THE COMMUNITY

EST. 1955 · KETCHUM, IDAHO

Annual Report and Fund Drive NOVEMBER 2015

PROMOTING LITERACY AND LITERATURE IN CENTRAL IDAHO FOR 60 YEARS

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THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY BRINGS INFORMATION, IDEAS, AND INDIVIDUALS TOGETHER TO ENHANCE THE CULTURAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.

It does so solely through the generosity of individual donations and through revenue from the Gold Mine Thrift Store and Gold Mine Consign.

WE RELY ON YOU.

Anyone can get a CARD here for FREE!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING!



Dear Friends,

This year, as we celebrate The Community Library's 60th anniversary, we honor how deeply rooted the Library is in central Idaho's culture. I love finding evidence of the Library around the valley: a book stamped "The Community Library" that I see someone reading on a Mountain Rides bus; an article in the Idaho Mountain Express featuring historic photos from

the Library's regional history collection; the visitor lingering on the sidewalk to access the Library's high-speed internet with a smart phone; the great outfit that a friend boasts she "got at the Gold Mine."

And of course, there are those traces of the Library that we cannot see – that exist as **flashes in our individual imaginations** when we open a book, listen to a story, talk to a neighbor, or simply sit by the fireplace and think.

As we reflect on 60 years of service, we also plan for the future. Since the fall of 2014, we have gathered thousands of community comments and conducted a detailed self-review to analyze the Library's facilities and how they meet the community's needs and the Library's goals. The "Re-Imagining the Library" initiative will ensure the ongoing safe and welcoming nature of the Library's building, expand archival storage for regional history and special collections, enhance the capacity and flexibility of the lecture hall, and provide greater access to technology while preserving the rich collection of physical books.

The Community Library has 60 years of roots in central Idaho, and those roots enable reach. Thank you for the strong community engagement that makes the Library the dynamic place that it is.

Sincerely,

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Jenny Emery Davidson, Ph.D. Executive Director

PROMOTE LITERACY

Through more than 127,000 books and materials, 24 computers, and 27 library staff members who love to help, The Community Library works to expand peoples' literacy in the written word, spoken language, and information technology.

- We issued 1,102 new library cards in the past year!
- People checked out 62,540 print books and 37,688 audiobooks, DVDs, and CDs.
- The Library initiated the "Books for Babies" program this spring to provide a board book and literacy information for every child born in Blaine County.
- 179 children and teens read more than 200,000 hours through the summer reading program.
- The Children's Library staff members gave 62 presentations to elementary school classes.
- 30 people participated in the first free adult English as a Second Language class at the Library this summer.
- <u>All the Light We Cannot See</u> by Pulitzer Prize-winning Idaho writer Anthony Doerr circulated 170 times this past year in multiple formats, including large print, audio, and digital. (He spoke at The Community Library just a year ago!)
- The most circulated children's author was Stan Berenstain. The Berenstain Bears books circulated 363 times!
- Hundreds of people attended the Library's famous free tech classes with Paul Zimmerman.

"This summer, The Community Library's reading contest has been a HUGE success for my 9-year old son. He has never before wanted to read to himself or out loud to someone else. He signed up because he likes contests and really wants a new bike - what kid doesn't? Now.... suddenly the first thing he says when he wakes up in the morning is, 'Can we please read?'! Now for the first time ever, I find him reading on his own for pleasure. What better result of a kids' summer library contest could you wish for?" - Hilary Weekes

Birds

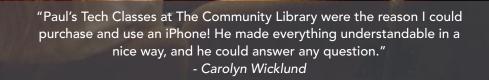
ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY DISCOURSE

The Community Library provides a commons where people can gather and discuss a diversity of ideas, stimulated by books from the stacks, programs in the lecture hall, art on the walls, and conviviality around the fireplace.

- Approximately 4,000 people attended programs in the Lecture Hall on topics ranging from birds of prey to Charlie Hebdo to author Hampton Sides on arctic expeditions.
- The Library provided a venue for dozens of community organizations to hold meetings and public programs, including:

Blaine County School District | City of Ketchum | Environmental Resource Center | Idaho Power | Royal Larkspur Players | Snake River Alliance | Sun Valley Artist Series | Sun Valley Economic Development Group | Sun Valley Institute for Resilience | Sun Valley Nordic Festival | Sun Valley Opera | Sun Valley Summer Symphony | Sun Valley Wellness Festival | The Drug Coalition | The Family of Woman Film Festival | The Hunger Coalition | The Wood River Women's Foundation | Wood River Studio Tour | YMCA

- Discourse can be digital, too: People logged in to the Library's public computers 24,698 times for a total of 17,898 minutes of use.
- 120 people engaged in three days of discussion and presentations on Ernest Hemingway during the September Hemingway Festival.
- 190,000 people passed through the Gold Mine Thrift Store it's a social hub of town!



PROVIDE CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE

"It's a place where I can relax and distract myself from my worries." - Sixteen-year old Danfer works two jobs in Ketchum during his summer vacation from high school. He comes to the Library to use the computers in his breaks between work.

> "The Library grounds you." - Carol Harlig

"Saturday for me is a day to recharge...instead of going for a hike or bike ride like so many folks in Sun Valley, I go to The Community Library. Walking through the cavernous stacks is a Harry Potter-like experience...each book shouting 'choose me, choose me!' When a book shouts loud enough, I pull it from the shelf and if it tumbles into my hands, it goes home with me...if it's difficult to remove, it stays. By the time I leave the Library, I usually have four or five books, each has spoken to me in some way." - Richard Odom

"Thank you! You gave me a library card when I had no I.D. to give. You gave this invisible woman a chance to 'be' to read, to browse, rent movies - when I couldn't do much else without an identity. You're terriffic!" - Anonymous

110.00

FOSTER CREATIVITY

Within The Community Library, books are written, school projects are developed, art is made, and imaginative worlds are conjured. The Library provides space, tools, and inspiration to help creativity happen.

- Guitars were checked out from the Library 73 times, and dozens of people participated in a regular Guitar Circle to learn how to play.
- During regular "maker" activities in the Children's Library, kids drew story book illustrations, sewed wearable art, built towers with legos, danced and sang.
- A rabbit, a tarantula, and a turtle visited the Library during the weekly Science Time (but not at the same time!) and got kids thinking about the natural world.
- Library staff read poetry at 2 city council meetings during National Poetry Month in April.
- Charlie Brandt author of I Heard You Paint Houses worked on his next book by a window.
- A seed library was launched in April to encourage local gardeners to exchange seeds and growing tips.
- In the Lecture Hall, we exhibited photographs by David Stoecklein, Laura McPhee, David Friedman, and more Wood River Valley artists.
- Who knows how many creative discoveries were made by Gold Mine customers?

"I was educated in the Ketchum Community Library. My parents both worked for Sun Valley and I went to elementary school in Ketchum, so I had two hours every day after school before they picked me up. I had read through the children's section by fifth grade, and started on adult novels and science fiction after that. I can't remember when all that eclectic reading jelled into a world view, but sometime in high school I remember realizing that the world my high-school curriculum described was one of many.... I've been hanging out in libraries ever since."

- John Rember

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DEEPEN A SENSE OF PLACE IN CENTRAL IDAHO

The Regional History Department and the Sun Valley Museum of History preserve and share the many dimensions of central Idaho history and culture, from Union Pacific photographs to oral histories to vintage ski equipment and Ernest Hemingway artifacts.

- 2 new permanent exhibits opened at the Sun Valley Museum of History: "Railroad Ties: Tracking the History of Sun Valley" and "Hemingway at Home in Idaho."
- **3 local legends** were inducted into the Sun Valley Ski Hall of Fame at the Library Lecture Hall in February: Muffy Davis, Sigi Engl, and Jack Simpson.
- Students from the Sage School created a local history exhibit based on research in the Regional History Department.
- A traveling exhibit from the Idaho State Historical Society, "Those Who Served: Honoring Idaho's Military Past," opened at the Sun Valley Museum of History on Memorial Day weekend.
- 20 people participated in a winter book group on contemporary fiction of the American West.
- Students at Carey High School did an oral history project on their town with help from the Regional History Department.
- Library staff and trustees initiated a strategic plan for archival storage of local history materials.

"As a reporter at the Idaho Mountain Express, I utilize the services of the Regional History Department whenever I need historical context for a story. The department is easily accessed and user friendly, whether you're on the job or simply curious about our community's origins." - Amy Busek





OF MISSION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Execution of Mission	Amount
Core Programs	\$1,086,527
(i.e., staff, books and related materials, technology infrastructure)	
Adminstration	\$310,184
Philanthropy & Engagement	\$100,294
Total Expenses	\$1,497,005
Funding of Mission	Amount
Individuals & Foundations	\$721,499
Gold Mine Net Income	\$547,113
Contribution from Endowment	\$194,000
Restricted Grant Income	\$25,000
Misc. Income	\$10,198
Total Income	\$1,497,810

The Community Library is unique among public libraries in that it receives no dedicated tax dollars. It is funded by individual donations, revenue from the Gold Mine thrift and consignment stores, and an endowment.

You can help the Library's work by

- making a financial gift use the enclosed envelope or give online at www.comlib.org
- shopping at the Gold Mine thrift and consignment stores
- donating or consigning items to the Gold Mine stores
- volunteering contact Eric Duncan at eduncan@comlib.org



THANK YOU! TOTAL GIVING FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

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(and their latest book recommendations!):

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Nomberles Zacek, 2015

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