

FY 24 Community Impact Report

Connecting Residents to Resources

Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) is a community connector, using our resources and partnerships to **educate**, **enrich** and **inspire** the lives of all people. We are proud of our efforts to enhance the lives of all residents through our special partnerships in Fiscal Year 2024.

Chromebook Giveaway Puts Tech in Hands of People



Photos of residents receiving free Chromebooks from Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman as part of a county giveaway program.

With a grant awarded to [Anne Arundel County](#) through Maryland's Connected Devices Program under the state's [Department of Housing and Community Development](#), AACPL staff distributed 5,813 Chromebooks to under-resourced individuals to help close the digital divide. These devices were life changing for some, helping make education and everyday life simpler.

"Thank you so much for this computer. I have been doing online school all on my phone, so this will be so much easier."

Gun Safety Locks Program Expanded to All Libraries

In FY 24, the popular gun lock distribution program expanded to all 16 libraries. Since its inception, more than 6,500 gun safety locks have been distributed to county adults through this partnership with the [Anne Arundel County Department of Health](#).

Access to the Arts with Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

In an effort to offer arts experiences to those who may not otherwise have access, AACPL partnered with [Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts](#) to offer free tickets to each of the [Maryland Hall Presents](#) shows in Fiscal Year 2024. Lucky library customers were able to enjoy dance, jazz, aerialists, music and performances for all ages.

“Wow, thank you! I will gladly accept the tickets for myself and my daughter. I’m looking forward to the performance!”

Responding to the Needs of the Community

Library staff are always looking for ways to serve the changing needs of their communities. Here are just a few new offerings available at the library, which we’ve introduced after hearing from customers.

Privacy Pod at Maryland City at Russett Library



Photo of Delegate Mark Chang, Councilwoman Julie Hummer, Branch Manager Darnice Jasper and CEO Skip Auld at the privacy pod ribbon cutting.

Customers now have a more private place to conduct Zoom interviews and tele-health appointments with the branch’s new privacy pod. Funded by the [Laurel Race Course Impact Fund Advisory Committee](#), this space also provides an area for quiet study or work.

"This has been a godsend. The library is a safe space for me to host my group via Zoom."

Driving Simulator at Busch Annapolis Library



Photo of library staff member, Gabriella Norton, helping a customer with the driving simulator.

To provide new and experienced drivers with a safe, free and educational behind-the-wheel experience, AACPL launched a driving simulator at its [Busch Annapolis](#) location. Funded by the [Library Foundation](#) and community donors, the **\$13,000 device** helps rookie and veteran drivers navigate a myriad of hypothetical scenarios in a controlled environment, while offering people who may not be able to afford extensive driving courses an opportunity to supplement their driving lessons.

Lactation Pod at Discoveries: The Library at the Mall



Photo of new lactation pod at Discoveries Library.

A first at a Maryland library, this new lactation pod is very popular with families and caregivers.

[Discoveries: The Library at the Mall](#) now offers a [Mamava](#) nursing pod at its location. This first-ever in a Maryland library resource will allow breastfeeding and pumping caregivers a quiet and secure spot without having to leave the branch. The Mamava lactation pod was funded by the generosity of donors across the county through a **\$31,500 grant** from the Library Foundation.

Outdoor Musical Instruments Now at Busch Annapolis and Severna Park Libraries



Photo of young customers enjoy the outdoor musical instruments available at the Busch Annapolis Library.

Based on their popularity at the [Brooklyn Park Library](#), two additional branches now offer outdoor musical instruments and play spaces for families and caregivers thanks to funding by community donors through the Library Foundation and Kiwanis Club (Severna Park Library).

Grant Resources Expanded to All Libraries



Photo of library users participating in a workshop on finding grants.

Thanks to funding from the [Anne Arundel County's Nonprofit Center](#), all 16 library locations now offer popular grant research tools from [Candid](#). Organizations and individuals can now find funders more easily, as database access has expanded from just the Busch Annapolis Library to all branches.

Increased Usage of Library's Community Pantry



Photo of diaper donations at the Community Pantry at Discoveries.

In FY 2024, the [Community Pantry](#) at Discoveries saw an increase in visitors. The staff **distributed over 155,000 diapers**, which is double the amount from the previous year. Additionally, nearly **2,000 packs of menstrual pads, tampons, and incontinence supplies** were given out. **A total of 2,635 people visited the pantry**, where they also received assistance with signing up for government benefits, registering for kindergarten, obtaining health information and more. We extend special thanks to our funders, including Anne Arundel County, the Library Foundation, [Park Books](#), the [Annapolis Mall](#), [Annapolis Moms Media](#), [Junior League of Annapolis](#), [Chick-fil-A](#), [Gloria Dei Lutheran Church](#), [Leadership Anne Arundel](#) and community donors.

Kindergarten Readiness & Promoting Reading



Photo of young children enjoying storytime at the library.

Weekend and Evening Storytimes

The Anne Arundel County Public Library is committed to helping families and caregivers prepare their children for kindergarten. In addition to our regular weekly [Every Child Ready to Read](#) Storytimes, we have expanded our offerings this year to include programs in the evenings and on weekends.

“We love the weekday evening storytime with Mel and Mikey. As a dual working family, it is impossible to get to the storytimes during the workday and Saturday mornings are chockfull. Having this option allows us to participate in such a wonderful program.”

More Early Reader Book Clubs

In 2024, more libraries began offering early reader book clubs. At these programs, children in K-2 can practice their reading skills through group reading, activities and games based on popular beginner reader books. [Broadneck](#), Busch Annapolis, [Deale](#), Discoveries: The Library at the Mall, [Edgewater](#), [Glen Burnie](#), [Odenton](#) and [Severn](#) libraries offer this program on a regular basis. Additionally, the Odenton and [Severna Park](#) libraries offer RAD Readers Book Clubs for students in grades 3-5.

“At the last book club session we went to, my grandson read out loud for the first time! That is so, so huge! Thank you so much!”

Increased Participation in Summer @ Your Library



Photo of performer, Groovy Nate, during Summer @ Your Library.

Participation in our [Summer @ Your Library](#) program increased by **22 percent** in 2024, with **over 76,000 attendees** at events. While some view this annual program as primarily for children, it has always been open to all ages. This year, adult participation more than doubled, thanks to our popular Wildcard Bingo contest, which featured a grand prize of four free [Southwest Airlines](#) passes.

“I appreciate you having an adult program for summer! You're right, it's not just for kids.”

New Riviera Beach Library



Photo of exterior of new Riviera Beach Library.

On April 25, library and local officials opened the new [Riviera Beach Library](#). The \$16 million facility offers a large children’s area, four study rooms, a dedicated teen space, 20 public computers, an outdoor patio, a large meeting room and a brand-new collection of books and other materials. Local architects [Grimm + Parker](#) describe the building as having an underwater theme with surfboard-shaped counters, a “boat ceiling,” shark sofa and yellow submarine program space. There are multiple nautical references throughout the library including a coastal type of architecture in materials, color and finishes with oars and anchors.

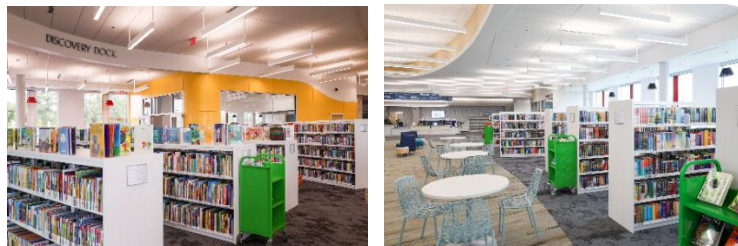


Photo of Library Foundation Director Ian Marchanti, Library Foundation President Karen Smith, Anne Arundel County Public Library CEO Skip Auld, Jaxton Murphy, Maryland State Delegate Nic Kipke, County Executive Steuart Pittman, County Councilman Nathan Volke, Architect Brian Walbridge and Branch Manager Johanna Doty cut the ribbon in the new library.

Library Usage in Fiscal Year 2024



Photo of library usage including 1.58 million branch visits, 3.8 million website visits and 5.7 million items used.

Board of Trustees



Photo of the Library Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Anne Arundel County Public Library. It is comprised of volunteers representing all areas of our county. Trustees come to their volunteer roles with a range of experiences and backgrounds, and a strong desire to ensure the long-term vitality of our public libraries. In FY 24, the body included:

- Christopher B. Nelson, Chairman
- Simmona Simmons, 1st Vice Chairman
- J. Robert Sapp III, 2nd Vice Chairman
- Laura J. Ellis, Secretary
- Cathy Belcher, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

- Tim Lemke

- Lonni K. Summers

TRUSTEES

- Dylan Behler
- Noah Comet
- James R. Estep
- Ishani Gandhi
- Linda Gayle
- Damita McDonald
- Sandra L. Solomon
- Gerald P. Starr
- Faith Steele
- Jeremy York

Library Foundation



Photo of Library & Library Foundation staff and directors enjoy a special Cheers to AACPL event at Pherm Brewing Company in Crofton.

Donor Gifts Impact the Library

Last year, the Library Foundation reached an extraordinary milestone, **raising over \$600,000** through the collective generosity of donors like you. Every contribution, large or small, played a vital role in helping to build a welcoming and evolving library where people of all ages grow, connect and belong. Your contributions have made a lasting impact that reaches every corner of our library system.

Here are a few of the year's highlights made possible through your generosity:

A Safe Space for Mothers

With donor contributions, we installed the first nursing pod in a Maryland library at Discoveries: The Library at the Mall, offering a safe, private space for mothers and their children.



Photo from left: Library CEO Skip Auld, Library Foundation Executive Director Cathleen Sparrow, Library COO Cathy Hollerbach, Library Foundation Director Stephen Holt, Library Foundation Board President (FY 25) Linda Greene, Manager Rachel Myers, Chief of Staff to Delegate Dana Jones - Josh Paper, Chief of Staff to Delegate Shaneka Henson - Beryle Downs, Library Foundation Board President (FY 24) Karen Smith, Councilmember Lisa Rodvien, Stacey Fitzgerald and her daughter cut the ribbon.

Enhanced Outdoor Spaces

Your gifts improved the library's outdoor areas with new musical instruments, picnic tables, gardens, and benches, creating welcoming spaces for families to relax and enjoy the library experience.



Photo from left: Delegate Heather Bagnall, Manager Samantha Zline, Foundation Director Tessie Ballard, Councilmember Amanda Fiedler, Kiwanis Club of Severna Park member Dave Blanch, Library CEO Skip Auld and Kiwanis member Bill DeHoff cut the ribbon on the Severna Park outdoor play space.

Advanced Technology for Learning

Thanks to your support, all 16 branches now feature new SMART Boards, and we introduced a driving simulator for teens and adults to sharpen their driving skills. We also funded mobile hotspots and Chromebooks, making them available at all library branches.



Photo of young library lovers enjoy the SMART Board at the Severna Park Library.

Summer Fun and Literacy



Photos of young children enjoying fun Summer @ Your Library events.

Donations to the Summer @ Your Library program brought our community together with engaging reading activities for all ages, ensuring a summer filled with fun and learning.

Early Literacy Support

Your gifts provided books to children enrolled in the [1000 Books Before Kindergarten](#) program, fostering a love of reading in our youngest community members.



Photo of a happy customer showing off her achievements in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

Comfortable and Welcoming Spaces

Because of you, new comfy chairs and lounge furniture now enhance the children's and adult areas, making every visit more inviting and enjoyable.

Community Engagement at Library Fundraising Events:



Photo of Library Foundation fundraising event, For the Love of the Library.

We hosted the most successful fundraising event, [For the Love of the Library](#), where attendees explored the exciting library offerings. Events like [Cheers to AACPL](#) brought library lovers together to bring awareness to intellectual freedom and the importance of reading banned books, and our unique [Read Between the Wines](#) honored veterans. As always, we had another library-themed ice cream, Dragons Love Toffee, for all to enjoy with our partners at [Always Ice Cream](#).

Library Giving Week: Over 300 donors came together to support children's literacy programs, helping to inspire lifelong readers and learners.

Every donation you make is an investment in the future of our community. Your philanthropic support helps us inspire lifelong learners, foster a love of reading, and create a brighter tomorrow. Together, we are building a library that enriches, educates and inspires future generations. Thank you for your remarkable generosity!

FY24 Library Foundation Board of Directors:

- Karen W. Smith, President
- Linda Greene, Vice President
- Tessie LaRose Ballard, Secretary
- Martha O. Blaxall, Treasurer
- Jane Campbell-Chambliss
- Katie Prechtl Cooke
- Mary S. Hagerty
- Stephen R. Holt
- Stacy Korbela

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- Kris Maslonka
- Donald E. Rau, Jr.
- Diane Rinaldo
- Tim Williams
- Skip Auld, ex officio
- Damita McDonald, ex officio
- Ishani Ghandi, ex officio
- Cathleen Sparrow, ex officio