

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
January 2016

Fall Staff Development Day

We had another successful Staff Development Day this past October 30. Headquarters, North County Branch, South County Branch, and the bookmobile were closed in the morning in order for staff to attend a workshop on Respect in the Workplace, presented by Kathleen and Frank Carr. Kathleen and Frank guided staff through several exercises promoting teamwork and respect. The staff enjoyed lunch together before opening the libraries to the public in the afternoon.

Knitters Unite!

At a meeting late last year, the PR Committee was inspired to organize the collection of hand-knit and crocheted hats and scarves to be donated to Veterans Haven North in Lebanon Township. Sabrina Baard Veterans' Coordinator for Hunterdon County was very enthusiastic about the project and agreed to ask knitters meeting at the Senior Center to donate yarn and knitted projects as well as facilitate with the delivery of the items. Cheryl Grotrian and Linda Zdepski joined forces and created Knitters Unite! A kickoff meeting was held December 15th on the lower level of the Headquarters Library. The meeting was a huge success with about 30 women attending, both novices and experts. Members of local knitting and crochet groups also attended and were able to connect with each other sharing much information with each other. Many hats and scarves were donated at the meeting as was a large donation of yarn made available on the Lower Level through mid-January for stitchers wishing to contribute to the project. Sample hats were on display along with patterns and guidelines for the project. After the meeting ended a group of women stayed and knit, enjoying each other's company until almost closing. Although the library will not be organizing any formal knitting groups, all attendees were encouraged to convene on the lower level at any time during out open hours. Yarn will be available on the lower level until January 23, 2016. Hats and scarves are currently displayed on the upper level above the staircase. Collection continued through January 31, 2016. Knitters Unite! collected 317 hats, 159 scarves, 3 pairs of gloves and 2 pairs of socks thanks to all these talented knitters. Pam MacKenzie of the Courier News/mycentral jersey.com was at the kick-off meeting and has provided tremendous support and media coverage of the project. Pam has volunteer to lead an informal knitting group at Headquarters; this group will meet on the lower level the second Monday of each month beginning February 8.

Clerk Driver Jared Biondi poses to promote **Knitters Unite!** Knitters Unite! asks patrons to knit at home to provide hats and scarves for Veterans Haven North, Lebanon Township, A 100-bed temporary training center for homeless Veterans. Kick-Off Meeting on Tuesday, December 15th,



Cheryl Grotrian and Linda Zdepski (not pictured) deliver 59 hats and 37 scarves to Sabrina Baarda, Veterans' Coordinator for Hunterdon County. These hats and scarves were added to the over a dozen that Sabrina's knitting group donated.

Sabrina delivers the hats and scarves to Veterans Haven North.



Bookmobile Schedule

The bookmobile will no longer be parking at the church in Bloomsbury. We are actively looking for a new location for the bookmobile in the Bloomsbury area.

Welcome Packets

Handing out Welcome Packets to new library patrons has been revived thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers who stuff the packets for distribution each month. Information in the packet includes the library Welcome Brochure, a copy of the current Scoop, digital collection and database information and other current flyers new patrons might find interesting. During 2015, 555 were distributed at Headquarters, North County and South County (North County and South County distribution did not begin until July).

2015 Hunterdon County Library Volunteer Service Report

A total of 43 Volunteers donated 2,030 hours at the Headquarters Library. Sixty-three Volunteers donated 1,699 hours at the North County Branch Library. Headquarters held a Volunteer Recognition Celebration on October 27, 2015 (North County's will be scheduled in the near future). The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library donated key chains that read "You are the Key to our Success" and Shop-Rite of Flemington donated refreshments. Two special awards were given: The Cathy Giffin Award for Continuous Volunteer Service: Blake Schipper (youth) and Gay Mitchell (adult) both began volunteering in 2012; Most Hours Donated: Katherine Stanford---35 hours (youth) and Melanie Thompson---246 hours (adult).

South County Branch Library

On Saturday, January 23, the South County Branch Library will hold a Winter Open House from 10:00-4:00. Patrons will be invited to stop and color, have a cup of hot chocolate and make a button with the library's button maker.

Local Arts Program Grant (LAP)

The Local Arts Program Grants (LAP), provided by the State Council on the Arts to the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, have been awarded. We are happy to announce that the Hunterdon County Library will be receiving \$6,000.00 to help fund our programs in the coming year. A big thank you to the Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders for recommending and approving the Hunterdon County Library for the grant!

And now for some statistics!

We have a few statistics to share this month, starting with our Interlibrary Loan Department, which loaned out 2508 items to other libraries and borrowed 2639 items on behalf of our patrons in 2015.

We had 326 museum passes checked out in 2015. Most of our passes permit entrance of up to six people or all children within the household, thereby increasing the actual number of patrons who were able to take advantage of free admission to museums. There was an average savings of over \$10,000.00 in entrance costs to our patrons in the course of the year.

Our public Internet stations were humming in 2015, with 63,665 individual log-in sessions at Headquarters, North County Branch and South County Branch.

We had 1,103,858 items circulated in 2015. We ended the year with the following statistics for downloads:

E-Books	31,873
Audiobooks	14,064
Zinio	8,751
One-Click Digital	1,088
IndieFlix	683