El Dorado County Library
Director’s Report

April 15, 2021

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El Dorado County Library

As we move further into 2021, our libraries are continuing to adapt and evolve to meet the rapidly changing needs of our communities. We have helped hundreds of seniors get Covid-19 vaccine appointments, engaged with thousands of families for storytime online, and are gearing up for a Summer Reading Program full of joy and interactive experiences.

The challenges have been many, and are still unfolding with each new day. And our library staff have resiliently risen to each new challenge with the needs of their communities foremost in their plans and responses. We have remodeled our buildings and furnishings with grant and Friends of the Library funding so that we can be flexible, reorganized for fiscal efficiencies, and partnered with other agencies in order to be able to offer more specialized services right in the communities where people live.

Our South Lake Tahoe library has created Mental Health kits with Barton Hospital, Cameron Park library has partnered with local food banks, the Office of Education, Seniors, and First 5 to provide large food packages for vulnerable families every month, and Georgetown library is having vaccine clinics in the parking lot!

The El Dorado Hills library had an incredibly successful fundraising campaign last fall with the Serrano Men’s Book Club and the Friends of the Library, and raised $31,500 for new books (almost all books at our libraries are purchased with Friends of the Library donations). Placerville continues to provide outreach book delivery service and Covid-19 vaccine appointment information to our seniors in senior care facilities, while Pollock Pines remains a steadfast pillar of resources and information for many at-risk families.

Circulation of material at the libraries continues to meet, and often exceed, pre-Covid numbers—over 14,000 items were checked out in March just in El Dorado Hills! Our communities have clearly demonstrated how much they need our libraries over the last year. Front line staff are often told by patrons how very thankful they have been that we are open, and that we are ‘life savers’. Several patrons actually cried when able to enter the libraries when we reopened last June. We will be forever thankful for our Public Health Director, Dr. Williams, for her steadfast commitment to getting our doors open safely. Many libraries across the state still do not have in-building services and are still struggling.

On a positive note, our library system is hosting the Coaching and Leadership Development for Family, Friends, and Neighbors Network Leaders for the Packard Foundation in June. We will be leading change leaders across the state through a series of sharing exercises and an exploration of how a Community Hub works to meet the needs of our families. Also, our Community Hubs are expanding to serve all ages in this new Hub 2.0 model. Library staff will be working with Health and Human Services Staff (and maybe even Court Services staff) to provide resources and services to Veterans, Seniors, Teens, and so many more. Now, if we can just do it person, we will be walking on the moon!

“Our Early Literacy Staff are eagerly waiting for the word to resume our in-person educational programs.
Virtual Youth Programming

A CA State Library grant to work with our teens to put on interactive Zoom classes. These classes have been designed to meet teen needs.

Did you know?

We have special kits for children and adults.
All kits are available at any library by simply placing a hold.

- Storytime Kits with books, puppets, flannel board sets, and more
- Backpack Nature kits with binoculars, animal books, and scientific equipment
- Dementia/Alzheimer kits with activities and resources for families caring for a family member with Alzheimer’s or Dementia
- Early Reader Backpacks with educational materials to help our little ones learn to read
- Mental Health Book kits with educational materials to support a variety of needs, including Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, OCD, PTSD, and many more.
- Toddler Play Kits with interactive educational materials

Book to Action

Local author Julie Samrick will be holding a book club based on her book, “Murphy’s Miracle” and communities will learn about resilience in the face of adversity.

Technology

Our County will be moving to Microsoft 365 by next February, and the library will be shifting our infrastructure over to the county during this time so that we will be ready to utilize the incredible tools available to us with this new platform. Microsoft Teams, here we come!

New Projects

As the world starts to reopen, our libraries are already gearing up so we can be ready to assist our communities get back to normal.

Did you know?

The Library may be getting three new positions—Community Health Advocates to help meet the needs of our communities right where they live!