



THE KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

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Mission

The Kansas City Public Library Foundation develops friends and funds for the Kansas City Public Library.

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KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Donors Carlos and Carol Moya invest in the future through our Library

The Library plays an important role in the lives of Dr. Carlos Moya and his wife Carol. "We have been readers since we were kids," says Carlos. "I grew up in a town that did not have a library. One of my teachers had a personal library of the classics and he allowed me to read them all. Carol used the Carnegie Library system in Pittsburgh."

As loyal supporters and patrons, the Moyas view libraries as repositories of knowledge and beacons of light in the development of our societies.

A native of Colombia in South America, Dr. Moya is a retired Pathologist and former director of the Hospital Pathology laboratories in St. Joseph, Missouri. He met his wife Carol while in residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where they discovered in each other a lifelong love of books and reading.

According to the Moyas, "Libraries are the great equalizers, since without regard to one's social or economic status, they give all equal access to knowledge, which empowers people to be informed participants in our democracies."

And while some believe that information technology is a challenge to libraries, the Moyas see technology as a boon. "Libraries have adapted well to technology, using it to benefit the institution and its patrons," they say. Still, they acknowledge that funding is the most pressing challenge to free public libraries.

They cite Thomas Friedman in his book, *Hot Flat and Crowded*, where he points out the innovation and creativity of our youth as a positive trend in society. The Moyas say, "This is the reason we support education and free public libraries."

The Moyas admire and frequently visit the "beautiful and well run" Kansas City Public Library. They particularly enjoy the evening guest speakers that expose the public to experts in Diplomacy, Government, Banking, Technology, Great Writers and Poets, the Arts and more.

They read mostly non-fiction, politics, economics and history. Two books they would recommend are *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukerjee and *Justice: What's The Right Thing To Do?* by Michael Sandel.



Summer Reading initiative smashes goal!

We set an ambitious goal of attracting 23% more teens and kids for this year's Summer Reading program . . . and when the results were tallied we had exceeded last year's total by a whopping 59% with a final count of 25,494 children and teenagers participating through reading, program attendance or both.

"The results exceeded any of our expecta-

tions," says Helma Hawkins, director of Children's Services. "The outreach program brought in kids we hadn't attracted before. We also reached new children inside the Library."

This success was due in large part to the enthusiasm of our staff and our biggest outreach campaign to date. A team of librarians led by Outreach Manager Carrie McDonald conducted

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Magical History Tour introduces students to history and to the Library

You already know the Kansas City Public Library is full of stories. But did you know the building itself has a story to tell?

Thanks to two grant awards from Target, the Library is giving Kansas City Missouri School District fifth graders a window into local history. We're bringing the past alive for these kids using the 105-year-old First National Bank building that houses the Central Library and the historic downtown district that surrounds it.

"High Five History: Inside and Out" is a program built on state and local educational standards and the first of its kind to integrate area history with library literacy. During the program, librarians intersperse sightseeing tours with interactive lessons in using the Library's research resources.

"The history element is a big part of it, but it's also a vehicle for information literacy," says Clare Hollander, Central Children's Librarian and "tour guide." "The Library is a portal to the rest of the world. There's so much enrichment available here, and I love being able to expand kids' horizons."

During High Five, students learn about historic sites in the physical world, such as the Film Vault and the New York Life Building (Kansas City's first skyscraper). They are introduced to resources in the digital world, such as the Missouri Valley Special Collections Digital Gallery and Brainfuse online homework help.

At the end of the day, all students leave with a Library card—and



a new outlook on Kansas City history.

The history concept was developed jointly by our Youth Services and Missouri Valley Special Collections staff. Having received a third year of funding from Target we're happy to report that the High Five program will resume again this school year.

Westside neighbors embrace manager of Irene H. Ruiz Branch

Julie Robinson, manager of the Library's Irene H. Ruiz branch, remembers when Ms. Ruiz asked her: "How long will you stay at my library?" Robinson's answer: "Until they tell me I'm going somewhere else." Now eight years later, Julie has built a reputation for her branch as a unifying force in the community it serves.

It all began when Julie was working as a secretary for an accounting firm. One too many taxing tax seasons made her stop and think. What do I love in life? Her answers were "reading, books and history." So she went to school and within a three-year span earned two master's degrees from UCLA—one in history and another in library science. Ten years ago she came to Kansas City to be a children's librarian with Kansas City Public Library. Two years later she was managing the Ruiz Branch on the Westside.

Ruiz has a wealth of Spanish language materials on hand, and many of the families Julie has served over the years are like family. Julie spearheaded Spanish language classes for staff at Ruiz and all Library locations. She has been working with Public Affairs to nurture a relationship between the Library and the Consulate of Mexico in Kansas City. Still, Julie has seen a change in the neighborhood as more young professionals move in to this tra-



ditionally Hispanic community.

In addition to demographic changes at Ruiz, Julie also has observed the advent of e-books. Another development is the need for more public access computers at the library as people are using them differently, especially for job searches.

The Ruiz Branch contributes to the community by promoting reading and literacy and also exposing neighborhood children to new experiences. As a partner with the Westside Action for Youth Coalition, the Library integrates the Switzer Neighborhood

Farm into its youth programs. The children see chickens, bees and gardens that are fascinating to children growing up in an urban landscape. At the annual Ruiz Back to School drive, children

"The community has always accepted me as being one of them, a Westsider."

and families had fun building scarecrows, which mesmerized the children! Scarecrows were such a new concept that families ran for their cameras to record the creations.

Through these and many more activities, Julie Robinson has made her branch into an active hub for the entire Westside. "Being accepted by the community has been a real achievement," she says. "I don't speak fluent Spanish, and yet the community has always accepted me as being one of them, a Westsider."

Continued from page 1

reading programs at 20 non-Library locations including Boys and Girls Clubs, Police Athletic League, and the Upper Room summer program at area churches. A massive effort at the branches was also instrumental. All front desk staffers promoted Summer Reading within the children's areas and beyond.

Teen readership also saw a significant increase. "We changed up the program this year," says Crystal Faris, director of Teen Services. Instead of asking teens to log reading hours, the Library asked teen participants to write book reviews to earn Library Bucks, which were good for fines, DVDs or printing, and entries into a drawing to win a Netbook. The reviews could be submitted by handwritten card, email or SMS text.

The teens delivered delightful and thoughtful reviews. Following are two examples; for more teen reviews visit Teen Blog at www.kclibrary.org

Coraline by Neil Gaiman—"This was a great book, the creep factor was awe-mazing. This book was very descriptive and created a real scene in your head when reading it." *E.M. @ Central*

Carpe Diem by Autumn Cornwell—"This is a fabulous book about a transformation of a girl through near death experiences, southeast Asia, being held hostage, her bra saving her life, & falling in love. I would recommend it to any & everyone." *A.W. @ Trails West*

A big thank you goes out to our donors: the Hall Family Foundation has made a significant commitment to Building a Community of Readers, together with the H&R Block Foundation, and the Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation and UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee. The growth in Summer Reading also benefited from generous gifts from the Sosland Foundation, the Reed Family Foundation and the Woman's City Club Charitable Foundation. Thanks, too, to the Kansas City Royals for donating 8,000 tickets again this year to reward our young readers.



Everyone has a role to play in Building a Community of Readers

Opportunities coming up next:

The Big Read in Kansas City

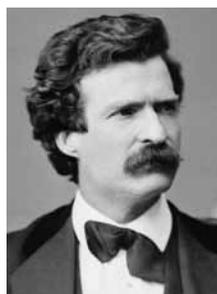
This citywide celebration of the Mark Twain classic *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is coordinated by the Kansas City Public Library and Kansas City Ballet. The Big Read collaboration will connect readers with Tom Sawyer through a variety of public events, including:

- The world-premiere production of *Tom Sawyer—A Ballet in Three Acts*, commissioned by Kansas City Ballet;
- Meet the Past with Crosby Kemper III beginning its second season with a conversation with Mark Twain; and
- An art exhibit at the Central Library featuring original Thomas Hart Benton illustrations of Twain books.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts. For more details visit www.kcbigread.org

November Family Read Aloud Month

Throughout November, families of all shapes and sizes are encouraged to read aloud together to share the magic of storytelling.



Mark Twain

Reading aloud for as little as 10 minutes a day stimulates the imagination and begins a lifelong love of books and reading. The joy of reading and being read to brings families together in an activity that is simple, free and promotes closeness and communication. For children in the family, reading aloud together also lengthens their attention span and enhances their language skills.

Reading Partners Program

The Reading Partners program launches immediately following Family Read Aloud Month. It is a year-round program to encourage adults—parents, neighbors, siblings, grandparents—to read with the children in their lives.

Children who read with a partner develop literacy skills, expand their vocabulary and go to school better prepared to succeed. They also come to associate reading with the positive experience of spending time with a special person in their lives.

Sign up for Reading Partners at your favorite Branch. For every 20 books partners read together, the child will receive a book to keep for building a home library.





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14 West 10th Street
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Collections of historic local interest come to the Missouri Valley Room

The Missouri Valley Special Collections recently received two prominent gifts that enhance the community and literary collections of the Missouri Valley Room. The Kansas City Police Department Collection was donated by the Kansas City, Missouri Police Historical Society and chronicles the history of the department through photographs, correspondence, scrapbooks and ephemera such as traffic tickets. This collection is a fascinating example of the changing ways an urban police department has interacted with its community. An exhibit highlighting this collection is scheduled to open in January 2012 on the 5th floor of the Central Library.



The David Perkins Papers were donated by Helen Ashmore, executor of the David Perkins estate. Award-winning poet and editor of the *Chouteau Review*, Perkins was also a neighborhood activist, antiwar activist and, except for a year in San Francisco, a lifelong Kansas City resident. His collection details his time as editor, highlights his published works and gives a glimpse into his personal life through extensive correspondence and notes. This collection is a fine example of our growing interest in the modern literary history of Kansas City and the Missouri Valley region.

You are invited to visit the Missouri Valley Room and get acquainted with these and many more collections.

The Library Foundation is privileged to receive gifts in tribute to loved ones and friends. The tributes below were received from April 7, 2010 through August 31, 2011.

In Honor of Diane Dermer
Mr. and Mrs. Max E. Singer

In Memory of Gloria P. Gershun
Mark Hull

In Memory of Lloyd W. Mathany
Belle Sneed
Morgan & Rohan Chavan
Dr. Sue Loper

In Memory of Doris Reifsnider
Mr. John Herbst

In Memory of Phoebe Watkins
Ms. Florine Dean

The Kansas City Public Library Foundation newsletter is published periodically during the year and posted on the Library's website at www.kclibrary.org under the Giving tab. To learn more about opportunities to support the Library, or if you have questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Claudia Baker at 816-701-3518 or claudiabaker@kclibrary.org