



WESTERN ALLEGHENY
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

LOVE **YOUR**
LIBRARY 

Dear Library Friend,

Despite what you may hear about how libraries are becoming obsolete, there are actually more public libraries in the United States than there are Starbucks locations! More than a warehouse for books, a library is an important community hub that serves as a center for learning, professional development, and healthcare resources. There's only one place in our community where students can access free Wi-Fi, a senior can find socialization opportunities, jobseekers can receive résumé help, business professionals can host meetings, and community members can receive free tax preparation: Western Allegheny Community Library. Here, we come together to learn, as well as share and celebrate where we live, who we are, and what we want to become.

Western Allegheny Community Library has worked hard to position itself as a community center of information, technology, and learning that fuels educational and economic opportunities for our residents. We are proud to announce that we have once again earned our **Gold Star Status** through the Pennsylvania Library Association's *PA Forward® Program*, which recognizes libraries for serving real-life needs by fueling the types of knowledge essential to success: Basic Literacy, Information Literacy, Civic & Social Literacy, Health Literacy, and Financial Literacy. This is not an easy designation to earn, but we've been able to do so each year since the program's inception.

In addition to earning this elite status, we've been hard at work on other projects. We completed a massive energy upgrade, converting all light fixtures from fluorescent to the more efficient LED, and upgraded all of our HVAC units so that they not only work properly and consume less energy, but also provide a safer and cleaner environment for our patrons and staff. We also earned recognition on the state and national level for outstanding program development and implementation. During a year in which continuing challenges caused many to spin their wheels, we were moving forward!

Recent circumstances have made budgets tighter than ever, and funding cuts and canceled fundraisers have put libraries at risk. We are **THRILLED** to announce that the Jack Buncher Foundation has once again agreed to collaborate with the Allegheny County Library Association and Carnegie Library System 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 by sponsoring our annual "Fall for Your Library" event on September 18. But we still need your help!

We know that **YOU** understand and value the good work being done in West Allegheny, and because of that, we hope you'll consider supporting the library during this matching period. The 2021 fundraising goal to keep your library at the level of activity and engagement that the community has come to expect and deserves is \$115,000. 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 Middle Grade Maker Lab

\$100 purchases a unique item (ex: air quality detector or travel hot spot) for our 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