

Impact Report

For the Chester County Library and Henrietta Hankin Branch

2024



READ CONNECT DISCOVER

CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY
& DISTRICT CENTER
AND HENRIETTA HANKIN BRANCH



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Uwchlan Township
Wallace Township
Warwick Township
West Brandywine Township
West Vincent Township
West Whiteland Township

Meet the Henrietta Hankin Branch Manager



Scan me



A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are very happy to present the 2024 Impact Report for the Chester County Library and Henrietta Hankin Branch. We are proud to serve the residents of Chester County and continue to provide new services and resources.

We welcomed Carey Bresler as the new Henrietta Hankin Branch Manager in October 2024. Carey came to us from the Oxford Library where she was the director for 12 years. Carey jumped right in and has started making connections with the Henrietta Hankin Branch community.

READ

The Henrietta Hankin Branch was one of 10 libraries that were the recipients of decodable books and training as a result of a grant sponsored by Senator Katie Muth. A decodable book is a text that helps new readers practice a specific skill that they have been taught. Decodable books follow a sequence that builds on each skill that is learned. Readers practice one skill, then learn the next.

Chester County Library provided training and selection support for this grant. Both libraries have growing decodable book collections which provide another resource to support our earliest users in their path to literacy. We were proud to work with Senator Muth and look forward to continuing to partner with local legislators in our shared mission of supporting lifelong learning.

CONNECT

We were able to expand our Next Chapter Book Club in 2024. The Next Chapter Book Club is a community-based program that welcomes adolescents and adults with Down Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other types of intellectual and developmental disabilities to discuss books in a public area of the library. The primary focus of this program is on having fun with friends in a public place on a regular basis. We now offer 3-weekly sessions (including one virtual) at the Henrietta Hankin Branch.

In 2024, we engaged with local authors and artisans with our Read Local and Holiday Craft Show Events. Read Local, held in May, showcased 33 Chester County and Pennsylvania authors and allowed the authors to talk about their books with library customers.

The Holiday Craft Show was held for the 13th time and included 50 vendors with tables throughout the library. Both events demonstrate our ability to connect local talent with our users to strengthen community.

DISCOVER

We continue to offer our popular museum pass program which allows families to visit local museums for free. We have over thirty passes available for check-out between both libraries.

We offered 2,373 programs at both libraries. These programs allow our customers free business, educational, and cultural learning opportunities.

Thank you to all of our community, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Both Libraries rely on your support and patronage, and we appreciate all of you. We are excited to continue serving our community and meeting our mission to provide informational, educational, and cultural services to the residents of Chester County. We look forward to seeing you at the Libraries.

JENNA PERSICK & CAREY BRESLER

LIBRARY DIRECTOR & BRANCH MANAGER

READ



"I come to the library weekly and would be lost without it! I am a Pre-K teacher and use the online reservation system to order approximately 15-20 books from the libraries in our area. The librarians are always so helpful when I have a question or need a recommendation. Our teenage daughter also uses the library for ebooks and at times attends activities in the summer. As a family, we have taken advantage of the museum passes and have explored places of interest that we wouldn't have otherwise without the savings. Thank you for all that you do!" ~ Library Patron

Items Circulated
1,160,454

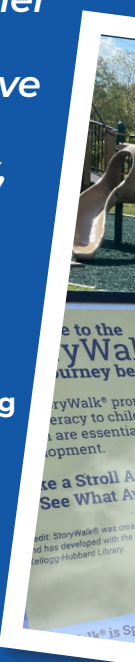
Population Served
111,774

Total items in
Collection
436,550

Library Visits
419,171

eMaterials Circulated
497,318

The first Chester County Library Read Local! Author Showcase was a great success, featuring local authors and illustrators across genres for all ages. Attendees enjoyed meeting authors, learning about their work, and purchasing signed books. We thank everyone who participated and look forward to making this an annual Chester County Library event.





In 2024, the “Books for All Readers” Workshop, hosted by State Senator Katie Muth and Henrietta Hankin Branch Library, shared the science of reading and strategies to support early and struggling readers. Funded by a \$125,000 American Rescue Plan Act grant announced by Senator Muth in 2022, the initiative established decodable book collections in every public library in Senate District 44 and provided training for librarians and community members.

On September 8, 2024, Chester County Library hosted its annual Library Card Sign-Up Fest, drawing families for an afternoon of free, community-focused fun. Highlights included a special story time with Senator Carolyn Comitta and a visit from Miss Pennsylvania’s Teen, Arianna Spurlin. Guests enjoyed outdoor activities, entertainment, and the opportunity to give back through a book drive benefiting local youth charities. The event transformed the library’s parking lot into a lively festival space.



In 2024, the beloved Tail Waggin’ Tutors program returned to the Henrietta Hankin Branch, giving independent readers a fun and supportive way to practice their skills — by reading to a certified therapy dog. Children enjoyed sharing their favorite books in the cozy privacy of the Youth Services Story Corner, where our canine friends proved, once again, to be the very best listeners.



Installed in 2017, the Chester County Library’s StoryWalk® in Exton Park features 20 reading stations along a ½-mile path, encouraging kids to combine reading with outdoor activity. Updated twice yearly, the project is funded by the Chester County Library Trust with support from the Pearl Foundation and was installed by Voya Financial volunteers in partnership with County departments.

CONNECT



"I absolutely love the library--being able to place items on hold, the book selections etc....I've always felt so grateful to have such an amazing library system in my community. I have family members who feel the same way--believe it or not, the CCLS comes up quite often when we all get together--we are amazed that we have access to so many things!!" ~ Library Patron

↑ Patron Visits
in 2024
11.37%

Website Visits
201,295

Public Internet
Users
21,312

eNewsletter
Subscribers
22,289

Social Media
Followers
35,182

Since 2019, the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library's Next Chapter Book Club has offered a welcoming space for adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to connect through shared reading and conversation. Facilitated by trained staff and volunteers, the club meets weekly—both virtually and in person—and supports readers of all levels. Focused on friendship, fun, and lifelong learning, the program reflects the library's commitment to accessibility and inclusive community engagement.





In 2024, Chester County Library hosted a lively series of K-Pop and K-Drama events that drew enthusiastic participation—especially among teens. From themed trivia nights to Year of the Snake celebrations with crafts, boba, and cup sleeve giveaways, each program blended pop culture, creativity, and community. Welcoming both longtime fans and curious newcomers, these events fostered connection and cultural appreciation, setting the stage for even more teen-centered programming ahead.

In 2024, the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library launched two new ways to connect and play. Our Scrabble Club began on December 5, welcoming adult word lovers every Thursday from 12–2 pm for friendly games and conversation—no registration needed. We also introduced a board game lending collection, perfect for family nights, with popular titles like *Catan*, *Qwirkle*, *Ticket to Ride*, and *Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza* available for two-week checkouts.



Murder at the Speakeasy whisked mystery lovers back to the Roaring 20s for a night of intrigue at Albert C. Miller Park. Guests arrived in Jazz Age attire, teamed up to solve a thrilling whodunit, and enjoyed dramatic “death scenes,” clever sleuthing, and standout costumes. With free refreshments and a lively crowd, the evening was a killer-good time. Thanks to everyone who made it unforgettable!



On June 1, our Tie-Dye Pride Party brought color and connection to Albert C. Miller Park, featuring custom t-shirts and a visit from Free Mom Hugs – Philadelphia Area, advocates for LGBTQIA+ equality. Hosted by the XYZ Committee, the event highlighted the library’s free resources and vibrant programming for Generations X, Y, and Z.

DISCOVER



"It's so enjoyable to see how much the library is utilized when we go. There is always a good amount of activity and I've heard other people remark about how popular it is." ~ Library Patron

Reference Questions
Answered

88,959

Patron Admission Cost
Savings with Museum
Pass Program

\$324,629

Museum Passes
Circulated

5937

Attendance at
Programs

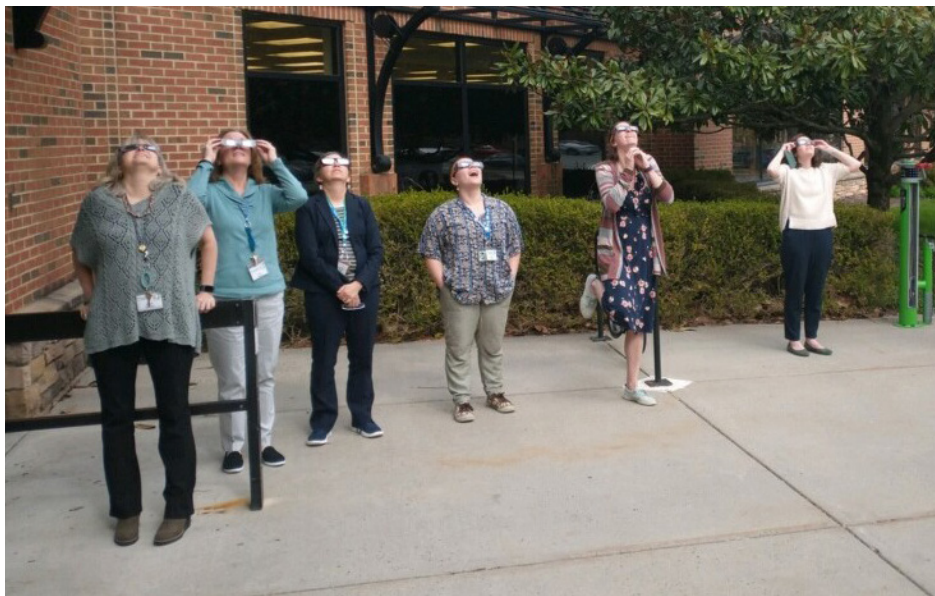
40,043

Number of
Programs

2,373

On February 18, Chester County Library Exton welcomed nearly 180 patrons for a vibrant Lunar New Year celebration honoring the Year of the Dragon. Guests enjoyed Asian snacks, crafted colorful dragon masks, and gathered for the afternoon's highlight—a dynamic lion dance performance by the Penn Lions troupe. The event brought joyful energy and cultural connection to the community.





On April 8, Chester County Library co-hosted a solar eclipse event at Hibernia County Park with local partners including Chester County Parks & Preservation, the Chester County Astronomical Society and Timmy Telescope. Attendees explored eclipse science through hands-on activities, contributed data to NASA's GLOBE Observer programs, and enjoyed guided yoga sessions celebrating the sun and moon.

On August 11, Chester County Library in Exton hosted the first annual CCLS Teen Photo Contest: Picture Your Adventure Reception, celebrating the creativity of young photographers across Chester County. This open house-style reception welcomed all ages to view submissions across two categories—Traditional and Anything Goes. The event highlighted teen talent and encouraged community support for artistic expression.



Chester County Library and Henrietta Hankin Branch launched a new monthly virtual author talk series in April 2024 in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium, featuring bestselling and award-winning authors from around the world. Covering a wide range of fiction and nonfiction genres, these free programs—generously funded by the Chester County Library Trust—are held two to three times a month and include live Q&A opportunities. Recordings and registration details are available at libraryc.org/ccls.

The Time Travel Club at Henrietta Hankin Library continues to spark imagination and curiosity in children ages 7–10. Recent adventures have taken participants to the Stone Age, Ancient Rome, Scotland, Victorian England, and beyond—each journey filled with hands-on crafts, STEM exploration, and cooperative activities.

THANK YOU



Honoring our Volunteers at a Spring Luncheon



Our trusted Teen Volunteer Card Sign-Up

VOLUNTEERS

Active Volunteers
152

Library Volunteer Hours Served
11,198

Teen Volunteers
36

Our volunteers serve as one-on-one computer tutors; present classes on computer knowledge, solar energy, and alternatives to cable TV; and facilitate social programs such as our weekly Mahjongg games and youth Chess Club. We also have bilingual volunteers and drop-in student and teen volunteers who help on a temporary basis.



Friends of Henry
Library

When you shop the Friends of Chester County Library book sales, your purchases fund vital resources and programs for the library. In 2024, the Friends supported staff development, facility updates, youth services, technology and Makerspace equipment, and a variety of community programs—from Lunar New Year and K-Pop Trivia to artist residencies and gardening initiatives.



FRIENDS OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY

Read • Connect • Discover



FRIENDS OF THE
HENRIETTA HANKIN BRANCH LIBRARY

www.hankinlibraryfriends.org



Volunteers at Library Fest



Henrietta Hankin's Branch Library's Book Nook



The Friends of the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library support vital programming and services through their table sales, including summer and winter reading programs, STEM activities, craft kits, staff education, and more.

FRIENDS

Net Proceeds - Friends of Chester County
Library's Spring Booksale

\$29,700

Net Proceeds - Friends of Chester County
Library's Fall Booksale

\$26,000

Total Friends of Chester County
Library's support including
memberships, tributes/
memorials, donated lobby books,
and lobby box donations

\$80,800

GIVE TO THE TRUST

The Chester County Library Trust, a 501(c)(3), supports the Chester County Library, its Henrietta Hankin Branch, and District Center services by funding collections, services, and capital needs beyond the operating budget.

We are grateful to the donors, corporations, and foundations whose 2024 contributions—including annual gifts, memorials, grants, matching funds, bequests, endowment support, and in-kind

donations—helped sustain the Trust. For more information on giving options, visit:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2026annualappeal>.

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ADVOCATE



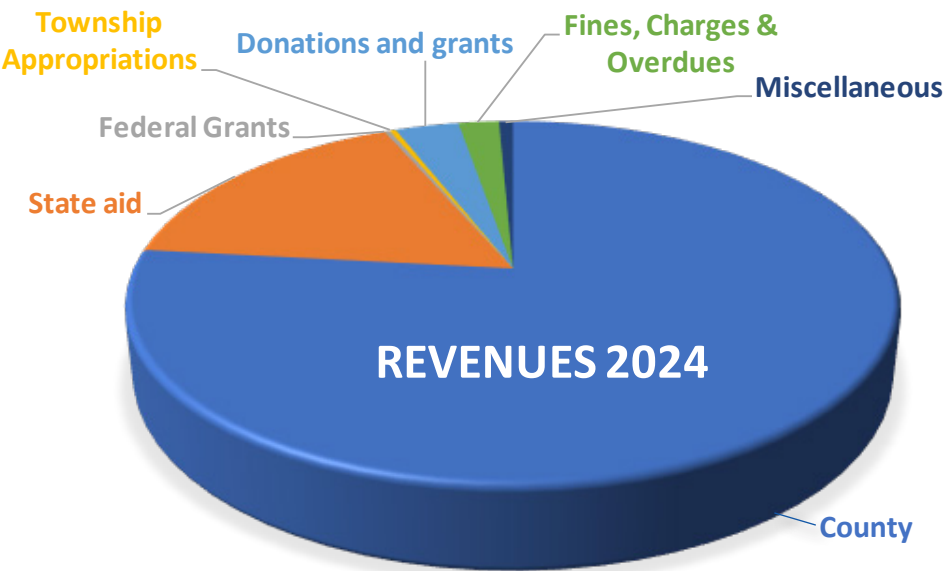
Photo from L to R: Chester County Commissioner Josh Maxwell, and future patron, Rory Maxwell, Chester County Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Chester County Commissioner Eric Roe, CCLS Board Director Michael Skay & CCLS Executive Director Joe Sherwood.



Photo from L to R: Senator Carolyn Comitta, Senator John Kane, U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan, Chester County Commissioner Eric Roe, Representative Paul Friel, Representative Chris Pielli, Chester County Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Chester County Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Representative Kristine Howard, CCLS Executive Director Joe Sherwood & Representative Dan Williams.

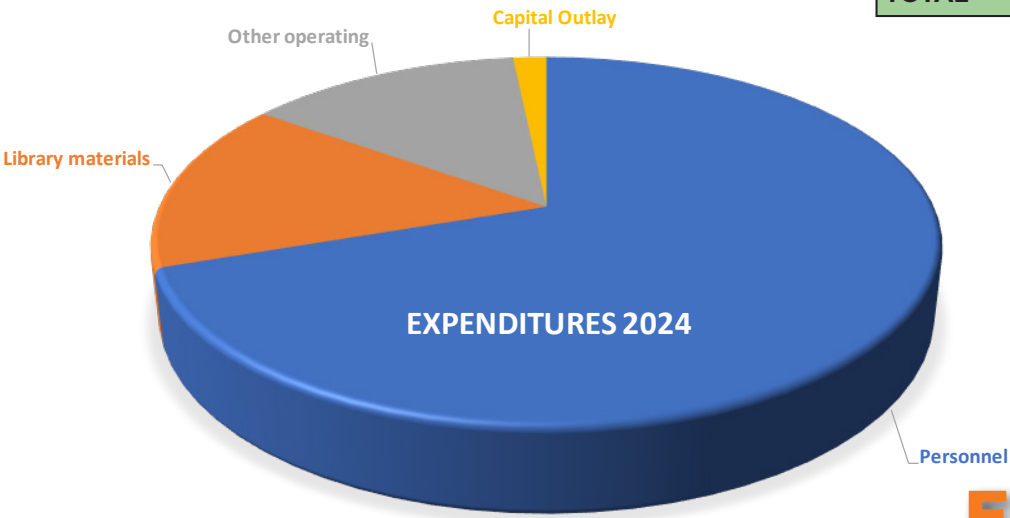
The Commissioners of the County Of Chester are committed to supporting their strategic plan which establishes priorities for the future of Chester County and increases accountability, transparency, and performance in Chester County Government. As a department of County government, the Chester County Library and its Henrietta Hankin Branch set targets based on the commissioners' priorities.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS



REVENUES

County	\$6,736,558 (76.7%)
State Aid	\$1,471,499 (16.8%)
Federal Grants	\$23,408 (<1%)
Township Appropriations	\$27,422 (<1%)
Fines, Charges & Overdues	\$178,922 (2%)
Donations & Grants	\$280,557 (3.2%)
Miscellaneous	\$61,534 (<1%)
TOTAL	\$ 8,779,900



EXPEDITURES

Personnel	\$ 6,098,073 (69.7%)
Library Materials	\$1,321,485 (15.1%)
Other Operating	\$ 1,181,915 (13.5%)
Capital Outlay	\$ 143,236 (1.6%)
TOTAL	\$ 8,744,709

Chester County Commissioners
Josh Maxwell
Marian Moskowitz
Eric Roe



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Exton, PA 19341
610-344-5600

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610-344-5604

www.chescolibraries.org

CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY
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