



BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

# 2014/2015 Annual Report

## *Making Life Better*



67 West Washington Street

Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-6527

[www.bradfordlibrary.org](http://www.bradfordlibrary.org)

proudly supported by:



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*Autumn Ament, Front Desk*  
*Heather Flaherty, Front Desk*  
*Taffy Meyer, Front Desk*  
*Sandy Caprarotta, Early Childhood Literacy Consultant*



## Many Thanks to Our Outstanding Volunteer Support

*Lee Ann Doynow, Volunteer Coordinator*  
*Linda Marovich, School Age Program Advisor*  
*Marie Troskosky, Teen Program Advisor*  
*Elaine Summerday & Len Norville, Senior Outreach Advisors*  
*Jane Bowes, ebook and DVD cataloging*  
*Patti Fisher, Book Sale Coordinator*

## A Message from... Lacey Love, Executive Director



As I approach my first anniversary, I could not be more pleased at our progress and changes. It was a whirlwind year with the renovation of the Early Literacy Center, the Derby Gala, a roof replacement and a capital campaign. Staff, volunteers and trustees were invaluable!

The goal of any non-profit is to make life better, and that phrase is the library's motto this year. Reflected in our programming, BAPL is making life better for people of all ages - from newborns to seniors. We have a state of the art early literacy center and story time, tremendous senior outreach, a growing teen book club, and diverse adult programs. Our partnerships with local non-profits, schools, and businesses allow us to make even more community connections.

I see a bright future with everyone at the BAPL making life better for our patrons by expanding programming and technology, adding more resources to the Early Literacy Center, upgrading our meeting rooms, and focusing on community partnerships and outreach. Please check out our website at [www.bradfordlibrary.org](http://www.bradfordlibrary.org) to stay updated on everything that's happening at the library!

## Chris Minich, Board Chair



As we continue to serve our community, we are Making Life Better through life-long learning and its positive ripple effect on the community. Public libraries everywhere strive to serve their communities by providing valuable services to all patrons. The Bradford Area Public Library is a wonderful asset to our community due to the diverse opportunities we offer.

We are the bridge for the digital divide by providing free computer access and WIFI. Therefore, enabling job seekers to search and apply for work, students to research and complete coursework, and patrons to learn new skills. We are making life better because we strive to meet the needs of all who seek valuable services of computer access, programming for all ages, and an inviting collection of traditional and electronic books. Our public library is a welcome haven to all — newborns through seniors, locals and visitors.

The library services are provided by devoted staff, volunteers and community groups. With the support of the Trustees, those who work and volunteer for the library are guided to provide the best with the resources available. Together we create the balance to remain a vital asset for our Bradford community and beyond.

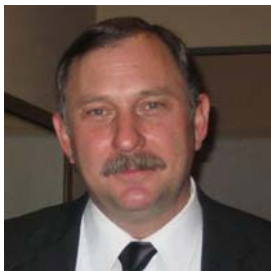
Making Life Better will continue to be our mantra as we work together to serve our diverse population, recognizing it is a valuable benefit to the individual and the broader community.



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A Message from the  
Capital Campaign Chair,  
Bob Esch

BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Bradford Area Public Library serves our entire community. Our library provides educational services; support services for any and all community-based nonprofit organizations; and recreational outlets for all, namely the young, the old, the literate and the non-literate. Our doors are open to individuals with disabilities and those who are developmentally or physically challenged. We partner with all of the local schools, Bradford Regional Medical Center, Bradford Area Chamber of Commerce, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, the YMCA and CARE for Children, along with many other local organizations and small businesses.

Publicly funded: Although libraries have a public mission, few have secure funding at any level of government. Nationwide, only about 1 percent of the operating revenue is derived from federal sources and 10 percent from state sources. The balance comes from local municipal governments, donations, grants, fines and fees. Beyond day-to-day operational costs, funds are needed for collection development, building maintenance, staffing and technology upgrades. Strong philanthropic support is essential and necessary in order to sustain the mission of the library.

Library services: The library is a community center and an agent for educational and economic development. The library's services include literature (books), extension activities (meeting rooms and informational lectures), and information and communication technology. In just the past few months, the library has held a program on solar panels, writing and journaling workshops for teens, several local author presentations, two gardening programs, and many other programs and presentations. Every day, front-desk employees help answer questions about e-readers, tablets, resumes and cover letters, online job applications, and email.

Early childhood development and learning: We have spent decades defining lifelong learning as learning beyond traditional schooling and throughout our adult life; learning directed toward skills needed for employment and personal fulfillment. I believe that lifelong learning begins at birth, at our first breath. Our community library supports our children in the most critical years of their childhood development. In 1901 in the library's annual report, it said, "It is perhaps, in the Children's Room that the demand for new books is most imperative, a large proportion of our collection is old and unsuited for their needs. With a better and more abundant selection of books, the work done here should constitute one of the most important phases of the library's activity. The room is already proving itself inadequate in size, being greatly overcrowded during busy hours." This focus and dedication to our children remains strong and evident today. The library supports all of our community children. The library and its Early Literacy Program contribute to their intellectual, emotional, social, and educational and language development needs. Remember that lifelong learning begins with our first breath, and we remain learners until our last breath.

Rural area: Quality library services in rural areas are imperative for the attainment of an enlightened citizenry. In McKean County, we have 22 municipalities, 20 of which are rural. Serving a rural population comes with its own unique challenges. The library may be the only place a patron can have consistent access to a computer or Wi-Fi. As federal, state and municipal budgets continue to tighten and less governmental funding becomes available, it is essential that the library reach out to our caring community for support.

We all know from our own past experiences that when our community comes together, good things happen.

*Making Life Better*

# Library Programming

## Story Seekers

Engaging young children and their families or caretakers in reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing with stories is the goal of our **Story Seekers** program. Our newly renovated children's room provides a space for families to engage in active learning together. During our monthly story time, children are encouraged to make choices about how to extend stories or make up new ones in the art studio, blocks, dramatic play or science and math active learning centers. Beginning in October, **Story Seekers** will offer a series of family learning workshops for the purpose of raising awareness of how literacy and numeracy are supported in early year educational settings, giving parents strategies for supporting their children's learning at home, and providing information about child care and preschool education services within our community



## Senior Outreach

Another new initiative has the Library connecting with four area nursing facilities (Bradford Manor, Chapel Ridge, Bradford Ecumenical Home and the Pavilion at BRMC). Through generous donations from a variety of book publishers, volunteers Elaine Summerday and Len Norville are providing books to residents of the facilities. Elaine and Len will also be rotating books at the Bradford Senior Activity Center each month. The Senior Outreach initiative is developing plans for many more new efforts and is currently recruiting volunteers.

## Teen Book Club

The Teen Book Club has doubled its enrollment since it first began in the Fall of 2012. There are now 32 students on its roster. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5-6pm. Students are given a free book to take home and read for the next meeting's discussion. We also hold movie nights and Read-a-thons to provide a place for teens to read and socialize. The past two years, the club has worked with UPB and BASD to bring well-known young adult authors to our community. For the Teen Book Club, excitement is building as they begin to prepare for their June 5, 2016 tour of New York City (New York Public Library, seeing the play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," based on the book of the same title, and have dinner at Planet Hollywood.)



## Outreach

The library's outreach programs are a great asset to many community organizations who want to enrich and reinforce literacy. The library does outreach with reading activities at Bradford Area non-profits, schools, and organizations, such as Growing with Grace Childcare, the YMCA, Bradford Area Christian Academy, Evergreen Elm, and FCI McKean. We also make sure the library is represented at community events like Pumpkin Fest, the Senior Expo, YMCA Kids Fest, and the Beacon Light Christmas light-up night to support our commitment to literacy. Our goal is to continue to be available to all in-need at the library and in community settings.

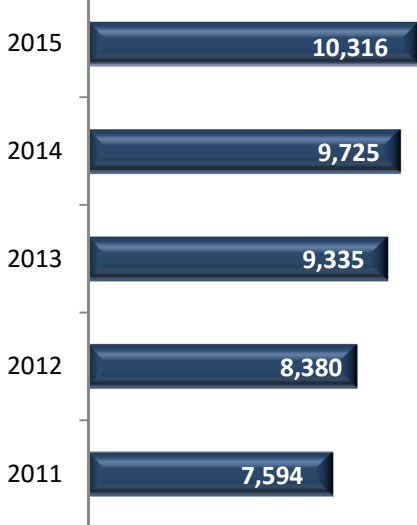


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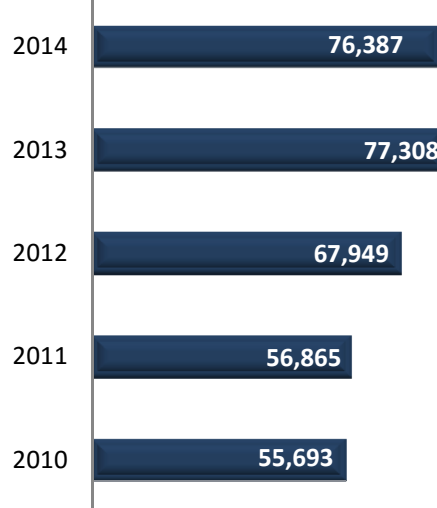
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## The Numbers at a Glance...

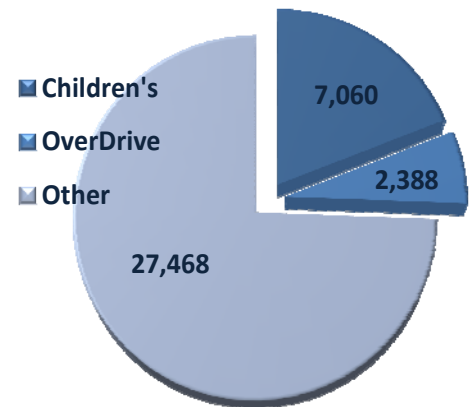
**Card Holders**



**Visitor Count**



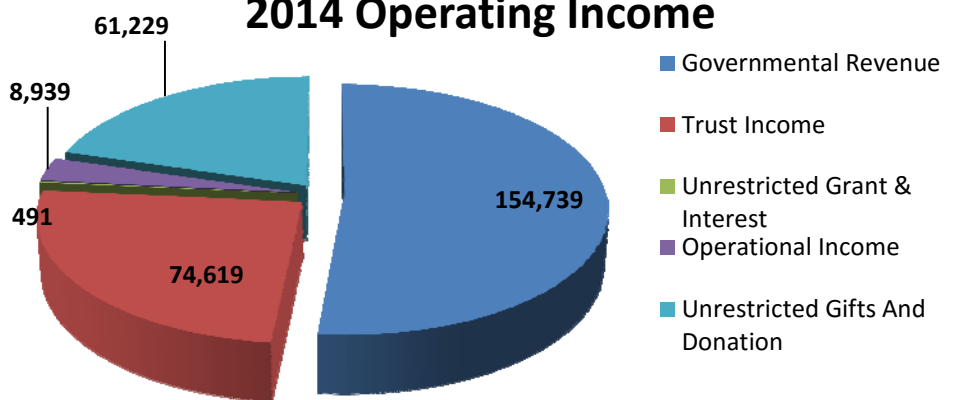
**2015 Circulation**



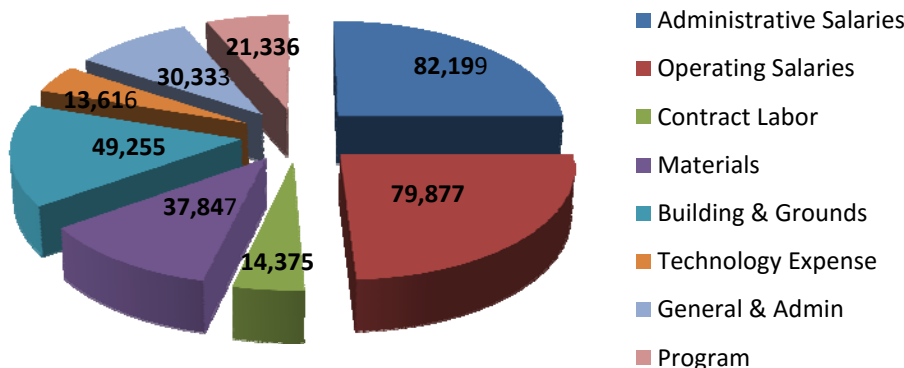
*While government funding provides the largest source of funds for the library, the amount of government funding received has not increased in the past five years. Private gifts and donations are critical for filling gaps in funding.*

*Each year, the board of Trustees assures that funds are available to support the operations of the Library.*

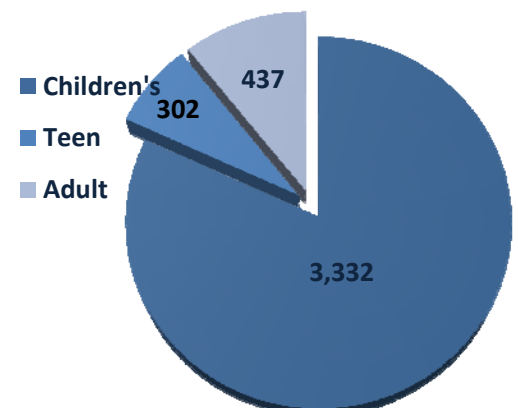
**2014 Operating Income**



**2014 Operating Expenses**



**2015 Program Attendance**



# A Special Thanks to Madeline Miles



The 2015/16 Capital Campaign's slogan "*Mad about the Library*" is in honor of Madeline Miles who continues a family tradition of service to the Bradford Library and the community. As a long-time Trustee (retiring at the end of 2014 after nine consecutive years of service), Madeline's energy inspires and

urges others as evidenced in the many comments of BAPL and community leaders:

*~Bradford is so very fortunate to have Madeline Miles as a solid citizen so dedicated to the well-being and growth of the entire community. Her example of sincere efforts is a gift to all of us. She gives from her heart and her friendship is the secret of acceptance.*  
Howard Fesenmyer, Executive Director of the Blaisdell Foundation

*Madeline's role with the Bradford Area Public library is deeply rooted. She is a traditionalist who believes in the longevity and future of our library. All the while, she embraces technology in an impressive manner as she takes on the technology challenges of our evolving world. Utilizing her iPad and e-reader, Madeline sends emails, records and references meeting notes, visits Facebook and YouTube sites and listens to audio books – even as she regularly borrows books from the library collection.*  
Chris Minich, BAPL Board Chair, Administrative Assistant to the President & CEO, Zippo

*Madeline has shown tireless dedication in service to the community and in particular the Bradford Area Public Library. She always made sure she was aware of the issues at hand and then quickly worked her magic to get the right people at the table to solve the problem or to plan for the future. Even more, Madeline has the gift of delivering both constructive criticism and kudos in a way that makes people want to strive to do great things.*  
Becky Jensen, BAPL Trustee, VP of Beacon Light

*One thing that most impresses me about Madeline is her humility. No matter how hard the task or how much work she accomplishes, she always diverts attention from herself. While many others might be happy to toot their horn, Madeline does the opposite – she toots the horn of*

*all those who work for the betterment of the community.*  
Lisa Olszak Zumstein, BAPL Treasurer, President, Olszak Consulting

*Madeline is a wonderful ambassador for the Bradford Area Public Library and an advocate for all the things our library espouses: early and life-long learning, literacy, free and open to the public, and a place where every community member is equal. Her outstanding support of our library over the years has made a difference in the lives of so many, including my own.*

Tina Martin, BAPL Board Secretary, Executive Director CARE for Children

*For most of my adult life I have driven by Madeline's residence tucked away on a lovely . Where else could she possibly reside....a very caring and gracious lady with a heartfelt love for the Land and the Bradford Community.*  
Bob Esch, BAPL Board Vice President, VP of External Affairs, ARG

*Madeline has served on the Board of Directors of Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems for a number of years. Her insight and perspective have been invaluable in ensuring the integrity of our mission and vision during our unprecedented growth over the past decade. Whenever the Board was reviewing a proposed project, her first - and last - question has always been 'Will the children, families, and adults we serve benefit from this project?' Her oversight and ethical measuring stick helped ensure that Beacon Light would always balance solid business decisions against the century-old commitment to human services. Her commitment and service to the Bradford community has made this a better place for many people and for this everyone should be grateful.*

Rick Seager, President & CEO of Beacon Light

It's no wonder that Madeline is recognized by the editors of Notable Today™ who "...highlight individuals who have become worthy of attention or notice in their local communities either through career success, demonstration of a high level of personal integrity, worthwhile volunteer contributions or other considerations.

*Making Life Better*



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## A Special Thanks to Lee Ann Doynow



A dedicated volunteer herself with strong management experience, Lee Doynow is the perfect leader for BAPL's Volunteer Services. Through an internal assessment of BAPL's human resource needs along with gathering information from other libraries and resource manuals on the essential elements of a volunteer program, Lee led the effort to design and implement a professional volunteer program that now boasts a cadre of 20 very active volunteers.

Anyone who has worked with Lee knows that she brings a tireless dedication along with a sense of fun to all that she does. She surrounds herself with similarly dedicated talent; in mid-2012, Lee enlisted a small team to develop a plan for the Volunteer Program. The team consisted of Tamara McIntyre (BAPL's previous Executive Director), Jane Bowes, Marie Troskosky, Ann Gannon, Terri Leven Deanna Peters, Kiron Bhatt, and Stephanie Parsons. Working hand-in-hand with BAPL's Executive Director, Lee's team identified key tasks such as putting together a Policy and Practice Manual, creating forms for record-keeping and developing strategies for recruitment, training, retention and recognition. Their timetable was July –October 2012. Committee members undertook a task for each meeting, bringing back finished products for discussion and recommendation. By keeping on task, the team presented materials for board review in September and October and the Volunteer program received full board approval and endorsement on November 19, 2012.

With a continuous improvement approach, Lee launched the volunteer program by testing the policies, practices and materials on volunteers who were already working. She also met with staff and prospective volunteers to implement a pilot program – all during a time when BAPL saw three new Executive Directors in three years. Through Lee's leadership and perseverance, BAPL now has diverse volunteers who work on programs and services, maintenance, the Book Sale and special projects. Over the next few months, Lee is working on a recruitment strategy and a plan for recognition of 2015 volunteers. Essential to BAPL's success, volunteers provide irreplaceable time and talent to help staff and patrons.

When asked why she dedicates so much time to the start-up and ongoing coordination of BAPL's Volunteer Program, with her joyful laugh Lee replies, "I grew up loving the library and was on the State Library Committee that wrote the new library code. This opportunity sounded fun and intriguing."



## Celebrating 20 Years of Service

### Lorna Grove & Taffy Meyer



**Lorna Grove** arrived in Bradford, PA from Hong Kong, China in 1986. She began her career at BAPL in January 1995 and has had many different jobs from helping with fundraising to cataloguing books to working the front desk. See what Lorna has to say about: her...

Favorite Thing about the Library: The people!

Favorite Author: Mary Clark Higgins. Sometimes I jump to the last page to see how the author pulls it all together. I also like True Crime by Ann Rule.

Activities Outside Work: Quilting, sewing and drawing.

Fun Fact about You: I speak Cantonese and Mandarin.



**Taffy Meyer** was born in Rixford and has lived in and around the area ever since. She began her tenure with BAPL in November 1994, so will actually be celebrating 21 years next month. Through the years, Taffy has also done a variety of jobs from book

processing to cataloguing to programming to front desk. See what Taffy has to say about her...

Favorite Thing about the Library: The books and the friendly work environment!

Favorite Author: I love all types of genres from vampires, to cozy mysteries to history...whatever strikes my fancy .

Activities Outside Work: Taking care of my 16 cats.

Fun Fact about You: I had 27 cats at one time and still have a 75lb dog that gets along well with the entire crew.



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Bradford, PA 16701

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## ***Bradford Area Public Library Mission and Vision***

### ***Mission***

*To provide the resources to inform, educate and enrich our community in a way that demonstrates:*

- *Literacy*
- *Equal access and diversity*
- *Life-long learning*
- *Fiscal responsibility and integrity*
- *BAPL's rich heritage*



### ***Vision***

*To be a recognized premier library in service to our community.*