

Annual Report to the Community 2013

2013 was Red Hook Public Library's busiest year to date, with people borrowing items, coming to the library and attending programs in record numbers.

Borrowers shared 87,131 items, including books, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks, e-books and other items. That averages out to more than 19 items per cardholder. If our patrons had purchased the items we shared individually, they would have spent \$1,742,620 – a 697% return on the community's \$250,000 investment (based on a conservative figure of \$20 per item).

We continued to try and help our patrons in many ways. Our teen techs helped people set up e-mail accounts, download e-books, connect with their grandchildren through Facebook, and navigate new devices like iPads, Kindles, Nooks and other cool technology.

By partnering with Dutchess County One-Stop, we have been able to provide one-on-one job search help, including writing resumes, learning how to search the web for jobs (or complete applications online) and connect with other resources for those looking for work.

The Affordable Care Act brought hundreds of people through our doors for private appointments with Healthcare Navigators provided by the Maternal Infant Services Network. Many people who thought health care was beyond their reach found they could save money; others had help figuring out how to sign up on the web site.

Intrepid explorers and curious learners attended 643 programs in 2013. More than 9,500 people attended a wide variety of programs. Some learned to speak Italian, others sharpened their drawing skills, took part in book clubs, knit up a storm, learned to read and make our own films. We danced the night away at Monster Mash, and collaborated with Bard College designing henna tattoos and solving CSI-type mysteries.

Parents provided their children with a foundation for a lifetime of reading and learning by coming to our early literacy programs: Romp & Stomp; Rock, Rattle & Read; Story Time and Homeschool Discovery Zone. Kids got to unleash their inner artists during Petite Picasso and Crafternoons and build new worlds in Lego Club. Our Battle of the Books team made us proud by taking home the banner for second place with their amazing powers of recall.

Our doors were open for patrons for more than 2,562 hours last year – and a good thing to, considering we had more than 257,868 visits! Our little staff couldn't handle the demand for materials and programs alone, and we were fortunate to rely on a core of more than 20 volunteers, who spent more than 1,000 hours helping out at the library.

Thank you for relying on us. Your support and use of Red Hook Public Library is so extraordinary that we earned 5 stars again this year in *Library Journal* – something less than 300 libraries out of more than 7,500 across the country manage to do. We love what we do, and we couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,

Erica Freudenberger, Library Director

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