The Library Experience

Enhancing the go-to place for education, culture, and entertainment in Baxter County
A total of 1,818 students from surrounding schools toured the Exploring the Frontier exhibit with guides Vincent Anderson and Mariah Hansen.

**Exploring the Frontier**

The Exploring the Frontier exhibit co-sponsored by the Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library ignited the imagination of our patrons young and old in 2019, with a total of 10,286 in attendance. Visitors were transported back to the 1800s, where they explored the Arkansas frontier by gathering provisions at a trading post, calculating how to ford a river, and navigating their covered wagon by the North Star.

**Read | Write | Ignite**

With the sponsorship of the Friends of the Library, the annual Literary Series became known as Read | Write | Ignite at the Hearthside. Many of the programs in the series were given new life as a rearrangement of shelves opened up the fireplace area to accommodate guest speakers and lecturers. In addition, a $1000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association funded a two-part community forum on the Founding Era.

**Always-On-Activities**

The Library opened up programming to a much broader audience with the addition of Always-On-Activities. These activities were designed to be available at any time during Library hours. Activities included coloring tables, community book picks, and making t-shirt dog toys that were donated to the Humane Society.
Delivering Lifelong Learning

Architecting classes and workshops for all ages
The Library made great strides to create an environment for all ages to learn. With grants from Google, new equipment for our makerspace Studio300, and a talented team spearheading adult and youth programming, the Library hosted many successful programs in 2019.

**eBook Check-Outs**
- **49,749 eBOOKS**
- **↑ 5%**

**Outreach Story Times**
- **1,676 CHILDREN REACHED**

**Children’s Programs**
- Children's programs experienced an increase in attendance with the introduction of new programs such as Babies and Books.
- **↑ 15% ATTENDANCE**

**Studio300 Workshops**
- Studio300 workshops saw a major attendance increase in 2019 with the introduction of new equipment and ideas.
- **↑ 103% ATTENDANCE**

**Online Resources Used**
- With an increase in the Library’s social media presence, web traffic and online resources usage also increased.
- **↑ 23% DATABASE USAGE**

**Try Something New Nights**
- Try Something New Nights during the summer brought in the crowds to make pie crusts, create bath bombs, and gaze at the stars.
- **↑ 143% ATTENDANCE**

**178,601 visits to the Library in 2019.**
That’s **4x** the entire population of **Baxter County!**
Expanding Our Reach

Sharing resources through outreach and technology

Through Tech Cards, community events like STREAM and Block Party on the Square, and an enhanced social media presence, the Baxter County Library team engaged with the community more than ever before. New online resources such as ArtistWorks, CreativeBug, and TumbleMath and the volunteer-run Homebound program made it possible to deliver services to individuals who could not easily get to the Library.
Tech Cards

With the continuation of the Tech Card Program, the Baxter County Library ensured that a total of 3,100 students in 4th-10th grades across the County received access to valuable online resources. Students from Mountain Home, Cotter, and Norfork School systems, along with the Mountain Home Christian Academy received Tech Cards.

“Norfork School students used their Library Tech Cards more than ever this year. They accessed Library resources such as Brainfuse for proofreading papers and homework help and the Libby app for downloading ebooks and audiobooks, which has increased the number of books they read.”

- Mandy Bennet Librarian, Norfork Schools
Community Initiatives
Driving positive change for Baxter County
Baxter County Early Literacy Project

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
In 2019, 63 children enrolled in the program and 18 completed the program. Parents and caregivers prepared their children to learn to read by reading to them and tracking their progress through 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
By year’s end, over 500 or 26% of children ages 0-5 in Baxter County were enrolled in the program, which mails each child one free book per month. Community support behind this program has been phenomenal.

Little Free Libraries
Nearly 1,700 books were distributed through our Little Free Libraries in Baxter County in 2019. Little Free Libraries were installed at Mountain Home Kindergarten, Gassville City Park, Norfork Headstart, and Big Spring Park in Cotter (made possible by the Cotter Saturday Club), bringing the total locations to six in Baxter County.

“...The most important facet of a child’s life is to get a good beginning in reading. The Early Literacy Project is, without question, promoting and expanding opportunities for Baxter County young ones, so that they will be able to succeed in the future.

- Jeannie Alley
Retired Teacher & Early Literacy Advocate

Grow with Google
Thanks to a $1,000 grant from the American Library Association, the Public Library Association, and Google, the Library expanded its tech classes to improve job skills. Because of the program’s success, the Library was also recognized as a Spotlight Library with an additional $3,000 to continue workforce development technology training.
Community Support

Donors and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Library
Program Sponsors

Thank you to our 2019 Library Program Sponsors. Program Sponsors were able to direct funds to the programs they valued most.

$250+ Level
Cell Phone/Tablet Q&A
Mike & Joyce Cameron
Life-Sized Candyland
Kenneth Schultz & Nancy Knopp
Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Kenneth Schultz & Nancy Knopp
International Games Week
Andrew & Christina White
Teen Banned Book Week
Reading Women Book Club
Yoga for Teens
Andrew & Christina White

$500+ Level
After School Programs
Jim & Karen Barnes
General Collection
Bill & Colleen Stephenson
Little Free Libraries
The Saturday Club of Cotter
Money Smart Week
John & Kay Beecroft
Scholarship Prep
Lynn Miller
Studio300 Makerspace
Shirt Shop
Teen Anime Club
Andrew & Christina White
Teen Library Council
Suzanne Sutherland

$750+ Level
Children’s Theatre
Barbara Graham
Classic Saturdays
Barbara Graham

$1,000+ Level
Children’s Summer Programs
Jess & Elizabeth VanderStek
Family Summer Shows
Mendel & Stephanie Hughes
Little Free Libraries
The loving family of Janella Keppen
Teen Friday After Hours
Suzanne Sutherland
Teen Summer Reading
Suzanne Sutherland
Wrap It Up Campaign
Baxter County Library Foundation Trustees & Advisory Board

$1,500+ Level
Ancestry.com Subscription
Jim & Jackie Neff
Children’s Story Times
Lynn & Carol Landrum and Kyle & Lynn McAlister in honor of their mothers

The Wall Street Journal
David Matty

Tech Cards
Suzanne Sutherland
Try Something New Series
Tom & Deborah Knox

$2,000 Level
Early Literacy Project
Bob & Mary Walker

$2,500+ Level
Early Literacy Project
Jim & Jackie Neff
Brainfuse Subscription
Jim & Jackie Neff
Children’s Summer Reading
Friends of the Library
Children’s Summer Science
Jim & Jackie Neff
Library2Go Collection
Jeffrey & Susan Hoeper
Wrap It Up Campaign
ACS Warranty
Genuine Care Pharmacy

$5,000+ Level
Exploring the Arkansas Frontier Exhibit & Program Series
Friends of the Baxter County Library & Baxter County Library Foundation
Literary Series
Friends of the Baxter County Library

* Our apologies if we have inadvertently left your name off of this list. Please inform us of this error by contacting the Foundation office at foundation@baxlib.org.
Circles of Giving

The Baxter County Library Foundation honored Library donors* by updating the engraved Circle of Giving donor wall which was unveiled at the Heart of the Library reception. A number of new names were added as well as others who moved to a higher circle. The Baxter County Library is extremely grateful to those who give.

Nell Powell Wright
Founder’s Circle
In memory of Alfreda Atkinson
William & Vivian Busse
Armin & Mae Emmertz
Catharine Farnsworth
Friends of the Baxter County Library
Integrity First Bank
The Keeter-Dryer Family
Alena Keeter Dryer, Fran Dryer Coulter, Connie Dryer Barnett, Rebecca Dryer Murdock
Tom & Deborah Knox
Henry & Wilma Pattee
The Michael G. Skeet & Janie Edmonds-Lewis Families
Barbara Skeffington
in memory of John Skeffington
Jeanne B. Winters

In memory of Shirley McAlister
John & Ardith McKinney
Dale & Judy Moen
Jim & Carolyn Neff
The Walton Family Foundation
The Donald & Anna Ward Family
Barbara Wright

Anna J. Ward
Legacy Circle
Gordon Byron Bast
Calvin & Sissy Czeschin
Clint & Melissa Czeschin
Jack Lee & Martha Gregory
Diane Reimann
in memory of Al Reimann
Jackson Rhoades & Sunny Rhoades
Mike & Katie King Risk
Ray & Edie Stahl
Alice Westphal
Julie Wright
in honor of Glenn & Nell Powell Wright

Elizabeth (Betty) Bryant
Jim & Denise Clarke
Jackie & Deborah Edmonds
First Community Bank
First Security Bank
Barbara Graham
Jeffrey & Susan Hoeper
Warren Haley
Frank & Joy Huckaba
Faiz & Gwen Khayat
Judy R. Loving
Ben Mattocks
in memory of the McAlister Family
Mountain Home Lions Club
Paul & Dody Neis
Margaret K. Park
Erik & Anu Shultz
Dr. William & Leta Snow
William & Colleen Stephenson
Jess & Elizabeth VanderSteck
Jess & Elizabeth VanderSteck
in memory of A.W. & Lois C. Lemmons
Robert & Mary Walker
Roger Willard
in honor of Roberta J. Willard

Margie Dahlke
Supporter’s Circle
John Ahrens
In memory of Don & Clema Alley
Centennial Bank
James G. & Mary K. Jones
Tony Faiz Khayat’s Yoga Class
Lynn & Carol Landrum

Patron’s Circle
Arvest Bank
Dan & Bonnie Brown
Century Circle
George Alexander
Erick & Karla Araneda
James & Karen Babcock
The Bagwell Foundation
in memory of Donalee Smith Baker
Frank & Pat Bailey
Patrick & Virginia Ballard
Bank of America
John & Kay Beecroft
Richard & Donna Burnett
Donald & Anita Buswell
Ira & Deborah Chatman
Roy E. Danuser
Sam & Willie Diprima
In honor of Clark Fletcher
Chuck & Jane Flowers
Sarah & Jace Godfrey
Mike & Kelly Hagaman
Price Harned & Linde Harned-Freedley
in honor of Marge Harned-McCormac
Linda Harrington
in memory of Dan Harrington
Mendel & Stephanie Hughes
Gary & Eve Isbell
Mary James
Steve & Betsy Johnson
Bob & Lori Kauffman
In memory of Alberta C. Keneipp
Elton & Mary Kirby
Knox Orthopaedics
Chloe & Paul Langston
Barney & Debbie Larry
Steve & Shonda Litty
Joe & Kathryn Miles
Mountain Home
Public School Students
Mountain Home Rotary Club
Evelynne M. Olson
David & Nancy Osmon
Peter & Jan Peitz
Danny & Nell Ponder
Lonnie & Robin Robinson
Richard & Carol Sholz
Kelly & Patricia Shay
South Shore Foundation
Rick, Brenda
& Heather Grace Spencer
Mildred Strauss
in memory of Stephen S. Strauss
Lane & Judy Strother
Suzanne Sutherland
Joe & Dawn Tullis
Richard & Diana Turner
Otis & Shelley Warr
Webb Pathology

* Included in this list are donors who have given $5,000 and above as of September of 2019.
Our apologies if we have inadvertently left your name off of this list. Please inform us of this error by contacting Karen Lau-Kimbriel at karen.l@baxlib.org.

Library Board
DeAtley, Irvin
Chatman, Deborah
Clarke, Robert
Landrum, Carol
Miles, Joe

Library Foundation Trustees
Ahrens, John
Arnold, Nick
Bodenhamer, Kevin
Clarke, Robert
Crow-Sheaner, Kim
Garner, Phil
Garrett, Sonny
McAllister, Lynn
Morrison, Jackie
Neis, Katrina
VanderStek, Elizabeth
White, Christina
Willard, Josh
Wilson, Jo

Advisory Foundation Board
Booth, Scott
Brown, Kirk
Embach, Christy
Harned, Ann
Hiser, Jon
Knox, Deborah
Litty, Shonda
Loftis, Heather
Long, Jake
McAllister, Lynn
Miles, Joe
Myers, Robin
Puglsey, Tobias
Risk, Katie King
Stanchub, Debbby
White, Christina
Willard, Josh
Wright, Julie

Presidential Award Recipients
Gold
Kelly, Margie
Silver
Clevenger, Jim
Nixon, Susan
Park, Margaret
Reckard, John
Smith, Charlotte
Smith, David
Wheeler, Neal
Zimmerman, JoBelle
Bronze
Ahrens, John
Banaszynski, Donna
Bauwens, Kathy
Brown, Linda
Clark, Carolyn
Duseberg, Mary Lou

Volunteers

The Library depended on wonderful volunteers who helped provide unmatched service and support for the entire community.

Several were recognized with Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (see list below.)
Important Statistics

- **213 Volunteers**
- **13,313.18 hours**
  - valued at **$272,787**
- **28% Followers Gained**
  - (2,485 → 2,960)
  - Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter

### Program Attendance

- **Children**: 6,416
- **Teen**: 3,119
- **Adult**: 2,645
- **Family**: 14,421

### New Cards Issued

- **4,783**

### Meeting Room Usage

- **5,938 People**
Financial Support

The Non-Profits that give us the opportunity to be more for the community

The Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library make it possible to provide the community with the level of services and resources that it has come to expect from the Baxter County Library.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baxter County Property Tax</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Foundation, Donations, &amp; Sponsorships</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Library</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee Shop Rental</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 Revenue
The Baxter County Library Foundation was proud to present the Heart of the Library award to Barb Skeffington during a special donor recognition event held in October at the Baxter County Library. Barb Skeffington has exemplified what it truly means to have a heart for the Baxter County Library. The Foundation unveiled an updated donor wall at the reception, as people had moved up to the next Giving Circle and new donors were added.

Friends of the Library

In 2019 the Friends of the Baxter County Library continued to support the Library by sponsoring programs and exhibits, providing college scholarships to the community totaling $5,800, and providing other necessary funding equaling 3% of the Library’s operating budget. The Friends also introduced a new scholarship specifically for Library staff. The recipient of the first Staff Scholarship was Laura Clark.
Letter from the Director
I am so proud of what our Library team has accomplished in 2019. The Library was responsive to the needs of our community, delivering services and programs that reached out beyond Library walls, brought people together, and strengthened our community.

Because workforce development is vital to our area’s economic growth, Library staff conducted Grow with Google classes for seniors returning to the workforce in need of digital skills. We were recognized for our outstanding work with the Google Spotlight Award.

Because many children in our community are entering Kindergarten lacking the fundamental literacy skills they need to learn to read, the Library continued to lead the Baxter County Early Literacy Project. The project has united area school districts and early childhood professionals with a shared goal of improving early literacy in Baxter County.

Because shared interests and goals connect people, the Library presented an array of special programs. From the Exploring the Frontier exhibit to the Founding Era discussion series, from the annual Volunteer Fair to the Artmobile Cookout Night, from sewing classes to stargazing, people came together at the Library.

It is with heart-felt appreciation that I commend our amazing Library staff for their outstanding work and commitment to making all of these great programs a reality. Library Board members, Foundation Trustees, Friends of the Library members, Library volunteers, and donors, we could not do it without you. Thank you for recognizing the vital role the Library plays in making this community a highly desirable, fulfilling place to live and grow.

It is with great purpose and enthusiasm that we enter 2020, our 10th Anniversary year in the beautiful Donald W. Reynolds Library building serving Baxter County.

Kim Crow Sheaner
Library Director
Looking Forward

The year 2020 will be a big one for the Baxter County Library. October 10th will mark 10 years since the Donald W. Reynolds Library building was dedicated. In celebration of our anniversary, the year will be full of amazing events, programs, and exhibits. Events like a Renaissance Day to kick off the Summer Reading Program, exhibits such as the Apron Chronicles, and new programs including Crafternoons for children, Forgotten Tales a dementia friendly story time, and a brand new Book Club will captivate, educate, and enlighten.

Library Goals

1. Expand our reach
2. Rethink our delivery of lifelong learning
3. Make an impact on literacy
4. Enhance the Library experience
5. Align ourselves with community initiatives
6. Cultivate and improve our stewardship of resources
7. Grow staff and volunteers