



Donald W. Reynolds

LIBRARY

Serving Baxter County

2015 Annual Report



Your Library

The year 2015 was a year of milestones for the Baxter County Library.



Daily Visits
602 Average

We not only marked five years in our beautiful Donald W. Reynolds Library, we celebrated our one millionth visitor. Also noteworthy was a significant change in Library staff with the retirement of four valued Library team members, including twenty-six-year veteran, Library Director Gwen Khayat.

Change is challenging, but throughout this transitional year, our Library team remained focused on maintaining the same high level of service and commitment to lifelong learning that is the Baxter County Library's trademark.



Served
40,857 Population

Circulation
330,864 ^{Items} annually
eBooks and eAudiobooks
9% of items circulated

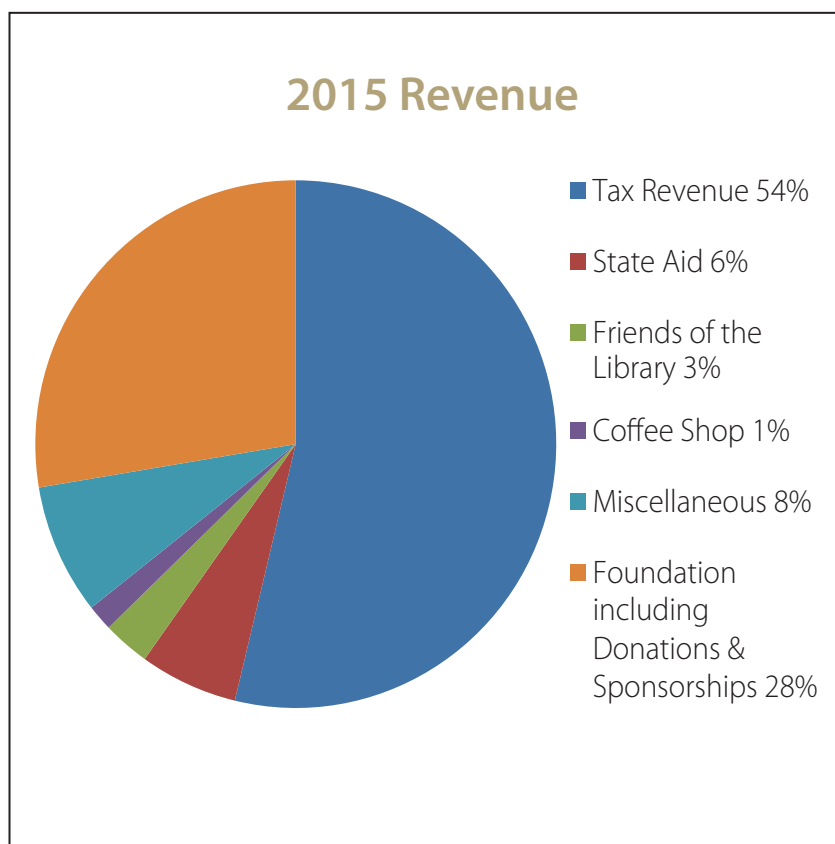




The Library reached learners in all seasons of life with programs such as NASA's *Here, There, and Everywhere* exhibit, the *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* early literacy program, and a variety of innovative activities and classes for all ages.

In July 2015, Library revenue took a major hit with a statewide cut in public library funding. The cut amounted to 19% of the Library's annual state funding, or about \$16,000. To be fiscally responsible, the Baxter County Library Board voted to cut hours of operation by closing on Sundays.

Consequently, even with the unexpected changes in revenue and changes in personnel, the Library's operating expenses remained in line with budget. A one mill property tax provided 54% of total revenue. The Library's sponsorship program brought in \$41,500, enabling Library programs and collections to remain at consistent levels.



2015 Highlights

Celebrating Gwen Khayat

The Gwen Khayat Teen Library was unveiled during a reception for retiring Library Director Gwen Khayat in June. Passionate in her belief that education is the means by which we improve our lives and our communities, Gwen led the Library with an unwavering commitment to providing lifelong learning opportunities for the people of Baxter County since 1989.

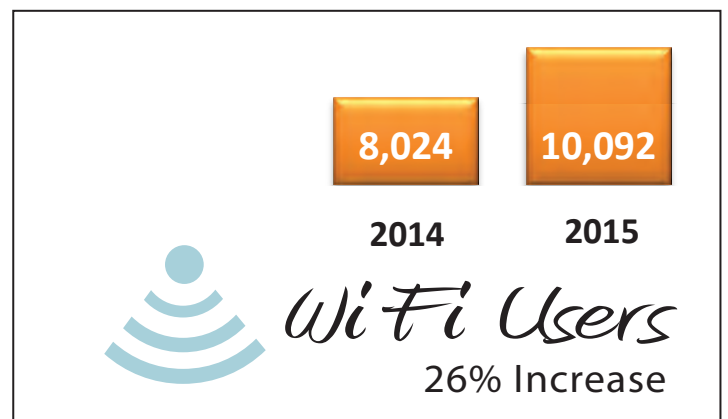
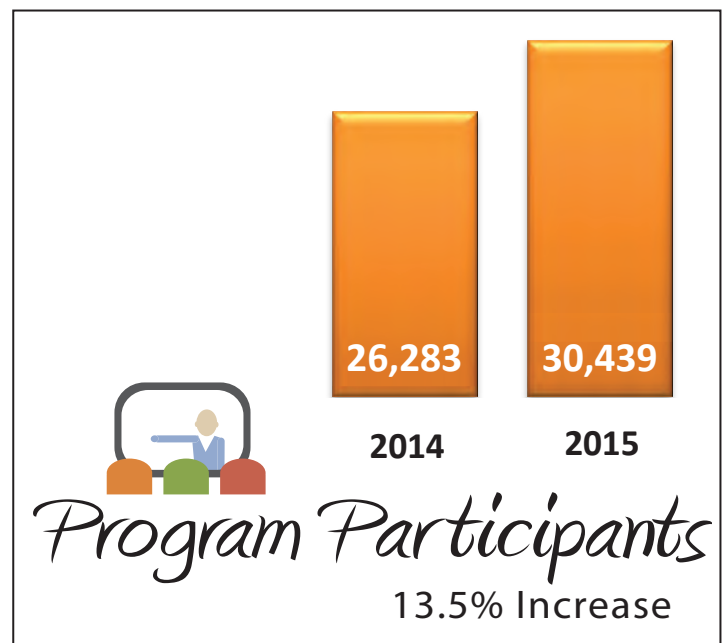


A Year of Retirements

In addition to Gwen retiring, Cataloger Susan Nixon retired in January after 21 years of dedicated service. Children's Librarian Deborah Edmonds, responsible for building the children's program over the last 16 years, retired in August. And circulation and tech guru Jeff Rawlings retired in August after nearly five years of service.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

1000 Books Before Kindergarten wrapped up its second year with more than 400 children participating. The groundbreaking program encourages parents, grandparents, and friends to read with their children. With incentives built around the joy and exploration of reading, children move through the multi-year program at their own pace. We are proud to announce that *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* has graduated 43 children since its inception.



STUDIO 300 Maker Space

The Library's maker space got a name – Studio 300, and welcomed over 200 children, teens, and adults to get their DIY on, using high-tech and low-tech tools with hands-on projects like jewelry making and Arduino electronics.

Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibit

Library staff and volunteers brought this traveling NASA exhibit to life with exciting demonstrations of universal laws of physics. Over 760 area students visited the exhibit on school field trips.

New Foundation Fundraiser

The Library Foundation introduced a new and very popular fundraiser in 2015 – *Pub Night at the Library*, which raised \$14,000 for the Foundation. Craft brews from a variety of regional breweries were sampled along with good food, musical entertainment, and a *Library Heroes for Hire* auction.



Support

Volunteers

More than 150 volunteers shared their time and talents with the Library in 2015. They sorted and shelved, helped patrons navigate technology, guided children and teens, prepared collection materials, and worked Library special events. The common thread - a love of the Library and a desire to serve their community.

Volunteers were honored for their Library service. The honorees included Margaret Park and Mary Peterson, who earned Gold-level Presidential Volunteer Service awards for contributing more than 500 volunteer hours.

Five volunteers received Silver-level honors for contributing 250 to 499 service hours. The honorees were Ruth Ann Stautzenberger, Eileen Jenkins, John Reckard, Marie Kelly and Nealus Wheeler.

Library Sponsors

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the following programs and services were made possible in 2015:

\$250+ Level

Children's Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Nancy Knopp & Ken Schultz

Young Arkansas Artists Exhibit

Danny & Nell Ponder

Cell Phone Help Sessions

Mike & Joyce Cameron

Tele-Tales

Randy & Susan Norcross

Teen Banned Book Week

Reading Women Book Club

\$500+ Level

Children's Teddy Beddy Bear Event

Betty Bogart for her sister and her sister's grandchildren

Money Smart Week

John & Kay Beecroft

Teen Targeted Tutoring

Dan & Bonnie Brown and Kirk & Amber Brown

Classic Sundays

Barbara Wright

Anime Mini Convention

Andrew & Christina White

\$750+ Level

Family Holiday Theater

In Memory of Kathy Herzing

The Baxter Bulletin Microfilm Collection

In Memory of Richard "Dick" Weerts

The Artmobile

Julie Wright & Toni DeMers Olden

\$1000+ Level

Teen Summer Reading Program

Anonymous

Children's Summer Saturday Shows

Mendel & Stephanie Hughes

Tween Summer Programs

Mendel & Stephanie Hughes

Beginning Computer Classes

Tom & Ann Schmuecker

Tween Programs

William & Leta Snow

Children's Collection

Jess & Elizabeth VanderStek



Library Volunteers

12,230 Hours | \$282,390 Value

Value based on estimated volunteer time in state-by-state rankings by the Independent Sector, a leadership network for some 600 nonprofits, foundations, and corporate giving programs.

Another 45 volunteers earned Bronze-level honors for working 100 to 249 hours a piece.

And 22 volunteers earned certificates from the Arkansas Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support for contributing 50 to 99 hours to the Library.

Friends of the Library

In 2015, the Baxter County Friends of the Library, those supporters who graciously volunteer their time to raise funds for Library programming and services, provided more than \$35,000 in support to the Library. Many

2015 Support Provided by Friends of the Library	
\$ 12,399	Staff Development
\$ 3,547	Programs & Exhibits
\$ 15,446	Materials
\$ 3,725	Scholarship Fund
\$ 35,117	TOTAL

children’s and multi-generational programs, such as the *Arkansas Heritage* program series, were made possible in 2015 with funds raised at the Friends’ used book sales and annual auction. The Friends of the Library Scholarship Fund awarded one \$2,725 first place scholarship and two \$500 honorable mention scholarships to area graduating seniors in 2015.

Library Foundation

A group of dedicated Library supporters serves on the Baxter County Library Foundation’s Board of Trustees. The Foundation’s financial support is a sizeable and essential supplement to the Library’s operating budget. More than 150 donors supported the Library Foundation in 2015. Donations, sponsorships, paver stone sales, earnings from two restricted funds, and fundraising proceeds provided 28% of the Library’s operating budget in 2015.

The Foundation held three fundraisers in 2015 – the 11th annual *Ante Up for the Library* Texas Hold’em Tournament, the new *Pub Night at the Library*, and Arkansas Gives Day. Arkansas Gives Day, a one-day, online fundraiser coordinated by the Arkansas Community Foundation, matched a percentage of contributions, making donors’ dollars stretch further. Including the match, the Library Foundation raised over \$27,000 that day.

2015 Support Provided by Library Foundation	
\$ 102,000	Programs and Materials
\$ 102,000	Maintenance
\$ 114,212	General Library Support
\$ 6,396	<i>Freemal</i> Downloadable Music Subscription Sponsorship
\$ 4,919	Volunteer Program
\$ 6,757	Genealogy Collection
\$ 4,400	Exhibit Sponsorship
\$ 340,684	TOTAL



Looking Forward

It is an honor to follow such an amazing leader as Gwen Khayat and a privilege for me to serve the people of Baxter County as Library Director. This next year will be an exciting time as we come out of some transitional months and look forward to what the next several years hold for the Library.

We just wrapped up a five-year strategic plan in 2015, so it is time to create a new one. The plan will serve as a framework for our staff as the Library continues to be a resource for lifelong learning opportunities for every stage of life.

For our youngest demographic, our focus will be on developing early literacy skills. As a public library, we have a window of opportunity with young children and families before children enter school, where we can have a real impact, getting them prepared to learn to read. The Library's current *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program will continue to be a major component of our children's programming in 2016.

For school-aged children and teens, Library programs such as *Crazy 8s Math Club*, debuting in 2016, will be designed with STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math) components, cultivating genuine interest in these subjects and setting this age group up for future success.

Expect new *Computer Basics* classes, *Try Something New Nights*, and *Studio 300 Maker Space* activities to stretch our minds. Also, in 2016, look for exciting book displays, a Baxter County Library *Goodreads* page, and the *2016 Reading Challenge*, connecting adult readers to the Library's collection and reminding us of the joy of reading.

People of all ages will enjoy *Eat Well, Play Well*, an interactive exhibit all about nutrition and fitness, coming in February 2016.

All in all, 2016 will be a great year as the Library continues to evolve with the ever-changing needs of our community.

Kim Crow Sheaner
Library Director



The Baxter County Library is a bridge to expanded horizons, opened minds, and enriched lives. The Baxter County Library provides lifelong resources that educate, inspire, and entertain in a welcoming environment.