famous Authors Cookbook* to benefit literacy and lifelong learning programs in communities across King County. This fascinating collection features nearly 100 authors and offers outstanding food, drink and dessert recipes along with author profiles and their stories about their favorite recipes. For more information, visit www.kclsfoundation.org.

Literary Feast can be ordered through:

- www.thriftbooks.com/literaryfeast
- www.thriftbooks.com/kclsf
- The KCLS Foundation office at foundation@kcls.org or 425.369.3448

King County
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*We apologize for any omissions or errors in the annual report.
Please notify the KCLS Foundation office of any corrections.*

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