

King County
Library System
Foundation

Literacy
Learning
Libraries

Gratitude Report

2013

Dear Friends,

What's your library story? Does it feature the library you visited as a child—the place where you first discovered a love of books? Or does it involve meeting your sweetheart to study at the local library when you were an undergraduate? Or did the library come alive for you as a grandmother bringing your grandchild to an afternoon story time in a KCLS community library? However you came to discover, appreciate, and support the King County Library System Foundation—thank you.

The KCLS Foundation exists to support the mission of the King County Library System—to provide free, open, and equal access to ideas and information to all members of the community. In 2013, the Foundation helped bring programs beyond the walls of the library. By partnering with the food banks, day camps, and local parks your gifts help engage families including those who are often left out of traditional library services. Likewise, robust and dynamic programming for adults such as *A Place at the Table*, attracted hundreds of patrons—many of whom reported it was their first time attending a KCLS program.

Your support helped create opportunities for expanded and new KCLS programs. Thanks in part to your 2013 gift:

- More than 55,000 children and teens participated in the 2013 Summer Reading Programs
- Outreach programs like *Let's Read!* were delivered to more than 90,000 people
- Free tutoring sessions were held for more than 9,000 teens in 40 different libraries

Your gifts make a difference in the lives of the millions of visitors who frequent our 48 community libraries, who enjoy library programs in their communities, and take advantage of the ever-popular eBook collection. Thank you for helping make the KCLS one of the biggest, busiest and best library systems in the country.

With appreciation,

Elizabeth Castleberry
Executive Director
King County Library System Foundation



KCLS Foundation Board member, Berta Seltzer.



Teens from Foster Library thank you for your support.



Young KCLS patrons David Preciado and Pedro Gutierrez check out books via Library2Go!



Mary Jane Garana shows off at a Let's Read! event.

Your Gifts at Work KCLS Program Support

Literacy: Encouraging Readers of All Ages

Play & Learn programs were presented in four of the System's busiest libraries—Auburn, Foster, Kent and Woodmont. These fun and dynamic programs were designed for caregivers and for children from birth to age five. Facilitators engaged more than 6,000 people in activities which help parents and caregivers support a child's learning at home. Services were offered in English, Spanish and Mandarin.

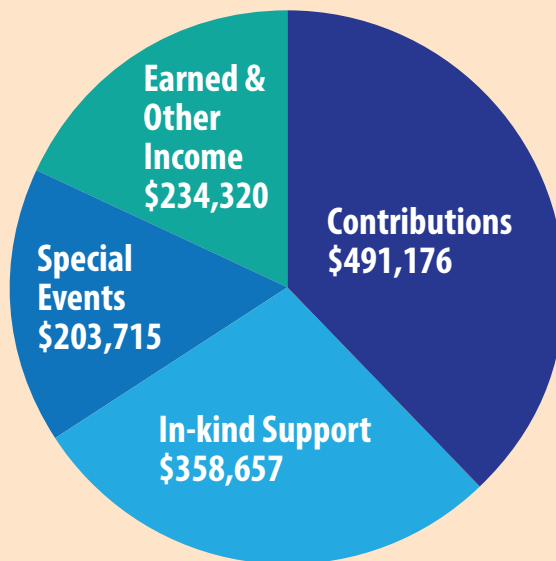
Learning: Enhancing the Pursuit of Knowledge

Summer Reading with KCLS was the answer for many families who struggled to find summer programs and activities their children would enjoy while still developing their child's learning skills. The challenge was even more acute for families who could not afford or could not access summer school. More than 55,000 young readers—from preschoolers to high schoolers, participated in programs throughout the service area; and thanks to your contributions the KCLS Foundation was able to provide buses to bring nearly 4,000 summer school students to the libraries.

Libraries: Reaching Out, Enhancing Access

Launched in 2012, the Let's Read! program received a big boost thanks in part to a grant from the KCLS Foundation. In partnership with YMCA Day Camps, local food banks, parks and community centers—children and communities not served via traditional outreach had the opportunity to participate in KCLS activities like puppet shows, signing up for library cards and visiting with librarians. Kids of all ages were also invited to take home a book to start their own personal library.

2013 Revenues



Total \$1,287,868

The KCLS Foundation distributed nearly \$800,000 in support of library programs and activities and spent \$496,512 on management and fundraising operations.



2013 Literary Lions with Master of Ceremonies, Nancy Pearl.

Donor Profile: Shannon Smith

For Shannon Smith and her family, there is always a library on the way to wherever they are going. "We use the main Bellevue Library, the Kirkland Library, Library Connection @ Crossroads, Lake Hills—basically we know where all the libraries are in Redmond, Bellevue and Kirkland."

Shannon and her husband Tom Hickey have two children, ages 9 and 5½, and the library is a constant in their lives. "We are huge readers and there is no way we could afford or even have room for all the books we want to read," she says. Great kids' collections, Choice Reads with new fiction, the latest nonfiction titles, and publications on topics of interest from around the world guarantee there is always a bag full of books to check out.

"The library is this amazing community resource that everyone should know about. We support the KCLS Foundation because it funds really important programs and services in the libraries and out in the community like Summer Learning and outreach to teens," she says.

"I expect our libraries will continue to find new ways to be accessible and create interactive opportunities, but even as libraries continue to evolve and change, I know my kids won't outgrow the library."

Summing up how her family feels about libraries, Shannon says "For us, going to the library is a family event. We love picking out new books and being introduced to books we might never have known about. I can't imagine our lives without the library."

**King County
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The King County Library System spans 2,300 square miles and serves 1.3 million people through 48 libraries and an extensive array of online services and community outreach programs.

In 2013, KCLS was one of the busiest public libraries in the United States, with 22 million items checked out. KCLS was the leading public library in the United States with circulation of eBooks, checking out 1.2 million titles.

It was a banner year for the library with 48 million web visits and 9.9 million visits to the libraries. More than 1 million people in King County have a KCLS library card.

KCLS was honored to receive awards for libraries and services in 2013, including Honorable Mention for the Page Fellowship Program from the Urban Libraries Council, and Civic Design Merit Award for the Bellevue Library Parking Garage from the AIA Washington Council.



New library card holders Emily and Samuel Nicholson at KCLS program.

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.



Authors Mackenzie Bezos and Jessi Bloom.

Keynote Speaker

Best-selling author of *Bel Canto* and *State of Wonder*, Ann Patchett.



Save the Date!
Literary Lions Gala
Saturday, March 28, 2015



Thank you

**King County
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KCLS Foundation Board member Dean Smith and his wife Shari Wetherby with their guests at the 2013 Literary Lions Gala.

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