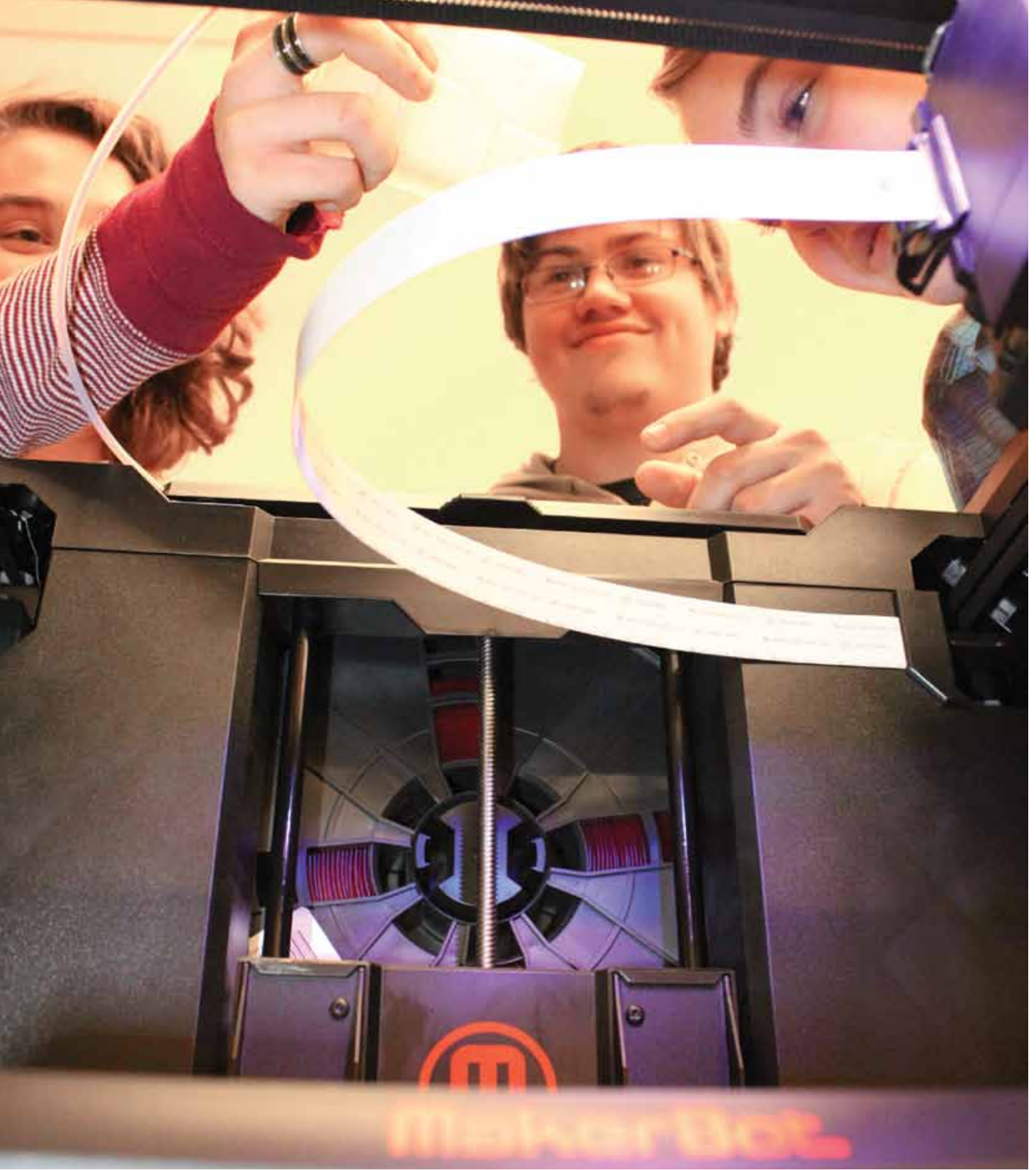




# 2014 Annual Report



# Your Library

Four years after the opening of the Donald W. Reynolds Library building, people are using the Baxter County Library in all of the ways we envisioned and more. We are connecting with the community we serve in new ways, providing life-enhancing experiences, unique educational opportunities, and convenient access to services and information.

Library programs in 2014 such as the Library's Maker Space and *Try Something New Nights* challenged us to step outside our comfort zones and learn something new. Because not everyone learns the same way, the Library introduced new services such as online language learning and welcomed the interactive *Crime Lab Detective* exhibit. Programs like *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, beginning computer classes, and cell phone sessions for seniors reached new audiences, taught in innovative ways, and connected generations of learners.



Also in 2014, the Baxter County Library reached out to more people by making improvements to the Gassville Branch Library. A new parking lot, more computers, a meeting space, and a new program line-up made the Library's services more convenient for many Baxter County residents.








In 2014, the Library maintained operations with a perpetually tight budget. A one mill property tax provided 54% of the total revenue. The Library Foundation provided 27% of the revenue with earnings from two restricted funds and income from fundraisers, sponsorships, and donations.

In its second year, the Library sponsorship program brought in \$35,000, which allowed us to sustain Library programs and collections. A list of 2014 sponsors can be found on page six of this report.

**533 Weekly Average**



*Computer Users 27,721*

*Circulation*

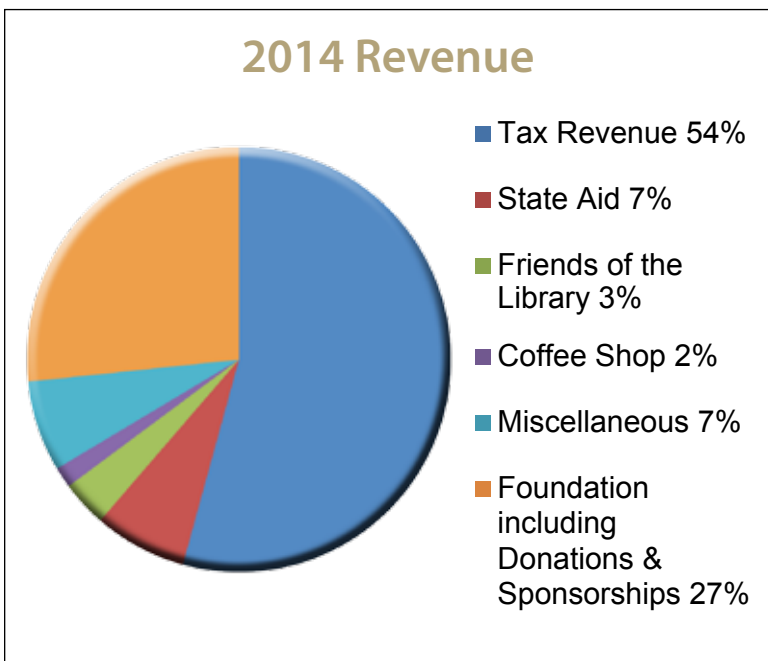
**349,679** Items annually

**8.4** Items per person in Baxter County



*Served*

**41,513** Population




# 2014 Highlights



## Crime Lab Detective Exhibit and Program Series

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Friends of the Library, the *Crime Lab Detective* exhibit from the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock traveled to the Library for the entire community to enjoy. The hands-on exhibit introduced forensic science concepts in a fun, interactive way.

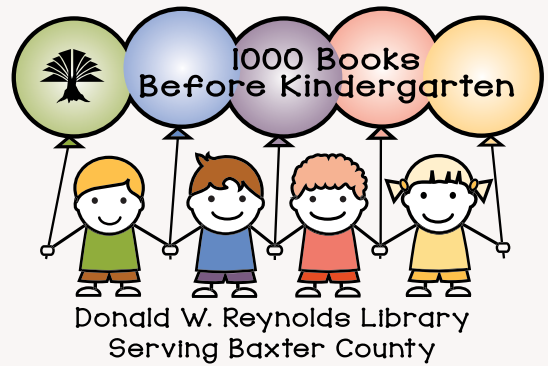
|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>2014 Participation</b></p> <p><i>Programs</i></p> | <p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p>Children ..... 7,371</p> <p>Teen..... 3,878</p> <p>Adult ..... 4,159</p> <p>Exhibits &amp; Program Series...11,415</p> |
|  | <p><b>26,823</b></p>  |

## Gassville Branch

The Gassville Branch Library got a facelift thanks to a \$22,359 General Improvement Fund (GIF) grant from the State of Arkansas, which funded improvements including a new parking lot, furniture, and computers. Much of the work on the parking lot was done by the City of Gassville. The Friends of the Library provided funding for the sign and additional improvements. The Gassville Branch Library provides convenient access to Library programs and services for the residents in that area.

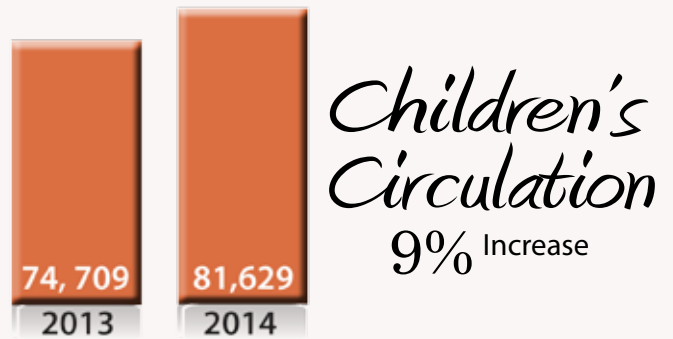
## Children's Librarian Honored

Our Children's Librarian Deborah Edmonds was the 2014 recipient of the Arkansas Library Association Ann Lightsey Award. The award was established in 2006 to honor a children's librarian who has actively contributed to the improvement of children's programs and to raising the level of children's programming on the state level.



## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

The *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* program, designed to get children ready to learn to read, debuted in 2014 and its impact is already being seen.



## Maker Space

The Library opened its Maker Space in 2014. Maker spaces are places for innovation and creativity, providing Library patrons access to high-tech and low-tech tools that might not otherwise be available. *Funds from the Library Mini Golf* fundraiser were used to purchase a 3D printer and scanner, which became the first tools in our Library's Maker Space.

## Online Language Learning

Thanks to an anonymous sponsor, *Transparent Language* was introduced as a service on the Library's website. The online program allows people to choose from over 50 languages to learn at their own pace.




# Support

## Volunteers

In 2014 members of our volunteer team were recognized for their outstanding service. Seven Library volunteers earned Silver-level Presidential Volunteer Service Awards for contributing 250 to 499 hours. They were John Reckard, Margaret Park, Mary Peterson, Neal Wheeler, Margie Kelly, Eileen Jenkins and Joseph Kelly. Thirty-three Bronze-level honorees contributed 100 to 249 hours each, and thirty-five volunteers earned certificates from the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Community Service and Non-profit Support for contributing 50 to 99 hours to the Library.

Mary Quilhot was the Library's 2014 *Our Local Heroes* nominee in honor of her years of dedication coordinating the volunteer operations at the Gassville Branch Library. The Gassville Branch Library is staffed completely by volunteers.





*Library Volunteers*

**11,637 Hours** | **\$220,288 Value**

Value based on estimated volunteer time in state-by-state rankings by the Independent Sector, a leadership network for some 600 nonprofits, foundations, and corporate giving programs.

## Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library supported the Library with funds raised through their popular, used book sales and annual auction. They sponsored the *Crime Lab Detective* Exhibit from the Museum of Discovery, the Arkansas Heritage program series, and many children's and teen programs. In addition, the Friends contributed to the Gassville Branch improvement project. Also in 2014, this devoted group announced the establishment of the Friends of the Library Scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time in the spring of 2015 to a graduating high school senior.

| 2014 Support Provided by Friends of the Library |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| \$ 10,275                                       | Staff Development             |
| \$ 11,095                                       | Programs & Exhibits           |
| \$ 12,450                                       | Materials                     |
| \$ 5,447  | Gassville Branch Improvements |
| \$ 2,722  | Scholarship Fund              |
| \$ 41,989                                       | TOTAL                         |

## Library Foundation

Generous donations and sponsorships combined with earnings from the Foundation's two restricted funds enabled the Library Foundation to fulfill its mission of providing the financial support necessary to supplement the Library's operating budget. They held three fundraisers in 2014 - the 10th annual *Ante Up for the Library* Texas Hold'em Tournament, the *Library Mini Golf* events benefiting the Maker Space project, and thanks to an anonymous donor, an estate jewelry sale benefiting the Genealogy collection. In addition to the General Improvement Fund grant for Gassville Branch Library improvements, the Foundation received a \$1,000 grant from the Walton Family Foundation for Workforce development at the Gassville Branch Library, and \$500 for the Children's Library and \$500 for general Library support from the Mountain Home Walmart.

| 2014 Support Provided by Library Foundation |  |
|---|--|
| \$ 100,000                                  | Programs and Materials                                     |
| \$ 100,000                                  | Maintenance  |
| \$ 99,090                                   | General Library Support                                    |
| \$ 6,396                                    | <b>Freegal</b> Downloadable Music Subscription Sponsorship |
| \$ 4,518                                    | Volunteer Program  |
| \$ 2,714                                    | Genealogy Collection                                       |
| \$ 7,383                                    | Maker Space  |
| \$ 320,101                                  | TOTAL  |

## Library Sponsors

We greatly appreciate the generosity of our sponsors, who make many Library programs and services possible.

### \$250+ Level

#### **Adult Cell Phone Classes**

Reading Women Book Club

#### **Teen Banned Book Week**

Reading Women Book Club

#### **Children's Stuffed Animal Sleep-over**

Randy & Susan Norcross

#### **Tween Summer Science Program**

Mike & Joyce Cameron

#### **Children's Summer Classes**

Knights of Columbus #7353

### \$500+ Level

#### **Children's Teddy Beddy Bear Event**

Betty Bogart for her sister and her sister's grandchildren

#### **Anime Mini Convention**

Andrew and Christina White

#### **Teen Anime Club for a Year**

Andrew & Christina White

#### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

Walmart

#### **Children's Collection**

Senator Johnny Key

#### **Teen Technology**

Walmart

### \$750+ Level

#### **The Artmobile**

Julie Wright

### \$1000+ Level

#### **Beginning Computer Classes for Adults**

William & Leta Snow

#### **Children's Summer Saturday Shows**

Barbie Graham

### \$1,500+ Level

#### **Story Times**

Lynn & Carol Landrum and  
Kyle & Lynn McAlister  
in honor of their mothers

#### **Library2Go eBook and Audiobook Collection**

Susan & Jeffrey Hoepfer

### \$2,500+ Level

#### **Arkansas Heritage Program Series**

Friends of the Library

#### **Children's Summer Reading Program**

Friends of the Library

#### **Language Learning**

Anonymous

#### **eBook & Magazine Collection**

Diane Reimann

### \$5,000+ Level

#### **Freegal Downloadable Music Collection**

Baxter County Library  
Foundation

#### **Crime Lab Detective Exhibit**

Friends of the Library

# Looking Forward

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Before we look forward, let's look backward for a moment. This coming year will be our fifth in the Donald W. Reynolds Library, still serving Baxter County.

Like the early 1950's, when a group of professional women took the initiative and laid the groundwork that established the Baxter County Library, the years since 2006 have been foundation years for the future growth and development of our Library. We just need to remember that the Library serves us all - it is not dependent on a particular format or service, but it is about people. It must provide equal access to information, to resources that can inspire and foster creativity, and to entertain. It can also be a community hub where people come together.

For the past twenty-five years, I have been fortunate to have been paid to do a job I love, serving the community where I grew up, and where we raised our daughter.

But last year when I realized that for the first time ever

I no longer had a future vision for the Library, I knew the time had come to step down. To ensure a smooth transition, the Library Board has appointed Kim Crow-Sheaner as Deputy Director to succeed me when I retire at the end of June. There will be other new faces in 2015 as our cataloger Susan Nixon and our children's librarian Deborah Edmonds retire.

This coming year the Library team made up of staff, Library Board members, Friends of the Library, Foundation trustees, volunteers and supporters will be adjusting to new leadership and will begin the process of developing a new strategic vision for the coming years.

To those who have been loyal, supportive, and incredibly hard-working in bringing the Baxter County Library to this point, I can only say THANK YOU! You have given our community an incredible gift.

*Gwen Khayat*  
Baxter County Librarian



Donald W. Reynolds  
**LIBRARY**  
Serving Baxter County  
baxlib.org 870-580-0987

300 Library Hill, Mountain Home, AR 72653

The Baxter County Library is a bridge to expanded horizons, opened minds, and enriched lives. The Baxter County Library provides lifelong resources that educate, inspire, and entertain in a welcoming environment.