

To Our Library Community,

With your help, the Western Allegheny Community Library has weathered the storm...literally! Last year was a challenging one with rain damage, faulty drainage pipes, and broken HVAC units. The current pandemic has created a new set of challenges, but I am proud to say that we have risen to the challenge. By the end of the year, all repairs are targeted for completion and a portion of the roof will again be replaced. A new front desk has been installed and the Community Room has undergone a complete rejuvenation. In addition, staff have transitioned our programs and services to a virtual format and are excitedly offering new programs as well as past favorites for children, teens, adults, and seniors. Western Allegheny Community Library was one of the first in the county to reopen and offer patrons the opportunity to once again browse the collection and access our computers and services in person. As always, we want to acknowledge the unwavering support we continue to receive from the community. We **thank you** for supporting us with your donations as well as concern and well wishes. You have reinforced what we have always known: **your Library is an integral part of this community!**

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2020 and 2021, we expect to again face unprecedented challenges; this time our funding is at risk. Many of our benefactors including the Regional Asset District, Gaming Table Funds, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have encountered their own financial hardships, and as a result, we are not expecting them to give at the same levels as they have in the past. That is why we are **thrilled** to announce that the Jack Buncher Foundation has agreed to collaborate with the Allegheny County Library Association and Carnegie Library to offer **LOVE YOUR LIBRARY** month, providing a collective \$150,000 match to county libraries that fundraise during the month of September. Equally exciting is that local businesses, organizations, and individuals have also rallied in support of the library. So far, in an effort to entice community participation, our friends group W.A.F.E.L., Fast Eddie's Food-n-Fuel, Kosis Land Company, Sunrise Accounting, and Clinton Christmas Light-Up Celebration have offered another \$5500 to the WACL match.

Individuals just like you and organizations throughout the community understand and value the good work being done in West Allegheny. They know that Western Allegheny Community Library provides inspiration, exploration, and the resources that can transform a child's world. They know that never before has the library been so important for job seekers who come to the library to find help with résumés, gain access to computers, attend workshops, and receive technology training. They know that during this time of isolation, the library has made it a point to reach out to our seniors and that the library offers a place for all adults to explore, discover, and connect with others.

"The library is an important thread in the fabric of the community. It offers not only a place to learn and experience many things, but it is also a meeting place of education sharing that allows us to have a window into the world outside of our neighborhood."
- Robert (Findlay Township)

The 2020 fundraising goal to keep your Library at the level of activity and engagement that the community expects and deserves is \$110,000. With the generosity of so many supporters like yourself, **LOVE YOUR LIBRARY** will help get us closer to that goal. Here is an idea of what your support can do.

\$50 purchases two books for our collection

\$75 funds a single session of "Adulting 101" (everyday life skills not taught in school)

\$100 purchases a unique item (ex: pressure washer or carpet cleaner) for the collection

\$150 provides the resources for a complete season of technology training for seniors

Library staff are able to stretch a dollar and make a little go a long way for so many people. However, **we need your help**; and as you can see, for less than the cost of a coffee a day, **you can make a BIG difference!** Thank you for choosing to support your community!

Sincerely,



Amy McDonald, Library Director

