

# GOLD STAR YEAR

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



WESTERN ALLEGHENY  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY



# GOLD STAR AWARD

In early 2017, the Pennsylvania Library Association launched the Star Library program as a way to recognize libraries working to improve their communities through the PA Forward initiative.

Introduced five years ago, PA Forward aims to improve Pennsylvania's citizens, communities, economy, and workforce through library services with a focus on the five types of literacy - basic, information, civic & social, health, and financial. The new Star Library Program recognizes to what extent libraries have embraced and carried out this initiative.

Of the 46 libraries in Allegheny County, Western Allegheny Community Library was recognized as the first Gold Star Library. The award was the culmination of 6

months of hard work by the staff and board. As part of PA Forward, our library incorporates the five literacies as a guiding framework for setting service priorities, identifying potential community and funding partners, structuring strategic plans, and building a well-rounded and multi-skilled board. These literacies are essential to greater success in all vital roles of life: as

students, as parents, as employees, as consumers, and as citizens.

The mission of the library is to inspire, engage, and educate the community. This award simply solidifies the library's role in lifelong learning.



Understand  
the potential  
in *your* library.

PA FORWARD  PENNSYLVANIA  
LIBRARY SERVICES

“

**The only thing that  
you absolutely  
have to know is the  
location of the  
library.**

**- ALBERT EINSTEIN**

”

# TECHNOLOGY



Technology programming and services continue to grow at the library. Programming has been increased to include outreach services at two local senior facilities. Visits thus far have included the newly created “STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) for Seniors,” as well as individual tech tutoring.

2017 was a year of technology updates. The library website has been improved and is in the process of detailed error-checking. The mobile app is also anticipated to receive a remodel thanks to updates by Demco software. The computer deployment for 2017 gave us all new PCs and laptops, with updates to Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 360 coming in 2018.

The “Tech Takeout” collection has doubled in size, with added items including Classic Nintendo systems, Cassette-to-MP3 recorder and vinyl-to-MP3 recorder, and an additional Wi-Fi hotspot. The library is always

on the lookout for new items to add and open to suggestions.

New to the collection this year is a set of Playaway Launchpads. These are tablets preloaded with educational software for children. We also had two Nook Color tablets and two Kindle Fire tablets donated to the library, which will soon be available for checkout.

The new Nintendo Switch with its corresponding game collection has been incredibly popular; very few libraries in the county circulate their Switch games out of house,

so WACL’s collection is in high demand.

The library continues to look for ways to grow its technology with an eye to the needs of its patrons, especially those items and services that patrons can get nowhere else.





# YOUTH SERVICES

2017 has been a year of change and development in the Youth Services Department. We welcomed a new Youth Services Department Head Rachel Moore and Youth Services Library Assistant Beth Rubel. Their time and talents have been greatly appreciated in our continued growth as an organization. In 2017, the Youth Services Department developed meaningful and educational programming for students ages birth-18 and their families. The library continued to offer our popular weekly storytimes, but also added programs like Wee Build: Toddler Engineering, Play-K and Elementary Maker Labs to the lineup.



We have an incredible group of teens who come to our library every week to volunteer, attend programs or just hang out. Our ever popular Dungeons and Dragons program continues to grow and we are always looking for new things to add. The library recently started a Maker program every week for our teens where they get to learn new skill sets that are beneficial for the future.

The Western Allegheny Community Library is excited about our expansion to create a new teen space. This space will be a collaborative study/hang out space where we can also do both formal and informal programming. We are also expanding our family play space for children six and under. This is one of our most used and loved rooms and we are happy to be able to serve as a safe play place in our community. In 2018 we are looking forward to continue to provide our community's youth with creative programming as well as access to material and services.



“  
**There is no  
substitute for  
books in the life of  
a child.**

- EDUCATOR AND WRITER MARY  
ELLEN CHASE

”

# THE STATS

141,874

Total collection use

74,705

Annual visits to the library

9637

Total registered users

8969

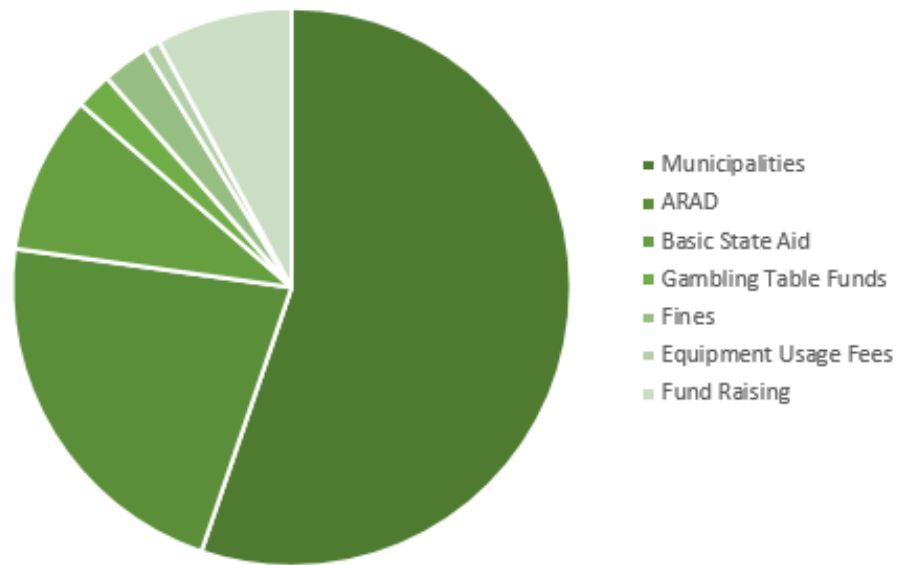
Public computer sessions

787

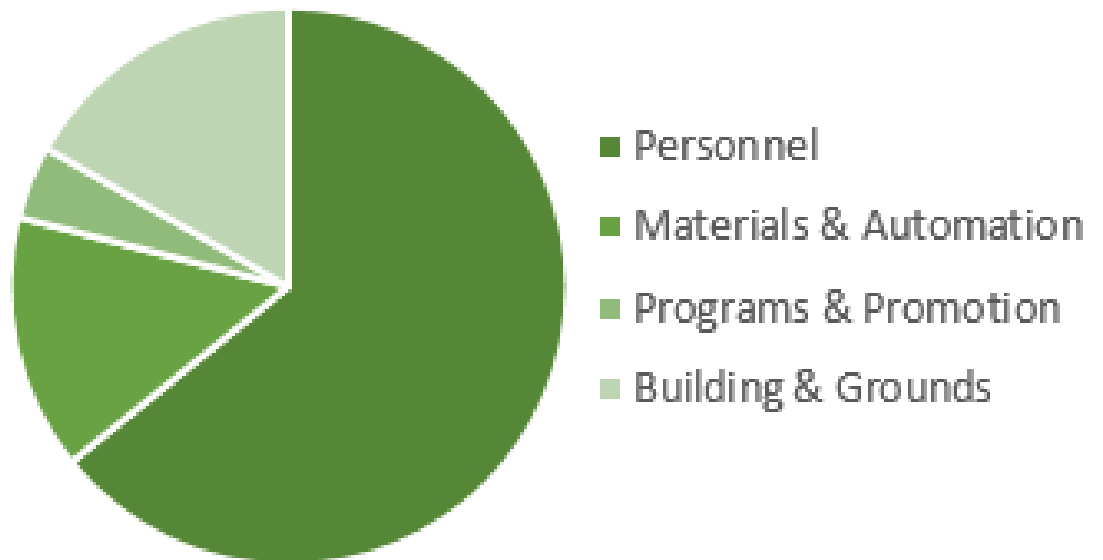
Programs offered to kids, teens, and adults



## 2017 FUNDING SOURCES



## 2017 LIBRARY EXPENSES



## 2017 BOARD MEMBERS

Pam Perry, President | Barb Piskorik, Vice President | Patty Giura, Secretary  
Terri Conoscuoto, Treasurer | Kathy Bartha | Loretta Hennemuth | Tim O'Sullivan  
Michelle Presutti | Maria Swaford | Marilyn Walters