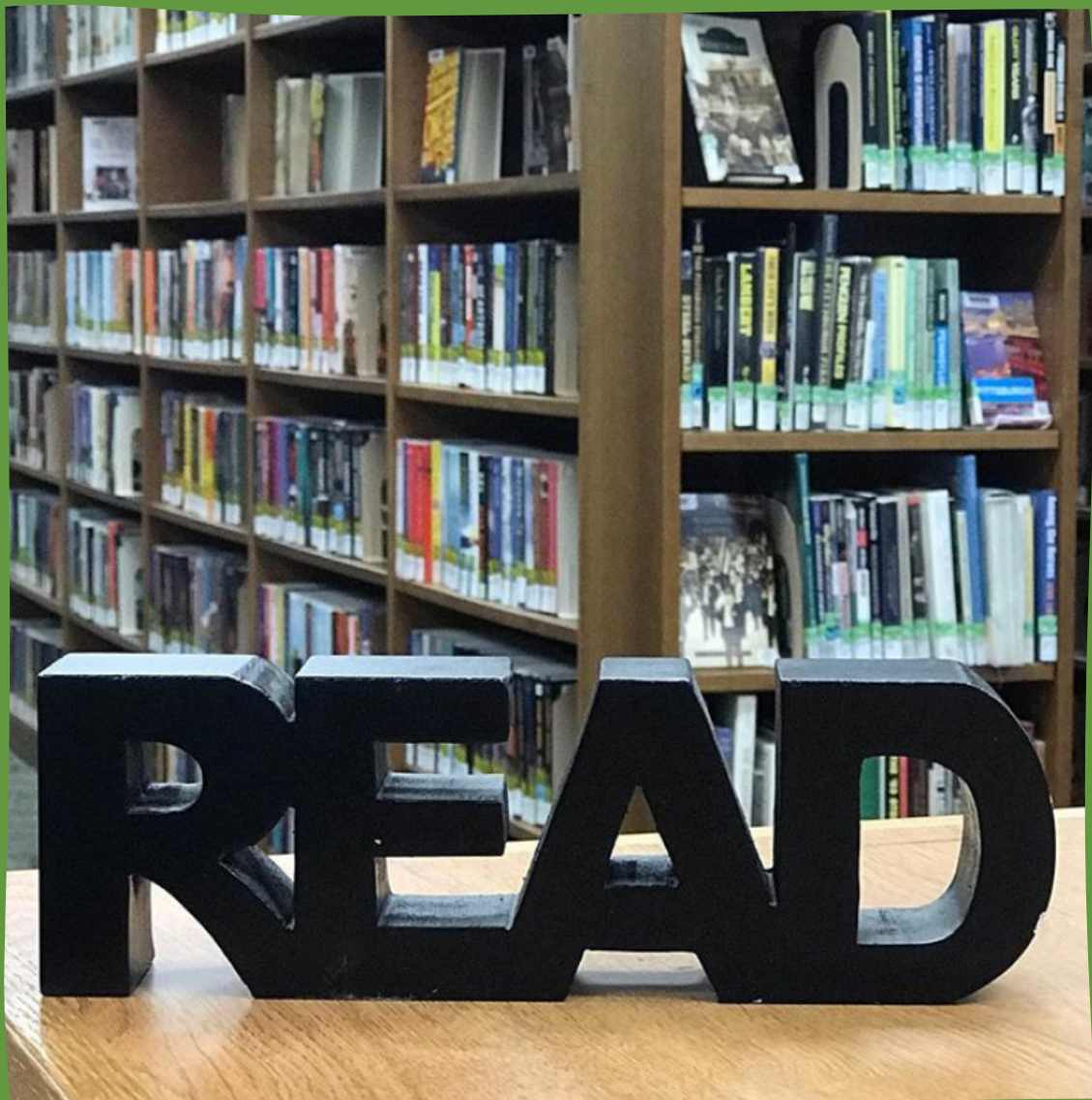


WESTERN ALLEGHENY COMMUNITY LIBRARY'S

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Western Allegheny Community Library plays a vital role in our community. In a world of uncertainty and chaos, we have created a space that is welcoming, safe, and free for everyone to enjoy. Children and families come to read, learn, and play. Adults of all ages are invited to explore our collection, participate in programs, and learn new skills. Local organizations use our space to host weekly meetings, businesses share informational sessions with the public, and tutors help students strengthen their skills. **We are proud** to serve the residents of Findlay, North Fayette, and Oakdale and to truly be a community gem.

In 2019, Western Allegheny Community Library was faced with a series of unforeseeable challenges. When it rained, it poured, literally! Yet our community did not disappoint; friends, neighbors, local businesses, and supporting municipalities all rallied together and offered help where they could.

Despite early closures and delayed openings, we continued to grow. This year we circulated 159,726 items, up 9% from 2018. That equates to a value of over \$3 million back into our communities.

We inspire both young and old minds through exceptional materials, we engage the community through access to cutting edge technologies, and we educate learners of all ages through innovative programs.

As we look back on the year, we remember the challenges of a leaking roof and damaged pipes, but we also remember the successes we shared, the patrons we helped, and all that we've learned.

AMY MCDONALD

Library Director



YOUTH SERVICES

2019 was a year of significant change and growth for the Youth Services Department. We welcomed a whole new team led by Becky Proie, our new Youth Services Manager. Together with Amelia Dickson (Youth Services Programming Specialist) and Gee Bolland (Early Literacy Outreach Specialist), Becky worked to revitalize and expand the department by creating new and vibrant programs.

The library collaborated with WQED and Chick-Fil-A, Robinson to bring *Inquire Within* to West Allegheny. *Inquire Within* is a program designed to encourage family engagement and a love of learning through hands-on, family-centered activities.

In addition to conducting monthly outreach to 13 area preschools and daycares, our staff continued to offer weekly storytimes and also added programs including Sensory Storytime, Pumpkin Science, and a Zentangle Party.



TECH SERVICES

In order to remain relevant in a constantly changing world, it is important for library programs and services to change as well. In an effort to meet the needs of our patrons, Tech Services has continued to evolve.

Heather, Head of Library Services, expanded our Tech Takeout Menu which encourages patrons to *"try before they buy."* Patron favorites of 2019 included the hotspots, Instant Pot, trail camera, and GoPro Camera Kit. By offering such items, patrons have the opportunity to access materials and experiences they may not otherwise be able to explore.



In addition to offering individual technology tutoring, resume help, and access to public computers and WiFi, the library offered a number of technology-related programs that focused on trending topics. Patrons learned about alternatives to cable television in our "Cut the Cable" program, how to take back valuable time by cooking with an Instant Pot, and which meal delivery kits are the most cost-effective. In total, the library offered 81 technology-related programs.



ADULT PROGRAMMING



Even adults need a place to learn, meet new friends and relax. The library's adult programming offered just that.

This past year, we introduced *Exciting Excursions*, a series of field trip type events that explored new places such as The West Virginia Penitentiary, Lumberjaxes, and Top Golf.

In addition, the library partnered with a number of professionals to offer programs such as Alert 360, a self-defense program taught by a retired Army Ranger; CBD 101, a program that discusses the health effects of CBD oils; Cruise Night with Rusty, which focused on Alaskan Cruises; and Stages of Senior Living presented by Tapestry Senior Living.

Once again, the library provided the popular VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program to the community. This free tax program assisted over 620 people from January through April.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



14,277
program participants

918
programs
offered

584
children's
programs

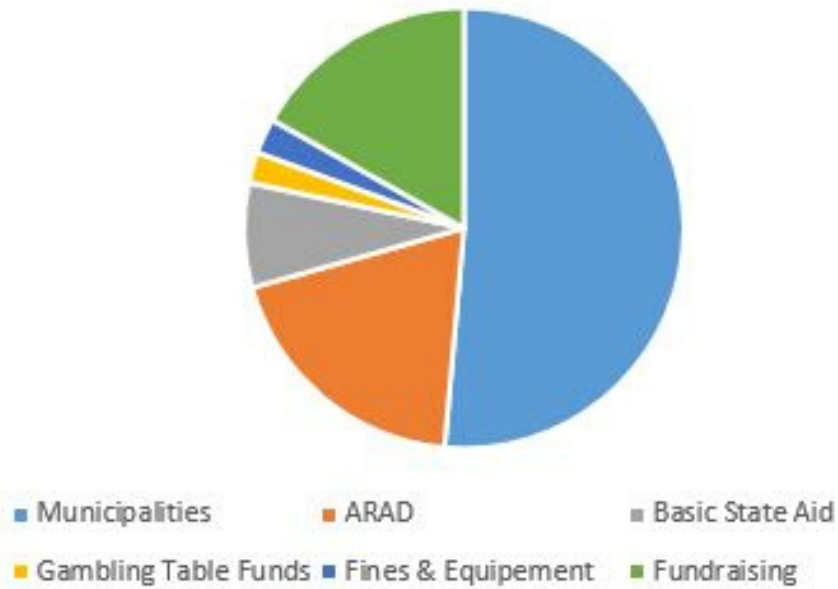
109
young adult
programs

225
adult
programs

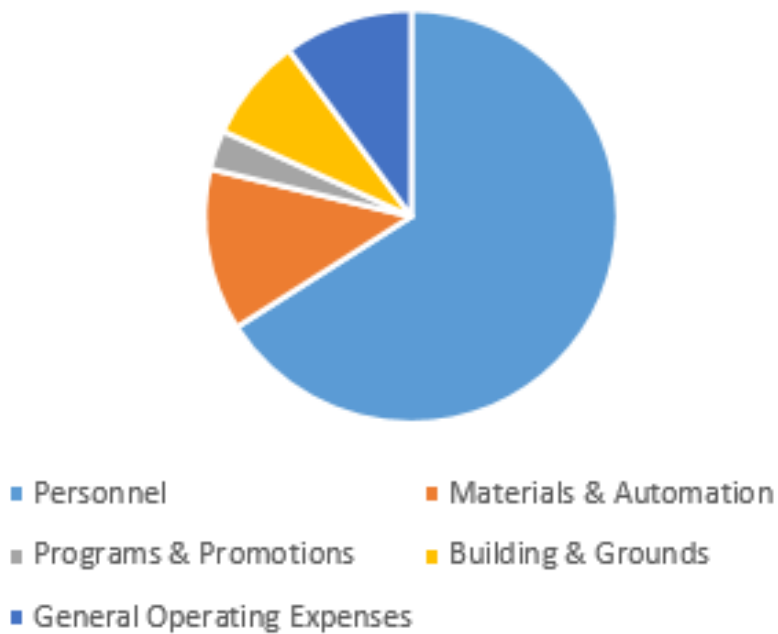
221
stem
programs

FINANCIALS

2019 Library Revenue



2019 Library Expenses



I am a teacher with 4 young children. Our library has been an important part of our lives for years!

We are all big readers so, of course, we borrow books and ebooks ALL the time but the library provides us with so much more! I've borrowed a code reader to see what was wrong with our mini van. I tried an instant pot before we decided to make the purchase ourselves. We have enjoyed events from Star Wars ad Frozen parties to storytimes and cooking classes. I don't have enough room to say more, but there is so much more!

- Nicole, North Fayette Township

Since moving from Boston to Oakdale, the library has been a constant home for us. Our outings to the library to participate in programs provide a weekly family bonding time. The programs have been great for the kids and adults as we learn new subjects. We LOVE going to our library with the amazing, friendly librarians and all the books they have to explore. We are incredible lucky to have our library.

- Renee, Oakdale Resident

2019 DONOR LIST

The Library opens the door to so many new opportunities for the residents of our community, but we couldn't do it without our amazing supporters! On behalf of everyone served by the Western Allegheny Community Library, we are pleased to acknowledge the following financial donors for their generosity and support in 2019. In addition to those listed below, we also want to thank everyone who made an in-kind contribution throughout the year. Although too numerous to print, these gifts of time, talent, books, supplies, gift certificates, baskets, etc. are extremely helpful and very much appreciated!

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The Board of Trustees is comprised of nine members, each appointed by one of our three municipalities. This group of dedicated individuals meets monthly to oversee and discuss the goals of the library.

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Bill Stout

I use the library every time my grandsons come to visit. We borrow tech to try and they love to "buy" their own books. They really look forward to their library trips. I also use our tech support staff for computer assistance...she is wonderful! I download books to read on my tablet. I've also borrowed the radon kit.

- Findlay Resident

The library is an important thread in the fabric of the community. It offers not only a place to learn and experience many things, but it is also a meeting place education sharing which allows us to have a window onto the world outside of our neighborhood. Today's library is not that stuffy "shush" place. it is a welcoming and inviting place. All of this is available to the community thanks to the employees, volunteers, and benefactors who make this place available to everyone!

- Robert, Findlay Township