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Ex LIBRIS



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A huge **THANK YOU** to all who participated in the Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF)/Oakland Raiders fundraising event! Because of all you Alameda County Library and Oakland Raiders fans, ACLF was able to raise over \$5,000 to help support our Write to Read Juvenile Hall Literacy program.

ACLF is the fundraising arm of the Alameda County Library. We support 10 library branches and the Bookmobile and work closely with our system libraries to help garner financial support for programs, services, collections and capital. The Raiders fundraiser is just one example of the many fun and innovative ways in which we engage our community and encourage library support.

Visit us online at www.aclf.org for more information about donating and future fundraising events. For more information about our national award winning Write to Read Juvenile Hall literacy program, visit <http://juvievwrite2read.aclibrary.org/>.

Thank you again for your support!!!

GO READERS!!!

Recently Overheard...

Ralph Johnson, President, ACLF

I recently overheard this comment from a Castro Valley Library patron: "In these economic times there are many families that can't afford to buy books and DVDs, so it's wonderful that they can use the Library for free."

With your help we can raise funds for the Library to offer services and programs that might otherwise not be available.

The Alameda County Library's core services, including staffing, collections, equipment and buildings, are provided for through government funding. Tax dollars alone, however, are not enough to provide the kind of library our community deserves and needs.

Since 1996, the Alameda County Library Foundation has raised funds for programs, services and resources that reach our community's most marginalized individuals and families with programs like Homework Centers and Start With A Story. Homework help is consistently one of the most requested services at the Alameda County Library. Many young people lack access to homework help at home and cannot afford the high cost of private tutoring. The Library's seven Homework Centers provide high quality, one-on-one homework assistance to children and youth in communities throughout Alameda County. Start With A Story provides books, story-times, and outreach to the hundreds of children who visit their parents at Alameda County's Santa Rita (Dublin) and Glenn Dyer (Oakland) jails.

Our vision is to be a leading library foundation. We strive to build public and private initiatives that provide opportunities to enrich life-long learning throughout our community. We make a good library system great.

Message from the Director

"Knowledge is of two kinds; we know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it." – Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson was an English author, poet and professor who lived in the 1700s who believed so strongly in the concept of making information resources available that he was the author of one of the first English language dictionaries.

Johnson's astute observation on finding information is still appropriate today. Although public libraries as we know them didn't exist in Johnson's day, he certainly would champion the modern public library—open to everyone, without cost and filled with resources to help everyone gain knowledge and information.

Libraries are such an integral part of our society that we may take them for granted, like the electricity that lights our homes or the roads that allow easy travel. Wikipedia defines a library as "...a collection of sources, resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed". Because of the financial support from individuals like you, these incredible houses of resources can continue to exist and thrive. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Tiona Smith
Executive Director



Homework Centers Helps Students Succeed in School

Nearly all students need some help with homework. They turn to their parents to read with them, help research school reports and more.

Yet, many students cannot get this kind of help at home. Their parents may work two or three jobs to make ends meet and simply lack the time for homework. Other parents speak a first language other than English and are challenged to provide the support their children need. Some students live in overcrowded apartment units with extended family and have no suitable space for studying.

The Homework Center Program provides free, high quality help for these students. Based at seven libraries in Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont, San Lorenzo, Newark and Union City, the Homework Centers work with hundreds of students each year to provide the academic support they need to succeed in school. A team of paid



staff and volunteers—both adult and teen—provides this support Monday through Thursday throughout the school year.

Isaiah, a 4th grader, is typical of many students who frequent the Homework Centers. Like 72% of participants, he visits his local Homework Center on nearly all of the days it is open. Isaiah's parent—a single mom with two school age children—calls the program a “lifesaver.” Because this free resource is available, she knows that her children are someplace safe after school. Moreover, they are getting the help they need to understand and complete their homework. She has seen improvement in her children's grades and attitudes towards school.

The Homework Centers depend entirely on private donations raised through the Alameda County Library Foundation for their operation.

Summer Reading Program Promotes Good Reading Habits all Year 'Round

On average, children who read no books over the summer lose 3 months in reading achievement during that time. That means that by the time they reach the sixth grade, they are close to two grade levels behind their peers in reading. This loss significantly impedes academic progress.

The Alameda County Library's Summer Reading Game provides a simple, low-cost way to encourage young people to read over the summer. Very simply, the Summer Reading Game provides young people with incentives and prizes in exchange for reading. Participation grows each year.

“Make a Splash – READ” was the theme of the Children's 2010 Summer Reading Game. In addition to encouraging children to read, the Summer Reading Game drew children and families into the library with many activities centered around its water theme. Activities included arts and crafts, presentations on oceans and sea life, and a variety of performances.

Encouraging teens to read is also important. “Make Waves @ Your Library” was the theme of the 2010 Teen Summer Reading Program. Summer 2010 saw a 17% increase in the number of teens participating in the program as

more than 800 teens registered to read and win prizes. Teens used their Reading Log to keep track of hours spent reading. In addition to books, teens received credit for reading newspapers and magazines and for reading aloud to siblings. When they reached 25 hours, they won either a notebook journal with a pen or a clock bookmark. When they completed 50 hours, they earned the opportunity to select a free book.

Congratulations to all participants—children and teens—who completed the Alameda County Library's 2010 Summer Reading Program!



One Year Later

Carolyn Moskowitz

Branch Manager, Castro Valley Library

We have had a wonderful first year at the new Castro Valley Library. The beautiful facility has allowed us to offer the materials and services that the community has been asking for over the years. In our first year we checked out more than 700,000 items. That's double the number circulated at the old library. On an average day 2,000 people visit the facility, 65 kids use the homework center, 570 people use a public computer and 175 questions are answered by librarians.



Roberta Rivet, Director of the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce, recently said to me, "The library is really the center of the town, so many meetings and events are held here, that I wonder

what we did without it?" And it's true, the library has become a destination with our meeting rooms hosting the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Committee and Redevelopment Advisory Board meetings, trainings, political forums, musical events, multicultural celebrations, author events, and animal shows to name a few. The café, bookstore and art gallery have created a relaxing upbeat space for social gathering. The beautiful native plants, the day-lighted creek and the rocks and ropes playground have offered the community a chance to delight in the natural environment. The creek is filled with life, and recently a frog jumped all the way over and through the front doors to check out the library. We escorted him back to his home, and all marveled at how far this once vacant and barren property has come.

We are all very proud to be working in a green building, and I am excited to announce that we will soon have solar panels installed on our roof. Once they are working, they will supply 95% of the building's year round energy needs. The building is expected to be awarded a LEED gold rating. And speaking of awards, the Castro Valley Library's remarkable Friends group was recently acknowledged by Baker and Taylor as one of the most outstanding Friends groups in the nation. We have been truly blessed by all the support we have gotten from so many in the community. Over 130 middle schoolers volunteered over the summer as Kid Power helpers. Two young library regulars, twins Callan and Charlotte Chu had a special kind of party for their birthday recently – they asked their guests to bring books for the library instead of the usual birthday presents. Now everyone can share in the joy of their presents! In a recent letter to the local newspaper, Joon Reynolds described the library as "Castro Valley's newest jewel." A staff member was told, "You guys are so lucky to work here." I agree and feel very lucky indeed.



Alameda County Library Branches

Albany

1247 Marin Avenue
Albany, CA 94706-1796
510-526-3720

Castro Valley

3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546-4382
510-670-6280

Centerville

3801 Nicolet
Fremont, CA 94536-3493
510-795-2629

Dublin

200 Civic Plaza
Dublin, CA 94568-2619
925-828-1315

Fremont Main

2400 Stevenson Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94538-2326
510-745-1400

Irvington

41825 Greenpark Drive
Fremont, CA 94538-4084
510-795-2631

Newark

6300 Civic Terrace Avenue
Newark, CA 94560-3795
510-795-2627

Niles

150 "I" Street
Fremont, CA 94536-2998
510-795-2626

San Lorenzo

395 Paseo Grande
San Lorenzo, CA 94580-2491
510-670-6283

Union City

34007 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, CA 94587-4498
510-745-1464

Bookmobile

510-745-1477

