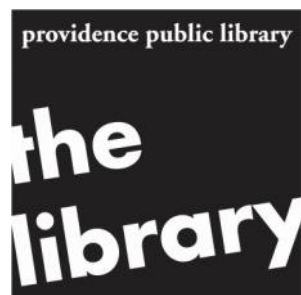
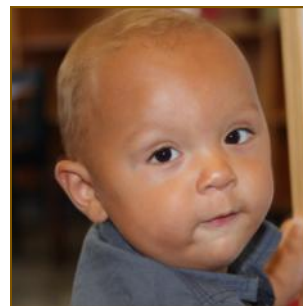
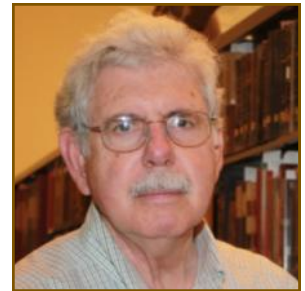
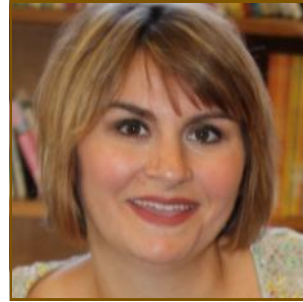


Our stories...

2011 Annual Report

Providence Public Library
Providence Public Library Foundation



Explore
Discover
Connect
for a lifetime of education



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From Our Chair and Director

Telling our story through our patron's stories...

Many ask us, "What goes on in the Library these days?" "Do people still come to the Library, and why?" We thought we would ask some of our thousands of patrons to answer these questions. So this year in our annual report we give you our story through just a few of our patrons' stories.

We hope you enjoy the stories on these pages. We think they do, indeed, characterize the essence of our mission and are an excellent representation of how Rhode Islanders of all ages and backgrounds turn to Providence Public Library . . .

. . . to explore, discover, and connect for a lifetime of education.



William S. Simmons
Chair



Dale Thompson
Director

Once a Teacher, Now a Student at the Library

As an elementary school teacher for seven years in her native Cape Verde (San Nicolas Island), **Margarida Monteiro** has a great appreciation for a good teacher and a valuable education. And, like all students in the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative's (RIFLI) adult literacy program based at Providence Public Library, she has wasted no time in making the most of all the opportunities offered at the Library through the program and its dedicated instructors.

With two years of literacy classes completed and plans to continue in advanced level classes, Margarida is looking to begin the process of getting her GED (High School Equivalency Diploma) in the coming year. After that, she hopes to go on with further studies, maybe to become a teacher or nurse here. Ultimately, she will seek U.S. citizenship.



“The RIFLI program has helped me so much. I am very thankful. I have come so far...I can now speak English and write it. I have been able to apply for and get jobs. There are a world of opportunities for me now. Most of all, I am grateful for wonderful teachers like Miss Amanda (Duffy), who has also been a friend I will not forget.”

Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative...

...seeks to equip adult immigrants with the literacy skills necessary for upward mobility, engaged citizenship, strong families and lifelong learning. This year, **204** adults and **45** children were served by RIFLI, while **19** students became U.S. citizens. RIFLI students — 70 percent of whom are women and 76 percent who are between 25 and 59 — come from more than 40 countries, from Argentina to Vietnam.

Telling His Stories, Helping Everyone to Remember

He was never a writer in school, but in his retirement **Dr. Ed Iannuccilli*** turned to the written word with a purpose....to record his memories, the stories of his youth. The spark came one day while recounting his family's celebration of the Christmas Eve Vigil to his oldest son. He realized how dear this and other memories – the stories from his youth – were and how important they are for passing down knowledge, values and meaningful traditions from one generation to the next. The result was his first book: *Growing Up Italian: Grandfather's Fig Tree and Other Stories*, and a second one soon to be published. Dr. Ed confesses, "I'm blessed with a pretty good memory, lots of old photos, and a healthy, 90-plus year-old aunt who helped me out along the way."

While he generally sticks to mining his own memories – many just everyday experiences – he admits that he doesn't always recall all the details or facts exactly, and that his greater goal is to inspire others who read his tales to supplant his details with their own, likewise, reliving and sharing their own youth and memories for posterity.

"So, this is where I'm very grateful for the historical resources and wonderful reference librarians at Providence Public Library helping immeasurably – providing certain key pieces of information about places and events that serve to make my stories real for everyone."

* Dr. Iannuccilli is a member of the PPL Foundation Board of Trustees.



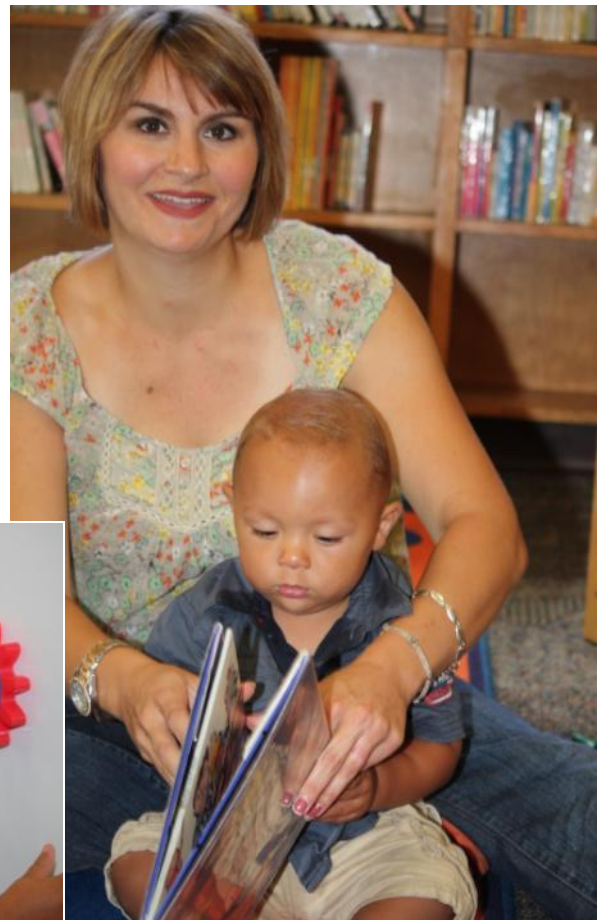
Information Service...

Our librarians helped patrons with **33,756** reference questions. In addition, the Special Collections librarian welcomed many visitors and assisted numerous researchers, students and patrons with general and specific information requests.

Part of the Library Learning Community

Having recently come from the corporate world and choosing to stay at home with her new son, **Ari Webster** sought an opportunity to meet and spend time with other moms while her three-month-old son Winston got the benefit of interacting with other young children in a learning environment. She found just what she needed in the Providence Public Library's weekly *Lapsit Story Time* program. Further, Ari relates that she and Winston also gain much more than early literacy from the constantly growing Library community.

"I've found the Lapsit program such a positive experience, and the Library staff to be so knowledgeable. I'm so pleased with the wonderful impact it has had on Winston's development. He loves learning new words and songs; he honestly plays with and enjoys books as much as he does his other toys. We all look forward to the program and spending time together, comparing experiences with our children and sharing news. And, Miss Anne has been such a friend and mentor to all the moms...she's a household name! We tend to ask her all kinds of questions relating to different aspects of our children's development and we get so much good information."



Early Childhood Literacy Learning...

Our early childhood, school age and young adult programs more than doubled in number and attendance this year. There were **3,817** attendees at **396** children's programs, while **117** attended **7** young adult programs.

Additionally, more than **5,000** classroom-use items were borrowed by area schools and teachers and early childhood caregivers borrowed approximately **300** Learning and Reading Kits (LARKs) for use with school children statewide.

On a Quest to “Put the Story Together”

It all started with a recent move to a new home. That’s when **Dr. J. Stanley Cobb**, Professor Emeritus of Marine Biology at the University of Rhode Island, decided it was finally time to learn the whole story about a small collection of whaling gear and artifacts (including three harpoons, a lance, and two oars – one 21 feet) which had been in his family for nearly a century. The short story – that the items had belonged to his grand-father – seemed inadequate now that they had been formally adopted by his children, the next generation, and taken to a new home. So he set out to produce a complete record.

On a recent visit to PPL’s Special Collections Department for one more look at some material in the *Nicholson Whaling Collection**, Dr. Cobb summarized his historical quest, nearly complete.

“It seemed fitting that we all should know more about these items and how they came into my grandfather’s possession, and I’m quite satisfied with all I’ve learned – more than I could have imagined. What a wonderful experience doing this kind of research has been, thoroughly enjoyable. Everyone here at PPL and at every stop along the way has been so generous with their knowledge. They’ve enabled me to put the whole story together and I am so grateful.”



The Paul C. Nicholson Whaling Collection...

* Housed in PPL’s Special Collections, *the Paul C. Nicholson Whaling Collection* is the second largest whaling logbook collection in America. Mr. Paul C. Nicholson, the son of the founder of the world-renowned Nicholson File Company, bequeathed his collection to the Library in 1956. In addition to more than 750 manuscript logbooks describing more than 1,000 whaling voyages and several thousand printed books on whaling, the collection also contains scrimshaw, a narwhal tusk, three harpoons, a harpoon gun, prints and photographs, and ship models. Much of the collection is available online.

Reading and sharing...

When she first took her three-year-old daughter Margaret to PPL's *Cradle to Crayons* program, **Syntyche** (Syndy to friends) **Mashamba** had some basic goals in mind. A single mom trying to prepare her daughter for pre-school, she was looking for something to do with Margaret where they could interact with other children and families. Syndy relates, "Miss Bonnie and Miss Anne were so welcoming. We became a part of this whole new family. Margaret was so excited to come to the Library each week. By the time the summer began, she was doing so well with her new friends that we decided to enroll in the summer reading program and even signed up to try to read 90 books!"

At first, it was challenging for Syndy and Margaret to fit in all the reading to reach their goal. But before long, reading together became such a part of their daily routine that they had read 130 books. Not only that, they took part in just about every summer reading event.



"During the Travel to Africa night, I was able to bring some authentic Zimbabwe snacks, teach everyone a few words, and even a native game that I played growing up in Africa. I realized that what started out as an opportunity for us to gain friendships and learn together actually turned into a chance for us to give and share. What's more, the whole experience caused me to realize that I have this whole other culture to share with Margaret."

Summer Reading Program...

75 readers ages 4 to 9 took part in our Summer Reading Program, logging more than 500 books read! In addition, many children and their parents regularly attended our Thursday Travel Nights and Friday film series.



“Catching Up” with Computers at the Library

A few years ago, **Vicki Veh** decided to pursue a master’s degree in arts administration. While researching programs, she realized that having computer skills beyond her self-taught ones were now essential to the educational process. Having attended school before the age of PCs, she knew there were big gaps in her knowledge, but was unsure about how to address them.

On one of her frequent trips to the Library, she picked up a listing of computer classes at PPL. Taking a couple seemed like a way to start “catching up” – they were offered at various times, from beginning to advanced levels, and they were free! She relates,

“I thought I would listen a lot and try to pick up what I could, but the instructor, Shane, immediately put everyone at ease. Shane’s high-spirited and accepting approach made the content interesting and easy to understand. He also provided handouts with simple instructions for doing many things—I’ve kept and referred to those since the classes.”



“Recently, I was faced with having to create the framework for a Web site. Once again, I took a class with Shane. With ongoing technology changes, there’s always more to learn!”

Recently, while visiting her parents in North Carolina, they asked Vicki some computer use questions. She suggested they take a couple of classes at their local library.

Computer Use and Learning...

1,514 participants attended 246 computer training classes. In addition to exploring all levels of traditional office and graphics software, learners were offered a range of general and specific topic technology classes, from the basics of the Internet to blogging.

Library patrons used our public computer workstations 44,055 times.

We All Can Learn from Each Other...

For **Dwight McDonald**, it's all about being positive. He is a self-described "high energy, positive person" who happens to love to read. Put these traits together and it makes complete sense that he should contact the Library about starting a book club devoted to personal development. When asked about his inspiration, Dwight explains:

"I like to have a positive attitude and I enjoy being around and learning from other positive people; from my experience, many people are looking for the same...ways to improve themselves and to share with each other," he says. "Our group enables us to do both."

(l-r) Dwight
with group
participants
Rick Cohn,
Veronica
Avalos and
Francisco
Jimon.



The Personal Development Book Group meets monthly at PPL to pick titles and talk about ones they've read, whether as a group or individually. "It's all about helping ourselves achieve and keep a positive and healthy lifestyle."

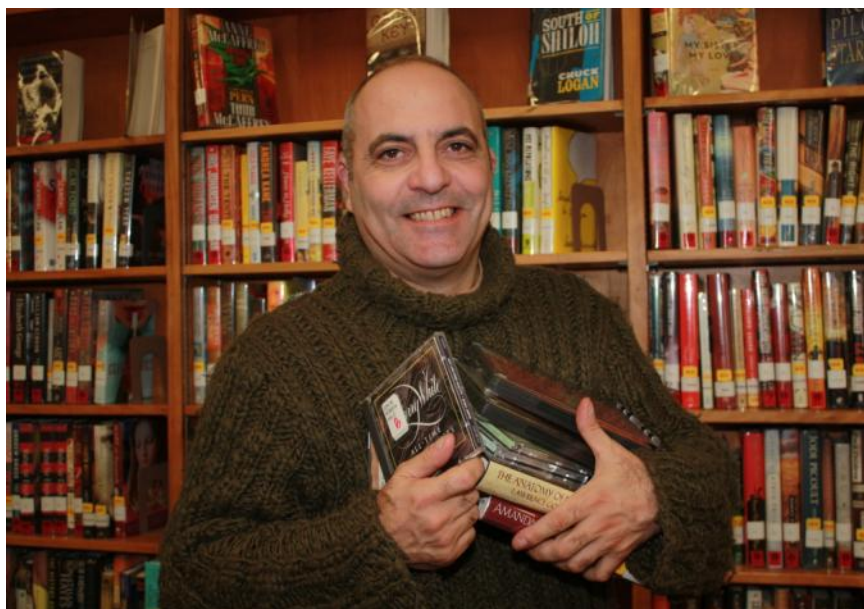
Library Programs...

753 patrons attended 142 adult and family programs this year.

The Library—A Place for Giving and Taking

Whether to do research or to pick up a classic film for viewing, **Michel Shtakleff** turns to the Library for his many needs. As both a film buff and multi-media artist, and as a teacher of arts and ESL, the Library is a necessity — not just a place he loves to visit. But, as Michel is quick to point out, he is a regular and does definitely love his Library. He explains,

“As a film buff, I visit the library quite often to benefit from the wide collection of DVDs, from recent selections to classics. As a documentary filmmaker, I’ve been fortunate to have the Library as a venue where I was able to screen my work-in-progress, and now that I’ve completed my latest work, the Library has a copy that can be borrowed by its patrons. Finally, as a teacher, I’ve found that the Library, with its extensive collection of books and materials, offers me an ideal place to do my research in academic development.”



Michel and his associate Don Manley collaborated to produce “Old House Soul” (2010), a video documentary on the life and work of Rhode Island preservationist Steve Tyson, Sr., which they generously shared with Library patrons both during the production, in the form of a lecture presentation and screening, and upon its completion as a contribution to the Library’s DVD collection.

Library Usage...

Patrons borrowed a total of **171,875** items.
151,633 people visited our library.

Fiscal Year 2011

Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations July 1, 2010—June 30, 2011 (unaudited)

REVENUE

Public Funds

State of RI – Reference Resource Center	\$ 1,138,795
State of RI – Grant in Aid	512,896

Private Funds

Contribution from Endowment	2,337,877
Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	616,797
Fees, Fines & Other	59,508
Donations (Unrestricted)	61,399
Subtotal Income	\$ 4,727,272

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 2,049,859
Benefits	779,182
Books, Databases & Materials	937,446
Library Supplies	193,199
Facility Maintenance	101,524
General & Administrative	421,057
Utilities	145,199
Security Services	5,180
Subtotal Expenses	\$ 4,632,646
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 94,626

Note: Library Revenue Program Grants includes \$182,578 and Other includes \$14,810 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2011. Library Revenue Program Grants also includes \$37,600 of revenue reserved for FY 2012.

Providence Public Library Foundation

Providence Public Library Foundation seeks to ensure continued excellence in library services for the Providence Public Library community by providing private funding to enhance programs and services.

Mission

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From Our Chair

In this year's report we have shared some of the many reasons the people of Rhode Island turn to Providence Public Library — the state's largest and most diverse public library. As you can see, the answer to the question, "What goes on in the library these days?" can be as different as the nearly one million residents we serve day in and day out, whether they visit our downtown Providence building or online, whether they use a personal computer or even their mobile phone!

The fact is that our library offers something for all learners, no matter their age, background or station in life. More importantly, though, is the fact that our library — with its unique resources and critical services — is more relevant than ever. This is due to our enduring mission to serve the lifelong learning needs of all who turn to us. While this charge can be challenging in today's quickly changing world, we in the PPL Foundation remain committed to this goal and to our mission of providing the private support necessary to ensure our library's continued excellence.

Howard E. Walker
PPL Foundation Chair

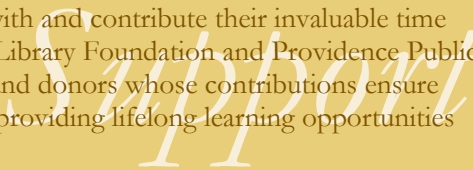
Fiscal Year 2011

PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues July 1, 2010—June 30, 2011 (unaudited)

Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	\$ 407,859
Annual Appeal (Unrestricted)	244,820
Endowment Funds & Bequests	49,581
TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED	\$ 702,260

NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation's endowment contributed \$2,337,877 to Providence Public Library's FY 2011 operating budget.

Each year countless volunteers, donors and organizations collaborate with and contribute their invaluable time and talent to the Library and their community. The Providence Public Library Foundation and Providence Public Library recognize and thank these and all Fiscal Year 2011 supporters and donors whose contributions ensure that the Library continues in its mission as a vibrant and vital resource providing lifelong learning opportunities to all Rhode Island residents.



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Gifts given and matched during the 2011 Trustee Challenge Campaign are reflected at the actual gift level.

Please remember Providence Public Library during the United Way campaign. To donate, simply write *Providence Public Library* in the space provided for donor option on the United Way form.

Planned Giving is an integral part of ensuring Providence Public Library's excellence for generations to come. When arranging your financial or estate plan, we hope you will consider the Library.

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