

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Baxter County
LIBRARY FOUNDATION
Investing in Your Place to Grow

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Your Library "Gets Growing"

In 2009 the Baxter County Public Library Foundation (BCPLF) saw its dream of a new Library building for Baxter County become reality. Over 300 people attended a Groundbreaking Ceremony on March 6 to launch the construction project. General contractors Gregory Company, Inc. immediately began construction, using a team of mostly local sub-contractors. Construction progressed throughout the spring and summer months with some delays due to unusually wet weather. In late summer patrons turned out in droves to sign the final beam for the new building, and on September 25 that beam was placed on the building during a Topping Out Ceremony. The building is "dried in" and work is proceeding on the interior with move-in slated for late Summer 2010.



Construction Time Lapse Sequence



Your Library Foundation

Celebrating 10 years as a Foundation in 2009, the Baxter County Public Library Foundation continued to focus on the campaign to raise \$2 million for a Restricted Fund for Programs, which must be committed prior to occupying the new building. The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation will match that Restricted Fund for Programs dollar for dollar with a Restricted Fund for Maintenance. The earnings from these Restricted Funds will help offset the increased costs of a larger building and future maintenance expenditures for the new building and equipment. This match plus the \$9.8 million grant received to build and furnish the new building results in a 6:1 match from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for every dollar raised in the community.

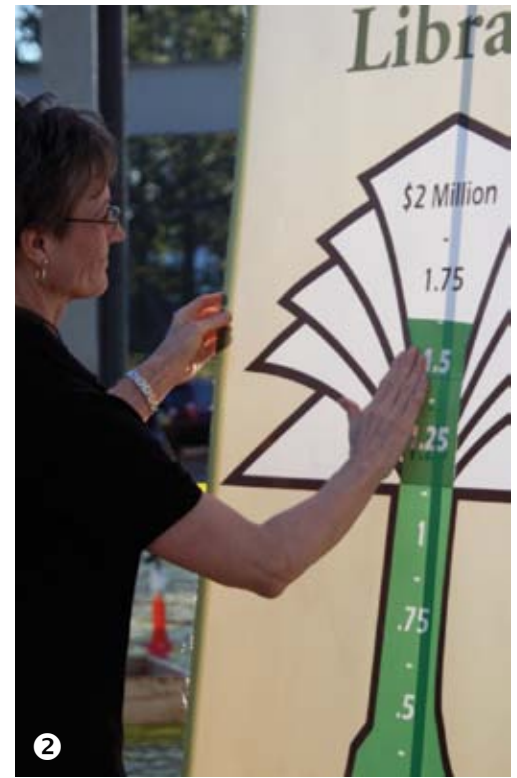


Photographed March through December 2009



2009	Gifts and Commitments
\$ 16,377	Foundation Fundraising Events
\$ 4,045	Memorials/Honorariums
	Restricted Fund for Programs
\$ 545,891	Commitments (balance due)
\$1,080,768	Commitments and Gifts Received
\$1,626,659	TOTAL RESTRICTED FUND FOR PROGRAMS

1. Children and Library staff release balloons to conclude the Groundbreaking Ceremony.
2. Library Foundation members celebrate at the Topping Out Ceremony.
3. Commemorative Groundbreaking shovels
4. Library Foundation Trustees mark 10 years of dedicated service to the Library.
5. Students visit the Library to sign the final beam for the new building.



In 2009, the Library Foundation established the Library Advisory Board.

The Foundation supported its operations budget with proceeds from its three annual fundraising events again this year, the *Ante-Up for the Library* Tournament, the *Lob for the Library* Tennis Tournament and the *Tour de Libre* Walk, Run and Ride. In addition, various community partners co-hosted events including *McLibary Night*, *Me on the Square* for Dinner, and *A Walk Through Time* at the Old College Hall. These events were fundraisers, but served also to raise awareness for the public phase of the campaign.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation awarded the Library Foundation an art grant in the amount of \$200,000 to enhance the new Library building with carefully selected pieces of regional art for the public to enjoy. An Art Committee is working with a professional art consultant.

A twelve member Advisory Board comprised of community leaders representing a cross section of the population was established and met for its first quarterly meeting in August. Advisory Board members act as liaisons between the Foundation and the community.

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1. Members of the Advisory Board and Foundation Members visit construction site. Left to right: Linda Dunsmuir from Gregory Construction, Cara Coleman, Gwen Khayat, Kelly Hagaman, Catherine Sawyer, Don Sharp, Roger Pitchford, Anita Hayden, Katie Risk, Will Gregory, Deborah Knox, Barbara Skeffington, and Judy Moen. Advisory Board Members not pictured: Sonny Garrett, Joy Gaston, Mary Kirby, Joe Miles, Warren Haley, and Ben Ponder.
 2. Campaign Chair Deborah Knox adds a sticker to the campaign sign to indicate that \$1.6 million has been raised.
 3. Children receive medals for being good sports at the Foundation's *Tour de Libre* event.
 4. Cyclists get off to a good start at ASU in Mountain Home, site of the *Tour de Libre* Walk, Run, and Ride.
 5. *Ante-Up for the Library* participants play hard and win big for the Library.
 6. *Lob for the Library* winners are honored with a book of their choice donated to the Library collection.





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Library Board of Directors

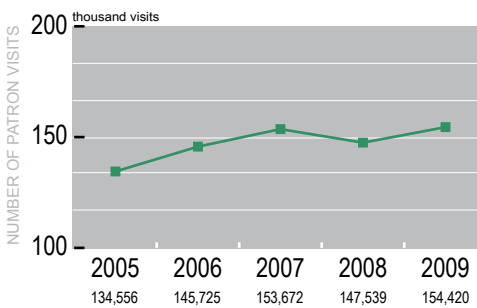
Library Operations

The Library Board continued with its evaluation of various Library operations and focused on streamlining operations. They began a review and revision of policies prior to occupying the new building. The number of Library programs was reduced to free up staff to prepare for the move.

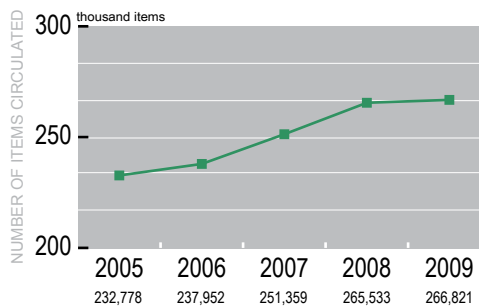
The ice storm in January of last year brought most of Baxter County to a standstill, and the Library was no exception. The Library's public computers were down for two weeks following the storm. In addition, the network was down for another week in 2009. Having the public computers out of commission for a total of three weeks, greatly impacted the numbers for public computer users in 2009, which were down significantly from 2008. Despite the unavoidable downtime, the Library remained a valuable resource for free Internet access and recreational reading material in 2009.

Library Board and staff prepare for the move to the new building.

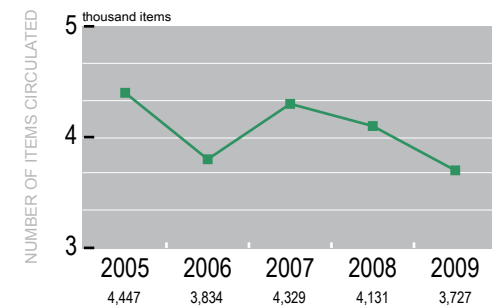
Library Visits



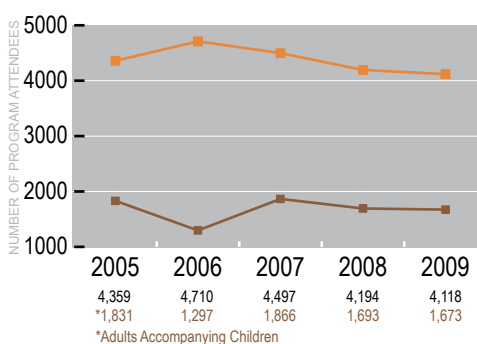
Total Circulation Mountain Home



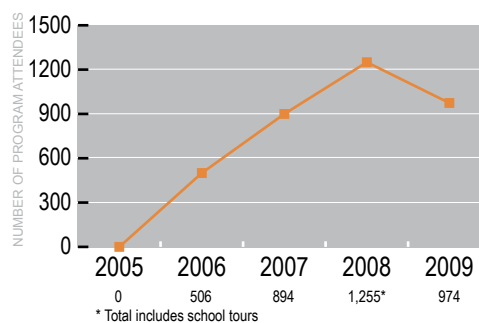
Total Circulation Gassville



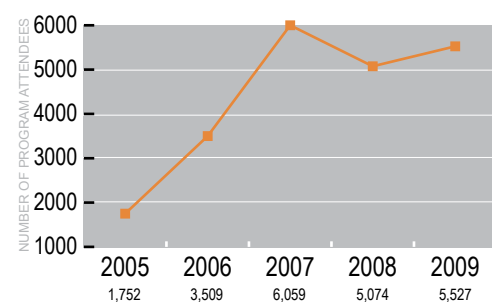
Children's Program Attendance



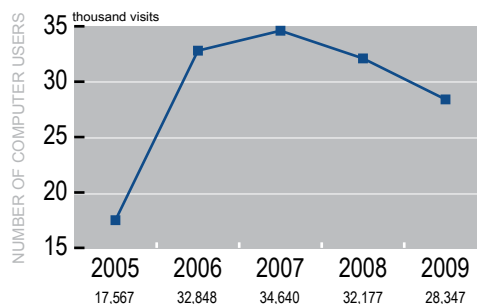
Teen Program Attendance



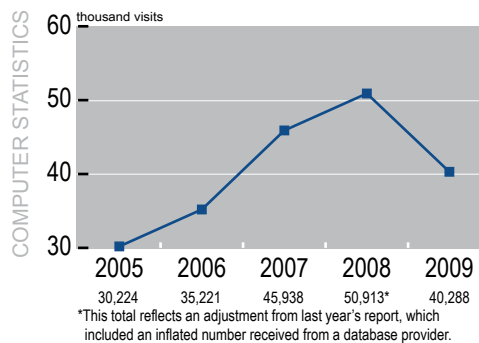
Adult Program Attendance



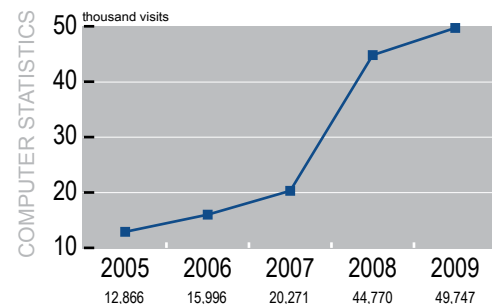
Public Computer Users



Online Database Usage



Website Visits





Library Programs and Services for all Ages

In addition to the activities pictured above, adult programming included guest speaker Susie Wilson who, over lunch, shared with an audience of potential entrepreneurs her experiences in starting a successful cookie business, *Soozie's Doozies*. Popular radio talk show host Doug Rye broadcast his energy conservation show live from the Library to celebrate Earth Day. Another program introduced those attending to species found only in Arkansas, followed by a capacity audience who viewed the film "The Buffalo Flows" recently produced by Larry Foley.

For the younger set, children's author and illustrator Rich Davis visited the Library and presented *Let's Draw Together*. Preschoolers benefitted from thoughtfully crafted Story Times to develop their pre-literacy skills and to prepare them for success when they enter school.

Teens made their voices heard through the Teen Library Council, Anime Club, and special teen events like Banned Book Week's *Open Mic Night* and a *GPS Workshop and Scavenger Hunt*. *Targeted Tutoring* for teens continued in partnership with the Twin Lakes Literacy Council, offering one-on-one attention in all subjects.

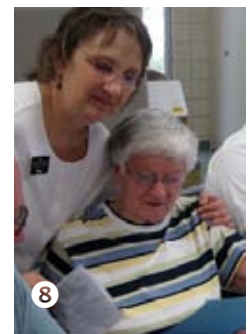
Summer programs encouraged adults, teens, and children to *Express Yourself at Your Library* with inter-generational art-themed classes and activities.

The Library could not present these programs without generous local sponsors. In addition, the Library received a grant in 2009 from Bank of America to facilitate a teen book club program.

1. Community organizations recruit new volunteers at the annual *Volunteer Fair*.
2. The Library's Summer Reading Program is a family affair with reading programs for children, teens, and adults.
3. One of many summer programs designed especially for children, the *Computer Keyboarding Workshop* sparks a smile from an enthusiastic student.
4. The Library's teen *GPS Workshop and Scavenger Hunt* combines Old West legends with modern technology.
5. A guest magician performs for a capacity crowd of children and their parents as part of the *Express Yourself at the Library* summer program series.
6. The Teen Library Council plans fun activities for teens.
7. Area Art Club members prepare for an exhibit. The Library features a variety of exhibits throughout the year.

Your Library Staff and Volunteers

The Baxter County Library staff consists of 11 full time and 12 part time positions supplemented by a team of over 100 dedicated volunteers who help stretch the Library's budget to offer a wider variety of services with limited funds.

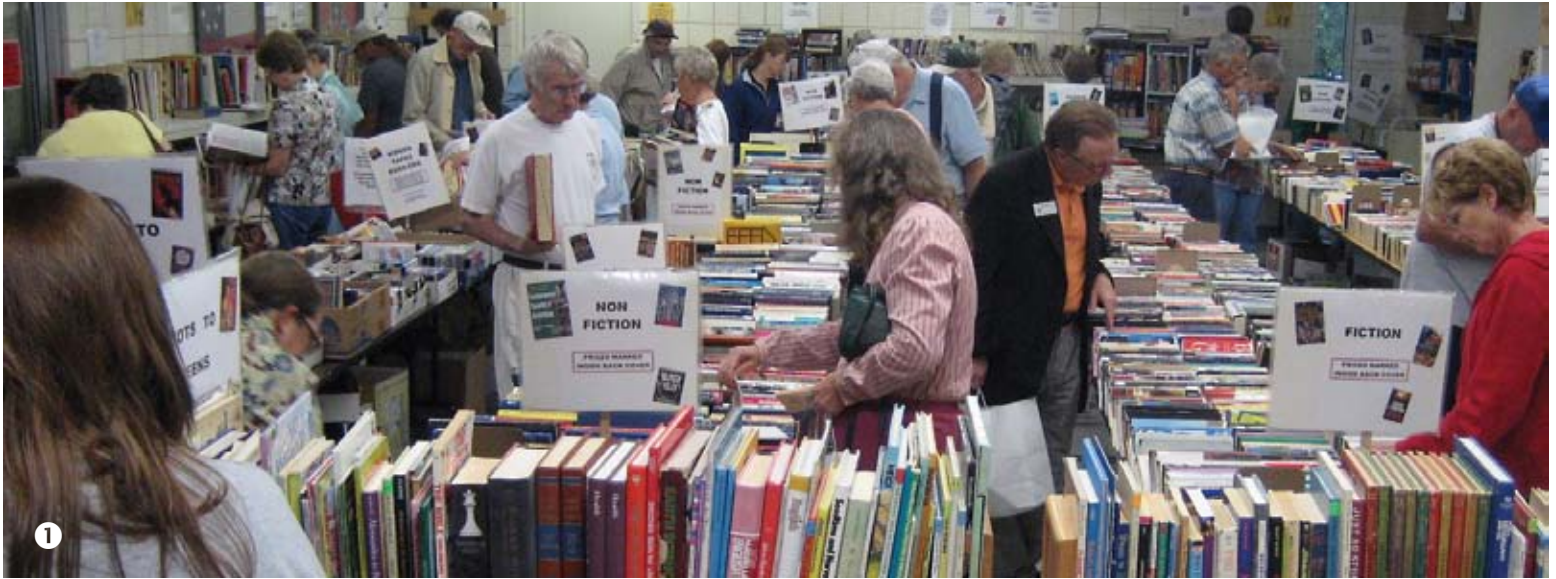


1. Big smiles as Library Staff break ground at the site for the new Library on March 6, 2009.
2. Children's Librarian Deborah Edmonds enjoys a good story or two.
3. Reference Librarian Vincent Anderson fields patron questions on every subject under the sun.
4. Circulation Supervisor Brenda Knight manages a busy staff of 14 service-oriented circulation personnel.
5. In 2009, Library Volunteer John Reckard donated over 200 hours of service to the Library.
6. Library Cataloguer Susan Nixon works with Library Volunteer Margaret Park who donated over 400 hours of service to the Library in 2009.
7. Teen Librarian Courtney Pickett meets with a teen and his tutor to coordinate the *Targeted Tutoring* program.
8. Program Coordinator Kathe Altazan thanks retiring volunteer Polly Millhouser for her many years of service.



Friends of the Baxter County Library

The Friends of the Baxter County Library (FOL) donated proceeds from their Used Book Sales to supplement Library Programming and staff development as well as being a major contributor to the Restricted Fund for Programming, donating over \$85,000 so far. They also promote Library involvement through their monthly programs.



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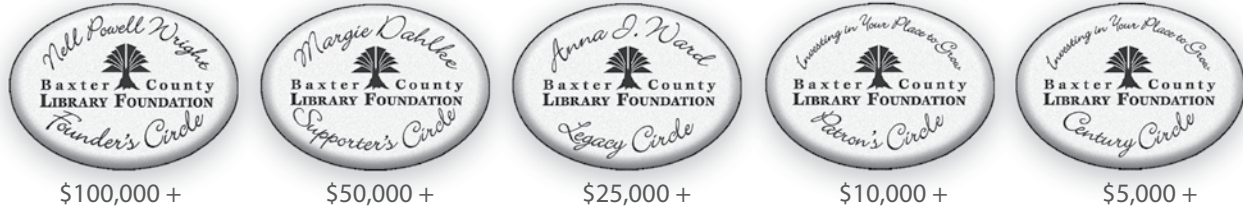
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1. The Friends of the Library quarterly Used Book sales draw crowds.
2. FOL President Jo Belle Zimmerman presents Deborah Knox with a check for \$10,000 for the Restricted Fund for Programs at the Groundbreaking Ceremony followed by an additional \$5,000 at Topping Out.
3. FOL Executive Board members are: Left to right, back row: Maureen Rozelle, Mary Lou Duseberg, Margie Kelly, Marie Betzold, Joyce Clark, Alice Feicht. Front Row: Audrey Burns, Jo Belle Zimmerman, Barbara Lamb, Janet Wheeler, Judy Moen.

2009	Support Provided by Friends of the Library
\$ 1,244	Children's Services
\$ 4,548	Special Programs/Exhibits
\$ 1,785	Materials
\$ 3,887	Staff Development Workshops
\$ 11,464	TOTAL
\$85,000	Restricted Fund for Programs

Giving and Growing Together

The new Donald W. Reynolds Library is named to honor the generous grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (DWRP). In addition to the three interior naming opportunities allowed by DWRP, there are five designated levels of giving which will be recognized on the Wall of Honor in the new Library lobby.



Two more opportunities to support the Restricted Fund for the new Library were extended to the public in the fall. The *Paver Stone Program*, offering opportunities to purchase customized, engraved paver stones which will be placed at the new Library, was started in September. Purchasers can choose from two different sizes and three locations. Prices range from \$200 to \$500 depending on size of paver and location.

The *Lincolns for the Library Program* was also initiated in the fall as a way to engage school children in the campaign and to foster a sense of ownership for their new public Library. Students collect coins to raise money for the new Library. The program was modeled after a similar program in the early 1900s to help fund a base for the Statue of Liberty. All six schools in the Mountain Home School District are participating in this program which runs through April, 2010. The class, team, or academy in each school that raises the most money will be awarded a sneak preview trip to the new Library and a pizza party in May.



1. Prototype of the Paver stone design to be featured on the exterior entryway, children's patio, and teen patio at the new Library
2. Pinkston Middle School students collect their coins as part of the *Lincolns for the Library* program.
3. Guy Berry Middle School Principal, Sondra Monger, poses with 4th grade students as they proudly display their coins.
4. The final beam is placed atop the new Library building during the Topping Out Ceremony in September 2009.





Looking Forward

2010 will be a year full of changes as we move into our new building and open it to the community for all to use and enjoy. Plans for 2010 include:

- Completing the \$2 million goal for the Restricted Fund for Programs
 - Finalizing selections and contracts for furniture and equipment in the new Library
 - Continuing to adjust and/or reduce Library programming to free staff for the move
- Some programming adjustments include:
- The Poetry Thing rescheduled to the Fall (this year only)
 - Introduction of Teen Book Clubs
 - Summer Reading packets provided for children in place of the regular Summer Reading programming since the move will occur during the summer
- Recruiting and training additional volunteers
 - Planning and executing the move to the new library
 - Preparing the collection for moving
 - Continuing to pare down the collection
 - Placing RFID tags in materials for Self-Check
 - Inviting public to participate in move by checking out 20 items to be returned on a staggered schedule in the new building to help with equipment testing and staff training
 - Conducting tours of the new building
 - Dedicating the building on Oct. 9, 2010

As we prepare for the move to our new building, we are excited that we will finally have the facilities and equipment to better serve our users; however, we remain mindful of our boundaries. We will be operating at the same one mill tax level as when the Library was established back in 1952. Although we will be in a larger, well-equipped building, we must continue to live within our budget.

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.

Please visit our website at www.baxtercountylibrary.org
for events, information, and opportunities to invest in your Library.



New Library Architectural Rendering



Baxter County
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Investing in Your Place to Grow

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