VISION
Chester County libraries are nationally recognized centers of knowledge, inspiration and opportunity, welcoming all residents and contributing to healthy, safe and economically vibrant communities.

MISSION
Chester County Library System ensures that every resident has access to exceptional opportunities to read, learn, create, connect and contribute to a better quality of life.

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The Chester County Library System includes 16-member libraries and two branches with a total of 18 facilities that work in collaboration to serve those who live and work in Chester County. Our vision for this County’s libraries is: “Chester County libraries are nationally recognized centers of knowledge, inspiration, and opportunity, welcoming all residents and contributing to healthy, safe and economically flourishing communities.” Our Libraries are vibrant, vital, and valued and their incredible efforts are highlighted in this document.

The resources and services provided have adapted to the challenges of both how to meet the needs of our customers in today’s ever-changing environment, as well as looking ahead to a post-pandemic future:

- Facility upgrades, including new infrastructure such as maker spaces, and revamped buildings demonstrate the vibrant nature of our dynamic libraries.
- Through the expansion of electronic resources—including e-books, audiobooks, and current magazines and newspapers, access became easier and vital to meet the information, educational, and leisure needs of Chester County’s citizens.
- Virtual, in-person, and hybrid programs for all ages provided a valued variety of opportunities from traditional pre-school and summer reading programs to uses of parks as new sites, lectures, book clubs, and new tween and teen volunteer group initiatives.

Serving our county would not be possible without the dedication of our trustees who volunteer their time and talent and the expertise of the staff who are always looking for ways to better serve our patrons, the business community, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

Funding for our system continues to be critical. In 2021, the County increased its grants to the member libraries by more than $240,000 and provided nearly $500,000 CARES Act dollars to alleviate the new costs created by the pandemic, and for this, we are grateful to the Commissioners. The State also increased its subsidy, and we commend our state legislators for their support. And, for the municipalities who provide funding for their libraries, these dollars represent critical support, and we thank you.

We appreciate all the joint efforts that make our libraries ‘vibrant, vital, and valued!’ as they provide critical services to our County, and we look forward to collaborating with all who live and work here to meet their current and future needs.

JOANN WEINBERGER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT
CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

“A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Vibrant, Vital, Valued” is our theme for this report. Looking back at 2021, I have been consistently amazed at how the public has been adaptable, flexible, and responsive as services and available resources changed due to environmental factors beyond our control. The citizens have shown me how they consider the libraries to be:

Vibrant - full of life, energy, and enthusiasm.
Vital - absolutely necessary or important; essential.
Valued - considered to be important or beneficial; cherished.

In the last two years, we have had to re-evaluate some of our services and prioritize differently. We as librarians consistently try to do that to deliver the most desired services in an efficient and effective way. That is not something that is going to change. We are constantly reviewing the materials and formats we provide, the programs we are delivering (and how) and so much more. We remain focused on innovating services to meet the public’s needs. For example, in 2021 we reviewed our cataloging utility and found a more cost-effective way to do that which allowed us to implement a new ‘Discovery Layer’ called VEGA. This is a simplified interface to make it easier to search the resources we have. This is just one example of how we are reviewing what we do to provide better services to our patrons.

There are big plans for physical spaces in 2022 and beyond. From Atglen moving into a new building, and Honey Brook Community Library continuing with their planning (and fundraising) for an addition, to December 2021, when Kennett Library put shovels in the dirt for their new building — our physical structures are continually reviewed to meet your needs locally.

I know I am looking forward to what 2022 will bring.

JOSEPH SHERWOOD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
The Chester County Library System (CCLS) was organized in 1965 to serve Chester County’s 760 square miles, 15 boroughs, 57 townships, 1 city, 14 school districts and 524,989* residents. The Chester County Library System is a federated system made up of 16 member libraries with 18 library facilities.

* Source: US Census Bureau - data accessed from most recent census in December 2020

**SERVICES**

The Chester County Library, a county-owned institution with one branch, serves as the system headquarters and is also designated as the District Center for a state-defined library district congruent with the county borders. Resources provide centralized services throughout the Chester County Library System. Some examples of these services include:

- Bookkeeping and Payroll
- Cataloging and Collection Development
- Computer Support
- Continuing Education
- Delivery Between Member Libraries
- Electronic Materials and Databases
- Electronic Magazines
- Graphics Support
- Interlibrary Loan
- Internet Connectivity and WiFi
- Mail Order Delivery (for those in need)
- Mobile App
- Public Relations Support
- Reference Support

**MEMBER LIBRARIES**

Member Libraries maintain their own governance boards and receive support from various sources, including the municipalities in their service area, the county, the state and the public. Additionally, many have volunteer opportunities, friends groups and foundations/trusts.

**GOVERNANCE**

The Chester County Library System is overseen by a seven member Board of Trustees appointed by the Chester County Commissioners. The CCLS Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2022 guides our efforts to deliver value to our member libraries and their patrons, donors, volunteers and community partners. By working together to achieve common goals, we harness the strength of the people, resources and collections in public libraries throughout Chester County. This allows us to create a future where we educate and empower our residents, enrich our communities’ quality of life and support the growth of a strong and vibrant economy.

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**2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>JoAnn Weinberger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Kathleen M. Pearse</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Brian Taylor</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Lisa Ionata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>William F. Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Richard Hankin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Michael Skay</td>
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</tbody>
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**ACCESS**

Enhance access to Member Library resources and services for all residents.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

Strengthen Member Libraries’ capability to provide superior services.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Position our Member Libraries as the heart of the community.

**KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION**

Ensure Member Libraries are centers of knowledge and inspiration that provide meaningful and relevant opportunities to read, learn and create.

**VALUE AND EXPERIENCE**

Deliver exceptional customer service to library users, donors, volunteers and community partners.
CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE BY SOURCE
TOTAL: $17,629,159

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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$694,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$2,556,636</td>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>$7,125,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>$3,965,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,268,272</td>
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EXPENSE ALLOCATION
TOTAL: $16,318,047

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<td>$10,065,542</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection Expenditures</td>
<td>$2,101,990</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenditures</td>
<td>$3,261,683</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
<td>$888,832</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: CCLS Member Libraries expended on capital non-recurring operating expenses in 2021 that were paid for with funds raised in previous years. Fast Facts are reflective of numbers during some library closures in 2021 due to COVID-19.

FAST FACTS

179,137 LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS
882,539 LIBRARY VISITS
5,976 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (ALL AGES)
98,238 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (ALL AGES)
3,377,199 ITEMS CIRCULATED
158,237 REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED
Atglen Community Day and Di-Atglen Alley Wizard Faire received rave reviews in the fall. These outdoor events drew large crowds of happy folks who enjoyed programs, performances, and purchases at the Magical Market, auctions, and other vendors.

Garrison Carida returned for an outdoor Star Wars Scavenger Hunt around our upcoming new location. Susan and Grant, who uses a wheelchair and is immunocompromised, appreciated the new accessible parking spot. Grant found all the scavenger hunt items, answered almost all of the trivia questions, and chatted with the characters. Susan and Grant thanked us for hosting a safe and accessible event they could participate in.

“I lived in Atglen from 1964-1982, and my one brother and sister still live there. The Atglen Public Library literally changed my life as a kid by giving me somewhere to explore and learn about other places, cultures and ideas. There’s no doubt I became the curious, empathetic person I am now because of all the time I spent there (a lot, as my siblings will confirm!). I’ve given to support the library’s new home, and I encourage you to do so as well. Everyone in Atglen deserves a first-class public library.”

~ Michael Norris

We now have operating reserves to weather a storm and an accessible building with energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems. Additional hotspots and laptops will help customers bridge the digital divide, a power outage, or a pandemic. We look forward to expanded programming in our new building, including a film series, art exhibits, coffeehouse concerts, and arts and crafts for all ages with our new makerspace equipment.

“Our library is the hub of the community. I have and continue to use the Atglen library for 25+ years.”
- Atglen Library Patron
Our new facility was completed this year, with the opening held on March 28, 2022.

We earned our PA Forward® Gold Star status in August 2021.

Outdoor events brought the community together in a safe way.
As COVID numbers continued to fluctuate throughout the year, Avon Grove Library remained open to the public. In addition to providing books, magazines, and audiovisual materials such as DVDs and books on CD, e-materials, and other digital resources, we also offered both virtual and in-person programs offering unique opportunities for education and enrichment.

Young readers were thrilled by the chance to send letters to their favorite Mo Willems characters through our ‘Dear Piggie and Gerald’ program. They were especially excited to receive letters in return, which were written by our creative and hardworking teen volunteers.

During National Library Week, we asked patrons how Avon Grove Library has helped them through the pandemic? Community members raved about how helpful our staff members are, how impressive our print and digital collections are, and how much they enjoy our programs. One person summed it up by saying “Avon Grove Library is definitely a treasure to this community.”

Thanks to a recent grant, Avon Grove Library is looking forward to offering more STEAM-centered programs for the community using items from our ‘After School Fun in a Box Tinkering Kit.’ Makers of all ages will learn, play, and explore with materials such as paper circuits, Edison Robots, Strawbees, and more.

“The library helped me instill in my girls a love for books and reading. The children’s programs including the bilingual programs were what drew us in and so glad we did! We love the library and the librarians are our local celebrities!” - Avon Grove Parent and Patron
We introduced STEAM Craft Kits using items in our ‘After School Fun in a Box Tinkering Kit,’ made possible by a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through Pennsylvania’s Out-of-School Time project, and by the Institute of Museum and Library Services - administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

Who says libraries aren’t relevant? This year Avon Grove Library jumped on the TikTok and Instagram Reel trend, creating funny and informative videos that racked up thousands of views on their respective platforms. One TikTok, a humorous skit about ordering fast food through the library’s book drop, reached over 30,000 views!

In addition to growing our collection of Spanish and bilingual materials, Avon Grove Library partnered with local organizations including LCH Health and Community Services to offer several bilingual programs and storytimes.
VIBRANT
The Hankin Branch opened their MakerSpace in 2021 featuring a Cricut Maker, CNC Mill, sewing machine and serger, spiral binding machine, and VR kit. Check out CCL’s Jacobs Technology Center for digitization tools, 3D printing, photo printing, VR/AR and more!

VITAL
One-on-one consultations with our Business Librarian helped job seekers and entrepreneurs achieve their goals. She held 59 sessions individualized with entrepreneurs starting or growing a business and 18 consultations with job seekers to refine resumes and leverage job searches. We also held 35 business programs, including events partnered with SCORE, PA CareerLink, and more.

VALUED
We have worked hard throughout 2021 to provide patrons with opportunities for education, enrichment, and entertainment in a variety of formats. We are proud to offer access to books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and databases at no cost, and to provide programming that is offered virtually, hybrid, and in person.

“I really appreciate your removal of rental fees for DVDs. We borrow several each week and have done so for 20 years. Thank you! A great help financially for seniors on fixed incomes.” - Chester County Library Patron

VERIFIABLE
The Chester County Library’s first floor redesign will offer spaces that suit the changing ways people are using the library. Small study rooms for collaborative work, Zoom calls and individual work, more seating options, and a combined multimedia and reference desk that will allow us to provide more efficient service to our patrons are some of the highlights of this reimagined space.

“I’d like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Chester County Library with this donation. Though it is small, I made a promise that once I was financially stable I would give back to the library. It was through the free programs and kindness of volunteers that I was able to learn new skills and build my self-confidence, which enabled me to secure an amazing job and start a new life. Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do for the citizens of Chester County.” - Chester County Library Patron
We offered programs for everyone—virtual, hybrid, and in person! 11,565 individuals enjoyed 754 entertaining, educational programs, including 98 STEM programs.

We saved our patrons $116,944 on admission to 16 cultural centers through the Museum Pass program. On the go internet access was provided through our popular hot spot rentals.

We partnered with community organizations to provide support to vulnerable neighbors, including growing and collecting food for the Chester County Food Bank and collecting holiday gifts through Toys for Tots.
VIBRANT
We wanted a fun virtual program and decided to try cooking. We baked on Zoom, created ingredient kits to pick up and follow along, used Facebook for monthly live pie-baking demonstrations, and made dog cookies with a canine host.

VITAL
We watched what people were doing and aligned our activities. When they stayed in we met them online. When they came out we met them outdoors. Everyone was happy and thankful that we always were there with something to offer.

VALUED
Library users love our children's programs, and we love meeting the families attending them. It's a compliment when adults tell us we are talked about! Growing up in a welcoming library is important for becoming a lifelong library user. “The librarians have become part of our lives! We talk about them at home.”
We are also happy when children view the library as their space. “My kids are so comfortable here and look forward to visiting.” - Chester Springs Library Patron

VERIFIABLE
As a small library, we understand the power of partnerships. We look forward to future collaborations with organizations, groups and committees. These endeavors make each other’s services better and that makes our community stronger.

“I didn’t know what I was going to do for Saint Patrick’s Day, so you saved the day!” – A Parent from Chester Springs Library

Chester Springs ‘flower power’ pumpkins.

Minute-to-Win-It games.

Fun at Chester Springs playdough mornings.
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $194,333)

- West Pikeland Twp $116,729 (60%)
- Chester County $21,176 (11%)
- State $21,487 (11%)
- ARP/Cares Act $4,342 (2%)
- Other $30,599 (16%)

POPULATION SERVED: 4,024
CUSTOMER VISITS: 14,584
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 51,710
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 304
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 4,410

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. We received the PA Forward Bronze Star Library award from the Pennsylvania Library Association in November 2021.

2. We were one of 300 libraries in the nation to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries.

3. 80 Thanksgiving centerpieces were handcrafted at the library, 111 people cooked something online with us, and 220 preschoolers enjoyed squishy fun on playdough mornings.
Coatesville Library made several updates in 2021 including new flooring, a new HVAC system, updated front doors, new signage, and a brand new circulation desk. These improvements give our library a fresh look creating a positive environment for our patrons.

Coatesville Library partnered with several community organizations including PA CareerLink and SIMOS for employment assistance. Mitzvah Circle provided support for expecting mothers and we were a hub for Toys for Tots in December for families in need. Senator Carolyn Comitta’s Office held Mobile Office Hours to provide assistance to patrons with services including SEPTA Senior Key applications, completing government forms, and guidance on how to apply for relief after Hurricane Ida.

A patron visited the Coatesville Library to use the public computers to complete her resume and submit her application for employment at a local business. These library services were necessary because she does not have internet access at home. The patron was offered the job and the resources at the library were critical to her employment process.

Coatesville is increasing the number of in-person and virtual adult programming, including teen and adult book clubs, visits from local authors, and programs for seniors. Our website is going to receive a fresh new look and the library is upgrading the lighting and windows.
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $578,947)

- Caln Twp $16,250
- East Fallowfield Twp $8,000
- Valley Twp $6,794
- West Bradford Twp $7,773
- Chester County $89,770
- State $100,137
- ARP/Cares Act $33,077
- Other $317,146

POPULATION SERVED: 38,319
CUSTOMER VISITS: 25,442
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 58,978
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 114
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 1,681

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. We opened for in-person children's programming during the summer of 2021!
2. We received multiple grants for children's programming and facility upgrades.
3. Four new staff members joined our spectacular team!
VIBRANT

In 2021, Downingtown Library offered a host of programs in a variety of formats, including outdoor programs such as our Summer Reading Ice Cream Social and our Storybook Pumpkin Decorating Contest. An especially well-received program was Happy Light Yoga for Children, a weekly yoga session offered virtually and in person for children ages 3-6 which incorporates movement games, yoga stories, and breathwork into a 30 minute yoga program.

VIRTUAL

Virtual Programming
In order to remain accessible during the pandemic, Downingtown Library offered over 200 virtual programs in 2021 such as Virtual Storytime, Medicare 101 for seniors, a weekly English Conversation group for ESL community members to meet and practice English language skills, and monthly book and film discussion groups.

Writing Tutoring
Recognizing that our service area strives for advanced education opportunities, Downingtown Library began offering fully virtual tutoring for professional writing such as college admission statements, cover letters, and scholarship essays.

Museum Passes
For community members looking for new activities to explore, Downingtown Library began a Museum Pass lending program to offer free tickets to popular family destinations such as Elmwood Park Zoo. In 2021, there were over 100 Museum Pass reservations at Downingtown Library.

VALUED

For many, Downingtown Library provides a vital lifeline to social, educational, and community-oriented experiences. Particularly during the ongoing pandemic, library programs offered an outlet for interactions that were otherwise missing from community life. These vibrant experiences came alive through the extensive efforts of library staff.

VERIFIABLE

The vision for the future of Downingtown Library is to continue to build relationships with local organizations, to increase programming in areas such as tech skills and job training, and to continue to demonstrate the Library’s unique value to our community. Downingtown Library is excited to connect with the diverse and rapidly expanding population in our service area to expand all aspects of library operations and align with the needs of our patrons, particularly regarding programming and collection materials.

“As the parent of children who were 5 and almost 2 when the pandemic started, I am immensely grateful to the Downingtown Library and Miss Jill for the programming she developed and provided online during COVID. Particularly for my youngest, that was really the only outside interaction she received for several months. Even once things began to open up again, Miss Jill did her programs outside which let our family participate safely. Miss Jill is patient and kind and it is clear she loves children and books. She is awesome!” - Downingtown Library Patron
TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. Downingtown Library built our new 'Explorium' a fenced-in, outdoor area with seating, gardens, and a stage for the enjoyment of all ages.

2. Despite continuing restrictions on space and occupancy limits, Downingtown Library planned and executed an inclusive and exciting summer reading program that included more than 700 participants from infants to seniors.

3. Downingtown Library offered a Teen Volunteer Program for ages 14-18 to learn about the library, meet new friends, and get involved in the community. In 2021, the volunteers amassed over 300 hours of work creating displays, keeping the library clean and organized, and preparing crafts for children's programming.
“Thank you to all volunteers and employees who make Easttown Library an outstanding pillar of our community.”
- Easttown Library Patron

**VIBRANT**

Ms. Patsy held story time programs on the lawn behind the library, a highlight for children and their parents/caregivers throughout the fall of 2021. Popular children’s author, Dan Gutman, joined us for a lively program on Zoom.

**VITAL**

Book bundles were popular when the library was closed early in 2021. Passport acceptance service was very popular: 866 applications were processed, and 685 photos were taken. Our notary public service was used 431 times.

**VALUED**

“I so appreciate Mary’s chair yoga program. The sense of community, being able to experience in a group, and her lovely manner all have been a wonderful light during the pandemic. Thank you, Easttown Library, for supporting this program.”

**VERIFIABLE**

Amber Osborne, Easttown Library’s new Library Director, started in March of 2022, and we are excited to see the new directions she will lead us in. In its 10th year, the library’s endowment grew to more than $1.2 million.
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $1,060,671)

- Easttown Twp $700,000
- Chester County $92,145
- State $76,544
- ARP/Cares Act $3,392
- Friends of Easttown Library $20,000
- Easttown Library Foundation $99,881

**TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021**

1. Easttown Library circulated 356,549 items.
2. We hosted 637 programs with 13,002 attendees.
3. We launched a completely revamped, mobile-friendly website.
VIBRANT
Due to indoor restrictions for in-person programs, we took more programs outside to our lawn and pavilion. One of our new programs was holding a lawn concert. We had 86 guests on our front lawn to listen to the Pequea Valley HS Jazz Ensemble perform in May.

VITAL
In 2021, we partnered with Chester County Food Bank to provide ‘essential food boxes’ for anyone in the community who has an immediate need for food. This is in addition to the CCFB raised-bed vegetable gardens we grow yearly for the Honey Brook Food Pantry. We are also a year-round drop-off spot for donated items for the HB Food Pantry.

VALUE
Patrons tell us how happy they are to be back in the library. Our in-person programs have been well attended, and tutoring and homeschool patrons can meet in person again inside the library.

“Honey Brook Library has the BEST preschool and summer programs coordinated by everyone’s favorite librarian, Miss Jennifer”
- Jasmine Draper, Parent and Library Patron

VERIFIABLE
The Honey Brook Community Library’s Capital Campaign is still going strong. We are planning to start our expansion by adding a much needed community space and by relocating the front entrance. Our Board is working hard to make this happen for our community.

“Just wanted to share, my 3-year-old LOVES our weekly visits to the library for Miss Jenn’s story time. So much so that she now sets up her books at her reading chair and pretends to be Miss Jenn.”
- A Parent from Honey Brook Library

VIBRANT, VITAL, VALUED
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $210,909)

- Honey Brook Brgh $3,000
- Honey Brook Twp $20,000
- West Caln Twp $2,500
- West Nantmeal Twp $6,500
- Chester County $41,744
- State $45,613
- ARP/Cares Act $20,124
- Other $71,428

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. We provided ‘essential food boxes’ for the Honey Brook area.
2. Senator Katie Muth hosts monthly satellite office hours at Honey Brook Community Library.
3. We returned to in-person programming.

POPULATION SERVED: 15,747
CUSTOMER VISITS: 21,349
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 66,331
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 215
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 2,776
VIBRANT
Our Pollination Celebration Series ran monthly from March through October and featured a partnership with the Land Conservancy of Southern Chester County & The Mid Atlantic Audubon Society. During this series, in partnership with Kennett Farmers Market, and The Creamery of Kennett Square, attendees learned how to create their own native plant garden and heard lectures on cultivating healthier grounds for bees, butterflies, beetles, and hummingbirds.

VITAL
Throughout 2021 with the pandemic still affecting services, the Adult Literacy Program staff conducted their classes entirely on Zoom — 8 classes a week over 4 days. Instruction provided in 2021 related to ESL, GED, and Civics totaled 358 hours. Additionally, ALP tutors provided 1220 hours of tutoring for 544 clients, of which 6 earned their American citizenship.

VALUED
A long-time customer came into the library with a broken arm and paperwork needing to be completed regarding workmen’s compensation. Due to his long experience with and trust in the Kennett Library, he sought out the staff for assistance. He also needed to see a doctor and was unsure how to make any of this work as he did not speak much English. Our staff member sat with him, helped him work through the paperwork, set up a doctor’s appointment, and made sure his paperwork was properly prepared to receive insurance benefits. Without library staff assistance, this patron would have had no other place to turn to receive help.

VERIFIABLE
The new Kennett Library continues its progress. Slated to open in May 2023, fundraising has reached 14 million dollars of the necessary 21 million dollars. With 15 meeting rooms, a 110 seat auditorium, and almost 34,000 square feet, the Kennett Library is in the process of designing programming to best maximize usage for the community. Surveys and public town halls will be conducted during 2022 to gather feedback.

“It’s a family thing for us. We are in the Library 2-3 times a week. We are fans of both adult and children’s series, so we think of the Library as our Netflix.”
- Kennett Library Patron

“Kennett Library’s Nature Camp”

“Construction on the new building is in progress.”

Our booth at the Farmer’s Market.
The Kennett Library continued its Capital Campaign and surpassed $14 million dollars by the end of 2021.

Six people became US citizens directly due to the Kennett Library Adult Literacy Program and 544 patrons enrolled in ESL, GED, and Civics classes in 2021.

250 Take-home salads were distributed from the new Kennett Library raised-bed garden.
**VIBRANT**

Malvern Library has decided it is time for a facelift to our space. We are currently working towards a design that will make our space more versatile to meet the growing and changing needs of our patrons.

**VITAL**

We have created a new position of a Communication Coordinator at our library to ensure the public is more aware of what we have to offer. They reach out to our patrons via our social media, website, and various e-newsletters to ensure the public is aware of our increasing programs and events.

**VALUED**

“The Malvern Library is the greatest of all of them and the staff are kind, generous and helpful. They are good people. I see them do good things for adults and children for all of their library needs.” - John

“The Malvern Public Library is a place where the librarians take the time to get to know their patrons’ preferences. After a long day at work, I like to stop off there, pick-up my hold items, and maybe if time permits, have a brief discussion about anything not involving IT” – Michael Burke

**VERIFIABLE**

Malvern Library is looking to give a facelift to our interior space while bringing new technologies and programs to our library. We have purchased a 3-D printer and our first Museum Pass.

“Of all the charities I make donations to, Malvern Library is the only one to send me a Thank You”

- A Malvern Library Patron

Malvern's new Children's Librarian

Malvern's year-round Plant Swap table

Izzy from Malvern’s ‘read-to-a-dog’ program

**VIBRANT, VITAL, VALUED**
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $403,278)

- East Goshen Twp $22,500
- East Whiteland Twp $46,700
- Malvern - Shared Costs $39,052
- Malvern Brgh $12,180
- Willistown Twp $44,802
- Chester County $53,592
- State $54,634
- ARP/Cares Act $50,567
- Other $79,251

POPULATION SERVED: 41,383
CUSTOMER VISITS: 34,108
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 73,122
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 165
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 2,400

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. We moved our booksale outside raising more funds for the library.
2. We re-established a Friends of the Malvern Public Library.
3. We hired a new Children’s Librarian.
VIBRANT

In 2021, we reinvented our Summer Reading Club and offered three new levels for children and a gift bag for the first 50 adult participants. The three unique levels were our Library Littles (Age 0-5), Read & Bead Club (Grades K-5) and Teen Read Battle (Grades 6-12). These changes provided excitement and encouragement for us to see the highest participation in 5 years.

VITAL

The pandemic helped us to become more creative with library programs and helped us to learn how to use virtual platforms and outdoor venues as places of learning. We found that by working with other member libraries, we could share virtual programs and therefore offer a large variety of programs to our community to enjoy from their own homes.

VALUED

The Oxford Library plays an important role in the lives of the people we serve. The library is a place where our patrons enrich their lives by using our resources to explore areas of interest as well as connecting with other community members and staff. One terrific example of this is demonstrated by this feedback we got on our Customer Service Survey.

“Years ago, my kid started playing with another kid in a library program. We kept in touch with the parents. 10 years later, we still consider them great friends, and I doubt we would ever have met except for that program.” – Anonymous

VERIFIABLE

As we settle back into delivering library services in a more familiar way, we take with us many lessons of what is possible when we have to learn creative ways to continue our important work. These lessons have allowed us to adapt how we serve our patrons inside, outside, and remotely. Our library is not limited by the walls of our building.

“I started coming to the Oxford Library when I was four, and I have loved it ever since! I learned to read with books from this library. Many term papers and book reports began here. Now, it’s where I complete my college coursework. It’s never silent, never boring; it’s a vibrant, welcoming hub of resources.” – Rose Rowe

Rose Rowe, college student and Oxford Library patron

Oxford Library’s STEM squad

Stuffed animal sleepover
TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. Participation in our summer reading programs grew to the highest level in the past five years in 2021.

2. We hosted our 2nd successful Fishing Tournament and added another successful fundraising event, an Adult Craft Night in partnership with the Oxford Arts Alliance.

3. Five of the six townships in our service area increased their library contribution in 2021.

POPULATION SERVED: 27,160
CUSTOMER VISITS: 44,027
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 115,509
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 315
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 3,721

2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $545,701)

- East Nottingham Twp $15,570
- Elk Twp $3,698
- Lower Oxford Twp $6,240
- Oxford Brgh $11,000
- Upper Oxford Twp $4,500
- West Nottingham Twp $3,266
- Chester County $77,110
- State $82,043
- ARP/Cares Act $14,864
- Other $327,410

14% 15% 60% 3% 2% 1% 1% 1% 0%
“Parkesburg Library has helped us tremendously through the pandemic. Curbside ‘to go’ worked out so well, and the library was one of the few things that felt normal and comforting.”
- Parkesburg Free Library Patron

VIBRANT
PAWS (a program that offers kids a time to read aloud to therapy animals) brought life back to the library for kids and adults alike when it returned in 2021, after a hiatus due to the pandemic.

VITAL
We provided a safe and welcoming place during the pandemic. Patrons came to get books, DVDs, etc. to help get their minds off COVID constraints. At the same time, they were able to interact with other members of the community.

VALUED
As more and more things must be accomplished using a computer, such as applications for jobs, unemployment, driver’s licenses, etc., we provide both the computers and the staff to get them through these processes when help is needed. Beyond providing recreational materials, we also provide books and databases to help with health, financial, and mental health needs.

VERIFIABLE
We have owned our own building since 1967. This has been a foundation for our financial stability. Being a Chester County Library System Member, with all its services and support, continues to enable us to “punch above our weight class” in library service to our community.
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $197,883)

- Highland Twp $6,000
- Londonderry Twp $3,500
- Parkesburg Brgh (received 2022 for 2021) $9,000
- Sadsbury Twp $1,500
- West Fallowfield Twp $500
- West Sadsbury Twp $3,000
- Chester County $42,546
- State $46,289
- ARP/Cares Act $16,800
- Other $68,748

POPULATION SERVED: 12,931
CUSTOMER VISITS: 24,240
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 45,591
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 125
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 969

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. The library was fully open during 2021.
2. Our community gardens proved to be a welcome outlet for those feeling confined by COVID.
3. We served as a collection point for the local food cupboard, which was in high demand during the pandemic.
VIBRANT

Over this past year, we worked to break down barriers caused by the pandemic to allow patrons to have easy access to Library resources and services. For instance, our online presence is now stronger than ever, from hosting virtual programs and fundraising events to offering online resources.

VITAL

We worked to remain a positive presence in the community by offering online services and promoting valuable resources offered by other groups/organizations. We offered popular services such as curbside pick up so that community members could continue to check out materials, which was later expanded upon, thanks to the Holdit Book Locker, which now provides 24/7 access to materials.

VALUED

We are most grateful to our patrons. Their kindness and patience as we implemented many new changes to our services and hours of operations have made us feel truly appreciated. We are proud to serve such a wonderful community!

VERIFIABLE

We will continue to seek input from community members and partner with civic organizations and groups, neighboring nonprofits, and local municipalities to understand and address the specific needs of the community. Furthermore, we look to provide technology and expand programs and services to underserved community members.

“Staff is great and selection is excellent. Most things not available locally can be requested through the massive Chester County Library System. We’ve saved lots by borrowing a series of books instead of purchasing them. They also have a great museum pass program that lets you borrow passes to museums, zoos, and science centers in the surrounding area!” - Phoenixville Public Library Patron
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $1,271,344)

- Charlestown Twp  $5,671
- East Pikeland Twp  $7,000
- Phoenixville Area School Dist.  $567,305
- Schuylkill Twp  $4,000
- State  $92,636
- County  $90,839
- ARP/Cares Act/Payroll Protection  $318,146
- Other  $185,747

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

**Bountiful Online Programming** - spanning a variety of topics such as finances, health care, history, culture, travel, and language. Additionally, we offer online activities that foster creativity and provide a safe place for discussion, such as open mic nights for writers and book clubs that celebrate literature.

**Technology upgrades** – the Phoenixville Public Library Foundation purchased a Holdit book locker for the Library so that community members can enjoy 24/7 access to library materials. Additionally, the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation purchased a program cart for the Library to host hybrid programming both online and in-person.

**New and continued collaborating partners** - We have added new partners to our already extensive list of partnerships. Our newest partners include the Phoenixville Borough Recreational Department, Community That Cares, and Black Light Project. These collaborations support programs that enhance the quality of life, diversity inclusion, and connect the community.
Alongside our 3 public computers which are instrumental for people without home computer access who want to apply for jobs, we also offer an exceptional, cost-effective print/copy/scan/fax machine. “This is better than Staples!” is the comment we hear most often.

Think children, story time in particular! In conjunction with Spring City Borough, we were able to bring our story time back in person at the Brown St. Park in the Fall of 2021. There is nothing more vibrant than the smiles on the faces of children and parents alike as they gathered once again together!

We are valued not only for our resources but for the warm feeling our patrons get when they walk into our building. We provide a clean, beautiful, modern library space, but that would be nothing without our staff and volunteer team whose mission is to make each and every person feel at home and welcome here, ensuring that their experience is both personal and professional. It is our people who provide value to this organization. Value goes both directions here; we are valued because we value our patrons!

We look forward to the installation of our book locker in early 2022. We are grateful to PCHF for funding the grant for this. This allows us to continue to serve our public with materials pickup 24/7 so they don’t have to rely on being able to get to the library during open hours.

“Thanks so much for a fun experiment. The library is such a huge part of our lives right now. We’ve had a blast with the other activities you’ve made available and simply being able to check out books again and read together!” - Lauren List

VIBRANT

Think children, story time in particular! In conjunction with Spring City Borough, we were able to bring our story time back in person at the Brown St. Park in the Fall of 2021. There is nothing more vibrant than the smiles on the faces of children and parents alike as they gathered once again together!

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2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $162,289)

- East Coventry Twp: $5,000
- East Vincent Twp (received 2022 for 2021): $17,000
- Spring City Brgh: $15,000
- Chester County: $30,296
- State: $33,641
- LSTA/ARP/Cares Act: $14,221
- Other: $47,131

POPULATION SERVED: 14,461
CUSTOMER VISITS: 16,493
TOTAL CIRCULATION: 26,702
TOTAL PROGRAMS: 116
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 1,004

TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021

1. We achieved one of our strategic goals with the hiring of a part-time Program Coordinator.

2. Our Fall Annual Appeal had some great results! Our total donations for 2021 showed an increase of 52% over 2020; the # of donors increased 32%, and the average gift increased by 66%.

3. We began some renovations by repurposing areas to increase staff workflow efficiency and allow space for patrons requiring a quiet area.
VIBRANT

Our Shakespeare in Isolation program with UK theater director Nadia Papachronopoulou gave local teens an opportunity to work on their own short film projects. This program received the Humanities in Action Award from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. The award recognizes programs for youth ages 12-18 that effectively use the humanities as a tool for positive youth development.

VITAL

We expanded our technology help sessions on Zoom and by phone to provide 344 individuals with assistance for technology needs. To supplement our synchronous programming, we created a YouTube channel to provide video instruction on computer literacy, using online library resources and Microsoft Office.

VALUED

Our Summer Reading Program continues to see significant participation by area families. We created an active virtual summer reading program for 250 registrants. Participants logged 3,661 total hours of reading and completed 928 educational reading activities.

“There are so many ways to ‘read’ a book and request one. I use Libby for audio and e-books, and the Chester County app to reserve books.”
- Paoli Library Patron

VERIFIABLE

As we plan for more in-person programs and events for 2022, Tredyffrin Public Library will be updating its computer lab with new configurable furniture to create a multi-use, semi-private workspace capable of accommodating instruction as well as group meetings, while having the flexibility to be used as a quiet work area for individuals when not being used by groups.
2021 REVENUE (TOTAL: $1,671,151)

- **Tredyffrin Twp**: $1,281,116
- **Willistown Twp**: $44,802
- **Chester County**: $138,762
- **State**: $117,703
- **State-Keystone Grant**: $30,984
- **ARP/Cares Act**: $3,429
- **Other**: $54,355

**TOP 3 OUTCOMES IN 2021**

1. The libraries continued offering extensive programs and events and welcomed 16,682 attendees to 988 programs.

2. The libraries lent 321,005 items and created “book bundles” and craft kits to introduce new materials and keep community members engaged with new resources.

3. In-person children's programs were held outdoors in local parks, including Wilson Farm Park, Strafford Park and Greentree Park. Paoli Library also partnered with Willistown Township and Malvern Borough to install a picture-book Story Stroll in Greentree Park.
VIBRANT
Youth Services staff worked with staff in the Melton Center’s after-school program to create a library for them. We especially wanted to ensure that the students in the program would have books available that they were interested in and wanted to read. A generous gift from Fulton Bank provided the funds to purchase the materials.

VITAL
During the summer and fall we held our story times in a nearby park, much to the delight of children and parents/grandparents who missed in-person sessions. Below is an email excerpt following one of those story times in the park:

“I have three grown children and each one has attended multiple sessions of WC Library Story time. In addition, my two oldest grandchildren have also benefited from attending WC story time. I was heartbroken at the thought that my youngest grandchild would not have the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful program. I am so pleased that the library has come up with such an appropriate and pleasant solution.”

VALUED
West Chester Public Library sees a number of people who visit, sometimes daily, to use the public PCs, work or study, check out a DVD, or get the children out of the house (especially when the weather is bad).

“I am profoundly grateful for the resources you offer as my family is financially struggling but at least we can check out books and now movies for free not to mention museum passes. It’s a lifesaver.” - WCPL Patron

VERIFIABLE
The Board and staff have embarked on a review of the library’s public space – how it’s used and how we can rework it to make it more useful and accommodating to our patrons. Look for updates as we go.
West Chester Public Library launched a TikTok account for teens to promote the library and reading; the introductory video had over 600 views and subsequent videos also did well.

We were able to offer a much wider range of programs for adults by offering them on Zoom, meaning we could host speakers from outside the region.

We created a vegetable themed video for state-wide distribution to libraries through a Tails and Tales and Your Health: Virtual Children’s Programs Grant from the PA Library Association: PA Forward Initiative and the National Library of Medicine.
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<td>K: Craft Kits (embroidery, cake decorating, jewelry making, knitting &amp; soap making)</td>
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<td>*Self-Checkout</td>
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<tr>
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Contact individual libraries for additional information on services. *Self-Checkout is available for all patrons with the CCLS Mobile App.
### 18 Locations Across Chester County

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Library Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td>Atglen Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>Avon Grove Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Chester County Library &amp; District Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>Chester Springs Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO</td>
<td>Coatesville Area Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>Downingtown Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Easttown Library &amp; Information Center</td>
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<td>HH</td>
<td>Henrietta Hankin Branch</td>
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<td>Honey Brook Community Library</td>
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<td>Kennett Library</td>
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<td>Malvern Public Library</td>
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<td>Spring City Free Library</td>
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<td>TR</td>
<td>Tredyffrin Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>West Chester Public Library</td>
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- **18 locations** across Chester County
- **39** locations across the map.