

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

BUTLER AREA
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I look out my office window at the Library surrounded by snow, I am reminded of the many warm memories we created together this past year. Highlights include our Spring Carnival, Tie Dye Party, and Summer Reading events.

I was pleased to congratulate our first Adult Web Development Bootcamp graduates, and our staff welcomed enthusiasts of mahjong, bridge, and jigsaw puzzles year-round. Readers across all genres checked out over 147,000 items, excluding e-books and other resources. I look forward to seeing what that number will be by the end of 2026.

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, the Library will highlight family traditions and history throughout the year with storytelling, crafts, family research, and activities for all ages. I invite you to join us in 2026 as we honor the past, enjoy the present, and look forward to the future together.

Thank you for your continued support. Your involvement truly makes a difference. We look forward to continuing our progress together.

With sincere thanks,

LORI HINDERLITER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR



ADULT SERVICES

2025 was another great year at the library for Adult Services. While we continued to provide our tried and true regular programs, we also offered some exciting new programs and created new partnerships in the community.

Among the 253 adult programs offered in 2025, our book clubs, Crafty Adults, and



Library Game Days continue to be a hit with over 625 patrons attending. We hosted over 10 local authors, historical talks by local presenters, poetry events with local poets, swaps, movies, and bingo for books!

Exciting new programs included Adult Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge, Adult Trivia Night, Mahjong, and Bridge. For the first time we also offered Adult Battle of the Book where teams of 3-5 readers read six selected books and then compete at trivia based on those books.

We hope to continue the new programs as well as hold another Adult Battle of the Books in 2026.

Last year was another good year in our efforts to partner with community organizations.

We continued our partnership with Community Partnership bringing the Produce Cart to the library, who also collaborated with the Butler Coffee Lab to bring free coffee and tea to our patrons.

Community Partnership also sponsored the creation of a Seed Library housed on our first floor. Patrons enthusiastically borrowed seeds and donated seeds in kind. We hope to expand the Seed Library in 2026.

Throughout the year the library also partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Pennsylvania Resource Council, NextTier Bank, Pennsylvania American Water, and Whispering Souls Paranormal Investigators to bring various informational presentations to our patrons.

We also continued our partnership with Lowrie Place and New Haven Court for outreach programming.

Finally, the library participated in several local community events, including Bundle Up Butler, Taste of McKean, Fall Fest, VITA Open House, and the BCWA Self Care Fair.

With the America 250 celebration in 2026 we hope to bring more exciting new programs to our patrons - just wait and see!

DIANNE MCCAULEY, ADULT SERVICES MANAGER

2025 Programs of Note

Through a partnership with Fiero Code, the library hosted a web development bootcamp made possible through a support of the Neal Martin Christensen Foundation.

Passive and active All Inclusive programs were offered for adults of all abilities through the support of the Forsythe Foundation. All Inclusive Adventure programs in 2025 included biweekly DIY kits, a Spring Carnival, a Tie Dye Party, and a Grinch Party.

Interlibrary Loans in 2025

The library increased its ILL borrow/loan numbers to 2242 in 2025. That's a 110 book increase from 2024 - Making patrons happy one book at a time!

YOUTH SERVICES

2025 was a year of growth and change for youth services!

We kicked the year off by relocating our children's play area into the Imagination Island room. Initially, the public seemed skeptical when we announced we were making this change: however, once they saw what the change actually looked like and how it positively impacted the department, they were quite pleased. We have gotten regular positive feedback from patrons that it has made the department seem larger, more open, inviting, and more accommodating to people using the table space in the stacks, while still having a place for the children to play.

The biggest, and most welcome change is the addition of Kayla to the Youth Services Department. I do not exaggerate when I say Kayla has made a tremendous impact, as she focuses on the Teen Zone.

Because of her innovative programs, her willingness to constantly learn new skills, and her fresh viewpoint, the attendance and participation in tween and teen programs has increased by nearly 600 interactions from the previous year!

The Children's Department has experienced an increase in the number of programs being offered, as well as in attendance and participation. We are now offering regular storytimes for all ages, as well as weekly programs for school aged children, and special programs around holidays and community partnerships.



The Summer Reading Theme was Color Your World, and we kicked it off with a large carnival. It was our largest in person youth event since 2020, and it was a great time for our families.

We ended the year with another large scale program, our Holiday in Whoville. For this program, we returned to our large party format after several years of a time tour format for the holiday event; the change was very successful, and the staff all came together to make magic happen!

We maintained many of our previous partnerships, including Camp Apple, WQED, and the Butler County Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, we created new partnerships with the Produce Cart, Butler Spinners and Weavers Guild, and the Butler County Suicide Coalition. We also began doing programs with local authors, which we will be carrying on in the coming year. We have increased our literacy focused initiatives by introducing more youth book clubs, and monthly reading challenges; again, this will continue in the new year.

TIFFANY HARKLEROAD, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

YOUTH SERVICE: TEEN ZONE

Last year, the library hosted 58 programs targeting young adults with a total of 2,701 participants. Many of these programs were monthly passives and Grab N' Go activities and crafts. Fifteen were active programs, and 10 were monthly reading challenges.

September's passive activity, *Shred Your Worries Away*, had the most engagement with 150 participants. In this activity, participants wrote down their worries and used a hand crank paper shredder to shred them. Grab N' Go activities and crafts were available biweekly in the Young Adult Department.

Fifteen active programs were hosted in 2025 and a STEM program, Create a Terrarium Night, had the most attendance.

Ten reading challenges were hosted on the platform Beanstack with 51



readers, including 35 teens and tweens participating in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Some substantial changes were initiated in 2025 and continue going forward. A total of 290 books were added to the YA collection, a new bulletin board was installed, and a weeding project began to free up space in the YA Game Room for programs and board games.

KAYLA ORTZ, LIBRARY ASSISTANT

2025 Youth Services by the Numbers

Total Children's Programs - 206

Total Participating Children - 8988

Total Adult Participants - 1564

Total Young Adult Programs - 58

Total Tween/Teen Participants - 2701

Children's STEM Programs - 18

YA STEM Programs - 1

Adult STEM Participants - 161

2025 Youth Services Outreach Events - 9

Total Individuals Encountered - 1131

Total Youth Services Programs - 264

Total Participating Youth - 11,698

Total Youth & Adult Participants - 13,253

Children's STEM Participants - 396

YA STEM Participants - 8

Notable Events in 2025

- Tiffany presented a poster session at the PaLA Conference on the Little Librarians Program she offered.
- Kayla Ortiz joined the Youth Services team.
- The Janice Philips Larrick Charitable Trust contributed funding for the entirety of the 2025 Youth Services Programming Budget.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Throughout 2025, visitors continued to use the computer lab, multi-purpose printer and airprinter platform. In-library laptop use began to increase in July when 30 new laptops began circulating thanks to a Digital Connectivity grant from PA DCED. By the end of the year, monthly laptop use had doubled. The library held 15 digital literacy sessions with 64 participants in 2025.

Library staff fielded 7116 reference queries, including in-person requests for assistance with technology, faxing and scanning, as well as help in locating library materials. This was an increase of 588 from 2024. There were 44 one-to-one tech tutorials in 2025. Some Reference materials were reassigned to circulating collections and the remaining materials were relocated to create additional meeting and workspace needed for public use on the second floor.

Last year, the Information Services staff and Weir Room volunteers filled 132 genealogy and local history record requests from across the United States, Canada and Holland, resulting in \$1,473 in fees and donations.

The Weir Room underwent a bit of a transformation in summer 2025 when staff and volunteers moved the collection and worktables and added an OPAC station where visitors can access the card catalog, library website and its genealogy indexes. These changes improve access for self-directed researchers, whether they're seasoned genealogists, visitors from afar, or newbies to family history research.



ANITA BOWSER, INFORMATION SERVICES MANAGER

LITTLE FREE FOOD PANTRY

At the end of 2024, Butler Area Public Library was awarded a food security mini-grant from the Butler Collaborative for Families for just over \$3,000. The monies, along with an ongoing food drive has allowed the library to start and maintain a Little Free Food Pantry, which serves those in the Butler community in need of an extra source of food.

There are no stipulations as to who can benefit from the pantry. There are signs on the pantry that state, "Take What You Need, Give What You Can."

In addition to supporting the community, the pantry has helped to connect the library with other organizations that wish to help the citizens of our town. The Butler chapter of PFLAG gave a large donation of food as the pantry first opened in June 2025. The Butler Moose Lodge and the Circle of Swords gaming group together contributed over \$6,000 to help purchase food for 2026.

The library looks forward to continuing to support our community by not only feeding minds but also feeding bodies.

PETER BESS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

