Annual Report 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016

Great stories happen here!





Dear Friends,

Tens of thousands of stories circulate each year at The Community Library – in the forms of picture books and novels, historical tomes and digital bytes, conversations in the Lecture Hall and around the fireplace. We carry stories up and down the Wood River Valley in an orange bookmobile, and we record local stories in our regional history department for posterity.

We don't just hold stories at The Community Library; we work to make them happen.

According to the Pew Research Center's 2016

report on libraries, 91% of Americans say their communities would be hurt if the local library closed; 66% say it would have a major negative impact. Such surveys suggest that libraries not only offer resources, they help a community to define itself.

Libraries are vital to the stories of their communities, and The Community Library uniquely so: It is a privately-governed, privately-funded, public library – a poignant reflection of the community's generosity and commitment to its collective stories.

Thank you for being part of it!

Sincerely, Jenny

Jenny Emery Davidson, Ph.D. Executive Director

The Community Library brings information, ideas, and individuals together to enhance the cultural life of the community.

We work to:

promote literacy • encourage community discourse • provide contemplative space foster creativity • deepen a sense of place in central Idaho

We recommend **reading!**



In the past fiscal year...

55 different organizations depended on The Community Library as a venue for their meetings and public programs.

128,000+

visitors came to The Community Library.

We circulated 117,613 items.

The number of Library borrowers increased by **6.75%.**

4,740 people attended programs in the Lecture Hall.

People logged into the Library's public computers more than 18,000 times.

More than 180,000 people dug for deals (and supported the Library) by shopping at the Gold Mine Thrift and Consign Stores!

4,380 children participated in special programs. "I love spending time by the fireplace, just relaxing and reading. My son likes to sit by the totem pole in the children's library, and my little girl finds it fascinating to have her own spot in the young adult library. For a long time, she did not know that the library extended beyond the children's room. Then, about a year ago, there was one solid week when **we spent every day at the Library**, and my daughter discovered 'the other side' of the Library - the rooms beyond the children's room. She was in awe of the discovery!"

- Raquel Galvin lives in Fairfield, works in Hailey, and visits The Community Library with her children weekly

Je l'aime

Photography: Gerry Morrisor

New collaborations to promote literacy



WOOD RIVER READS

In the summer and fall of 2015, The Community Library joined with the Hailey Public Library and the Bellevue Public Library on the Wood River Valley's first ever community-wide read, focused on the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Jointly, **the 3 libraries** held **10 free public programs** and circulated the novel **hundreds of times**.



In August 2015, The Community Library held the first annual LitWalk to **celebrate literacy and literature** with readings, an open mic, a "banned book" booth, and more, at locations throughout Ketchum.



throughout the Wood River Valley

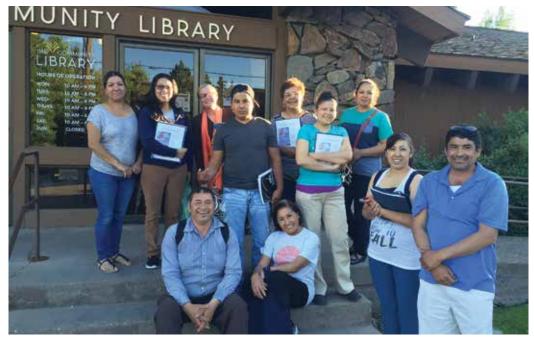


"BLOOM" BOOKMOBILE

In June 2016, The Community Library launched a bookmobile in partnership with The Hunger Coalition and its "Bloom" project. The bookmobile traveled from Carey to North Fork weekly throughout the summer; **174 kids got library cards**, and they checked out **1,559 books!**



New programs for lifelong learning



Adult English as a Second Language class - An average of 25 students participated in weekly English classes throughout the year, beginning in the summer of 2015.

> Winter adult Spanish class - Fifteen people participated in an intermediate conversational Spanish program.

Two new exhibits at the Library's Sun Valley Museum of History

- "Those Who Served" an exhibit on Idaho veterans, in collaboration with the Idaho State Historical Society, was shown at the museum in the summer/fall of 2015.
- "Don and Gretchen Fraser: The Ski Community's Gold Standard," a renovated exhibit on two premiere ski athletes who also shaped the Sun Valley community, opened in December of 2015.

Lynda.com - The Library initiated a new online tutorial service that Library patrons can access for free to learn computer applications and more.



Mango - The Library subscribed to a new online language-learning service that Library patrons can access for free to study 63 different languages.



More than 2,000 community comments and 1.5 years of planning are culminating in a plan to renovate The Community Library – ensuring its vitality for generations to come. We plan to improve the Library's infrastructure for better safety, energy efficiency, and beauty, and also:

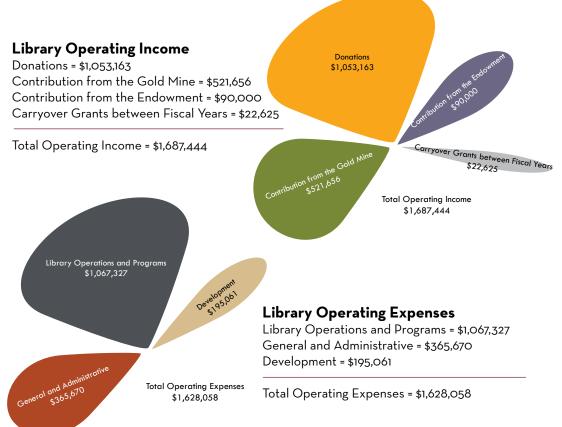
- expand the lecture hall to grow its capacity and versatility for a range of educational programs.
- develop a high-quality archival space and expand the work of the regional history department.
- provide more kinds of meeting spaces with great technology for individual study and group conversations.

We want The Community Library to continue to grow as a landmark institution that promotes a culture to match our spectacular surroundings!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016

The Community Library is a privately-funded, privately-governed public library. Unlike most public libraries, it receives no dedicated tax dollars. It depends on revenue from the Gold Mine Thrift and Consign Stores and on individual donations.



Library Program Expenditures by Department

Reference = \$80,387 Informational Technology = \$136,440 Programs = \$150,026 Children's Library = \$162,803 Regional History and Museum = \$163,122 Main Library = \$374,548 When The Community Library thrives, the community **thrives!**

THANK YOU!

The Community Library's generous supporters between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016

\$50,000+

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Last year, books by Ernest Hemingway circulated 145 times.

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2 Pulitzer Prize winners and 1 National Book Award winner

spoke at The Community Library (Diane McWhorter, Elizabeth Fenn, and William Vollman).

Evelyn Wilson Wood River Jewish Community Zions Bank

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Last year, books by Dr. Seuss circulated 266 times.

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One avid library patron checked out 951 items (yes - in one year)!

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We are grateful for the generosity shown by all of our supporters! Every effort was taken to create a complete and accurate list of gifts. If you discover an error or omission, please let us know. Contact Carter Hedberg at chedberg@comlib.org.

The most checked-out foreign language films were the Russian film *Leviathan* and the French-Mauritanian film *Timbuktu*.



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"Magic carpets do exist. But they are called library

Cards." - Firoozeh Dumas in Laughing without an Accent (Firoozeh spoke at The Community Library last July!)

At The Community Library, with your support, anyone can get a library card for free. Think of all the great stories....