



King County  
Library System  
Foundation

Literacy  
Learning  
Libraries

2011 Annual Report

# KCLS Foundation Annual Report

Dear Readers,

When Quin, our six-year-old grandson, called to ask us to pledge money for his school's read-a-thon, we said yes immediately. Two weeks later Quin reported that he had read the most pages in his grade and came in second place in his school.

We were not surprised that he did well. His extended family grandparent gene pool includes two librarians, a first grade teacher and three avid readers. His parents were early adopters of ebooks and they stock shelves full of books at home.

Quin's prize was a gift certificate to the local bookstore. We were surprised – and very pleased – to learn that once he picked out a book for himself, he used the remainder to buy a book for his four-year-old sister, Gretchen.

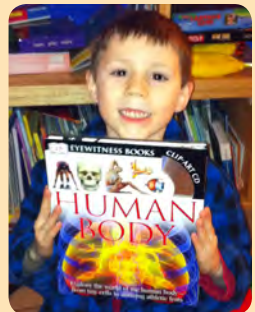
We know that not all children are as fortunate as Quin and Gretchen. Not all have reading role models and access to abundant books and great stories. Not all are challenged and encouraged to read.

Quin and Gretchen's story is an example of what we do every day in the Foundation. We create opportunities to bring literacy, learning and library access to all. We seek out opportunities for children to discover the joy of reading and we seek out resources to fund new initiatives. And, we share that experience with 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 interests, languages and cultures. This annual report highlights the programs and activities for 2011. We have ambitious plans for 2012 and beyond that celebrate readers, writers and libraries.

Thank you for sharing—and for creating a community of readers.

  
Jeanne Thorsen, Executive Director



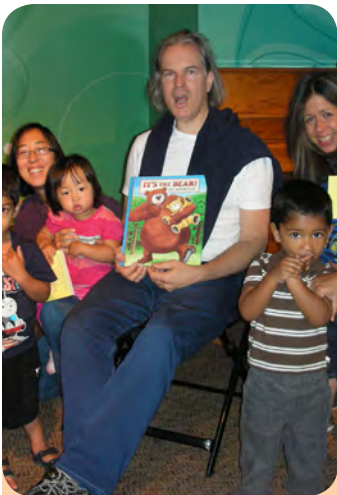
**King County Library System** spans 2,300 square miles and serves 1.3 million people through 47 libraries and an extensive array of online services and community outreach programs. In 2011, KCLS was one of the busiest public library in the United States, with 21.8 million items checked out. Of this figure, 446,870 eBooks were downloaded (a 355% increase over 2010).

It was a banner year for the library with 40.3 million web visits (a 30% increase over 2010) and 10.3 million people visited their local library. Residents signed up for 100,800 new library cards and a total of 970,141 people in King County have and regularly use a KCLS library card.

For its extensive work in anticipating and meeting community needs, KCLS was named **Library of the Year** in 2011 by Library Journal and Gale/Cengage Learning which noted: "The innovations and programs, the creative management of KCLS resources, the ability to stretch but still serve the principles and core values of librarianship, the strong public support, and the vision for the system's future makes it clear that KCLS is more deserving than ever to be named Library of the Year."

**Literacy:  
Creating a  
Community of  
Readers**

*Literacy is the entry pass to society, culture, and quality of life. These programs provide opportunities to enhance literacy for young children in our community.*



*The KCLS Foundation sponsored programs featuring renowned children's book author and illustrator Jez Alborough. Hundreds of children met the author at library and school visits.*

**The KCLS Foundation provides funding for new programs that address community needs, for value-added resources and support that helps KCLS extend services in the libraries, online and through outreach in our communities.**

**In 2011, more than 200,000 children and adults participated in KCLS Foundation-supported programs. Here is a snapshot of activities.**

Reading to and with young children is one of the most effective ways parents can support brain development and early learning skills. In 2011, the KCLS Foundation continued to support **Fiestas de Alfabetización**,



which provides early literacy training to Spanish-speaking parents. The program involved 2,356 parents and children in a series of workshops.

To engage parents and in-home childcare providers, **Play and Learn** groups in the Foster and Woodmont Libraries involved 1,429 parents, caregivers and children focused on early literacy skills.

The KCLS Foundation provided support for the **Books for Babies** program. Public Health Nurses delivered 2,259 board books in English and in seven languages, early literacy DVDs and reading tips to new mothers in low-income areas of the county.

The KCLS Foundation provided additional funding for collections in the four **Library2Go!** vans. Library2Go! made 210 visits to childcares, senior



facilities and community stops, serving 19,420 residents. The majority of the visits were to low-income in-home daycares, offering caregivers and young children easy and consistent access to books.

*"I love coming here!  
I want to stay here all day long!"  
A child visiting Library2Go!*



The popular **Summer Reading Program, One World, Many Stories** attracted 45,540 young readers and rewarded 23,380 halfway prizes and 20,046 final prizes for participants who reached their 1,000-minute goal. In addition to general support, the KCLS Foundation provided funding for the grand prizes and funding for buses to bring 3,076 summer school students to libraries for summer reading 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 2011-12, the Foundation provided 15,770 books to students who completed their 400-minute goal, a 22% increase over the previous school year.

**You Choose the Next Newbery** is a literature-based program that encourages school age children to read, evaluate and talk about their favorite books of the year, then vote for a KCLS winner. The Foundation funded buses to bring the classes to the presentation event and books for class teams, which involved 290 students. Students, teachers and parents embrace the program, commending children's librarians for reaching out to students beyond library buildings.

The **Global Reading Challenge** combines great books and quiz show questions in a fun and fast-paced contest. In 2010-2011, 1,841 fourth-and fifth-grade students on 263 teams from 53 schools in 12 school districts competed in these "battle of the books" competitions. The Stocker Foundation and the KCLS Foundation provided the books for the teams. 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!"

*"When my younger child asked to join a GRC team, I wasn't sure how it would go, but said, 'Sure, let's go for it! We've read books together, and she's done fabulously! It's SO cool to see a competition based on books."*

*Parent, Auburn Library*

*Global Reading Challenge winning team  
St. Thomas School of Medina.*



**Learning:  
Enhancing  
the Pursuit of  
Knowledge**

*These programs motivate the improvement of reading and comprehension skills and encourage the joy of learning.*

*"Because of your support, my class engaged in rich and meaningful discussions, eagerly shared their opinions and questions and literally dove into quality literature with an eagerness that brought smiles to my face and the faces of their parents! The children read, analyzed, critiqued and evaluated eight novels and made deep connections to other novels and their own lives."*

*Deborah Fullerton,  
Moorlands  
Elementary School*

**Libraries:  
Reaching Out,  
Enhancing Access**

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

*"Both of my teenagers did the test prep and attended the scholarship/financial workshop. My daughter received scholarships and her FAFSA resulted in a financial package that should cover all the rest of her first year expenses. My son's expenses have been minimal because of his FAFSA and financial aid package. Thank you for helping them plan and focus on what they needed to do."*

*Kathleen Rojas, Kent*

In 2011, 8,395 teens read 23,185 books in the **Read 3, Get 1 Free** program. For each set of three reviews, a teen selected a free book as a reward. The KCLS Foundation also provided prizes for the **Read • Flip • Win** contest, which involved scores of teens who filmed book reviews and trailers.

Students seeking help with homework can visit **Study Zones** at 36 libraries with in-person and online tutors. In 2011, more than 300 volunteers contributed 13,401 hours and tutored 9,350 students in Math, Science, Social Studies, English and Reading. KCLS offers the largest volunteer homework help program of any public library in the United States.

Of the 48% of the students who attend Study Zone two or more days per week, 90% reported that Study Zone helps them complete their homework assignments, 66% reported improved grades and 64% felt more confident about their school work.

In 2011, the KCLS Foundation funded **SAT prep classes** and workbooks for 88 students in South King County.

The KCLS Foundation provided funding for the **Life After High School** series, giving teens and their families the tools to help make decisions about their future. The KCLS Foundation hosted 16 of the 63 programs, which drew 240 teens and parents.



Reading is transformational. The KCLS Foundation and the King County Library System launched **Take Time to READ**, a three-year initiative to help residents encounter reading opportunities and materials and in unexpected places. Reading chairs and Quick Reads shelves were placed in community venues and stocked with materials. Book cover posters appeared in 15 communities. Gift of Time cards were distributed and adults participated in a Winter Reading Program.

Take Time to READ was honored with the **Urban Libraries Council Innovation Award**, the prestigious **John Cotton Dana Award** from the American Library Association and a **PR News Platinum Public Relations Award**.



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The KCLS Foundation co-hosted the **Flavors of the World Cultural Fair** at the Federal Way Library, which brought together several hundred people and numerous community partners. The event featured a dazzling display of world flags and dance, food, music and story times from several countries and cultures.

The KCLS Foundation provided funding for **Literacy Toward Citizenship** classes in the libraries. More than 400 immigrants attended classes and received free workbooks in preparation for the US Naturalization Test.

Funding from The Tateuchi Foundation provided support for **Job Search Basics**, an extensive array of online videos, resources and contacts in English, Spanish, Chinese, Somali and Vietnamese.

Libraries are gathering places and the KCLS Foundation welcomed more than 500 visitors to preview events at the new Kenmore Library and at the remodeled and expanded Lake Forest Park and Newport Way Libraries.

The KCLS Foundation sees significant value in encouraging a new generation of libraries and provided four **Scholarships** for KCLS staff members seeking their masters' degrees in library and information science.

The KCLS Foundation presented awards to members of the Friends of the Library Groups and hosted 140 guests at the annual Friends of the Library recognition event.

## **Libraries Transform Lives**

*Libraries are wondrous places to explore, with miles of books and an abundant array of resources to excite minds with ideas and information. Libraries provide opportunities for our family, friends, colleagues and neighbors to access vital resources to launch new projects and businesses, chart new career paths and to help us find our way in these challenging times.*

*Libraries change—and transform—lives.*

*The KCLS Foundation celebrates two decades of funding innovative programs, community activities and special collections and we look forward to launching new initiatives. Thank you for your support.*

The annual **Literary Lions Gala** event welcomed 450 guests, featured keynote author Vince Flynn and emcee Nancy Pearl and lauded the outstanding work of 30 local authors. The event also showcases KCLS programs, buildings and services.



*Keynote speaker Vince Flynn, KCLS Foundation President Kathy Brown, KCLS Director Bill Ptacek, Emcee Nancy Pearl and Foundation Director Jeanne Thorsen.*

## **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.*

## **On the cover:**

*The Library  
by Liliana Gelman*

*These images are from a series of ten digital photographs on display at the Burien Library. The artist lives and works in Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

## **Your Gifts Support Your Library and Your Community**

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

The KCLS Foundation receives designated workplace gifts through the 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 support for literacy and lifelong learning.

The KCLS Foundation welcomes gifts of cash and pledges, honor and memorial gifts, in-kind gifts, stocks, bonds, bequests and planned gifts.

In 2011 the Foundation received \$1,142,954 in contributions and pledges. The Foundation distributed \$636,221 in support of library programs and activities and spent \$472,405 on management and fundraising costs.

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

The KCLS 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 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 Cindy Sharek, Director of Major Gifts, at 425.369.3225, [cjsharek@kcls.org](mailto:cjsharek@kcls.org) or visit our website at [www.kclsfoundation.org](http://www.kclsfoundation.org).

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*\*Joined the Board of  
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*Dr. Ben Goffe presented KCLS  
 with a donation of this incredible  
 abstract by Marc Aronson.  
 "Broom Dance 3" has a new  
 home in the Burien library.*

## Book Awards Circle

### A

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509 Wines\*  
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Jeanne and Donald Adams  
Margaret Adams  
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Brenda and Luis Adrian  
Robert Afflebrach  
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Mary Akiyama  
Miyako Akutagawa  
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Marilynn and Jeffrey Albert  
Rosalie Alhadeff  
Katrina Allemeir  
Susan Allen  
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Anoop Anantha  
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Jean and Arnold Arons  
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Muriel Austin  
Dorothy Ayers

### B

Ruth Bacharach  
Akhtar Badshah  
Carrie Bagatell  
Judy Bailey and Tim Wegner  
Aruna Balasubramanian  
Bria Ball  
Gabriel Banfi  
Gloria Barello  
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Diana Lee Barnes

Jacqueline Barnett  
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Ara Bernardi  
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Martha and David Boes  
Joanne and Giles Bohannon  
Christine Boldizar  
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Jessica Bonebright  
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Linda and Charles Bonin



### Book-It Reperatory Theatre\*

Lana Bostic  
Ingrid Boswell  
Annette and J. Scott Bowen  
Jeff Bowling  
Kathryn Bradley  
Rowena Branch  
Dana and Kent Breidenstein  
Constance Brennand  
Raleigh Briggs  
Kerry Brink  
Don Broda  
Mary Ann Brokaw  
Amye and Patrick Bronson-Doherty  
Patti Brooke and Jude Kavalam  
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Erik Brooks  
Jean Marie and William Brough  
Theodore Brown  
Allison Brucker  
Mary and Tom Brucker  
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Barbara Bryant  
Kristi and Christopher Bryant  
Estelle Budne  
Kristin Bunzel  
Jennifer Burch and Jan DenBeste  
Theodore Burke and Judy Rose  
Wylie Burke  
Gay Burton  
Sally and Charles Butler  
Carlene and Frank Buty  
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Teresa and Matt Byers

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 Siva Challa  
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 Judi Chandless  
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 I-Ting Chen  
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 Yining Chen  
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Hallie Chouaniere  
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