

Value

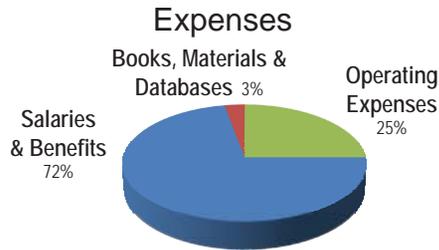
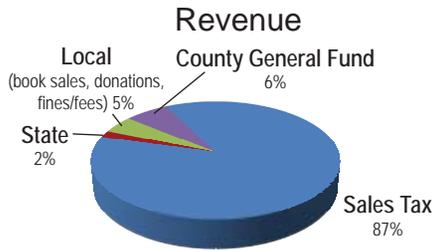
Your library is a great value! It is a community treasure – a necessity for a healthy, vibrant community. On June 5, 2012, Stanislaus County voters reapproved the 1/8 of a penny dedicated sales tax that supports our libraries.

The average Stanislaus County household contributed \$1.66 per month (or \$20.00 per year) to the library through its taxable purchases. In return, all residents have access to 788,734 books, magazines, newspapers, audio books, videos and DVDs, valued at nearly \$19 million. Seventy-two percent of residents have library cards and last year, they checked out 2.1 million items.



Each year, the library expands its virtual services, making it easier and more convenient to access your library. Last year, a mobile app was launched. To download the app, search for “SCFL Mobile” in your app store/market or scan the QR code.

Library customers can also keep up with the latest library news on the Web site www.stanislauslibrary.org or on Facebook and Twitter.



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stanislauslibraryfoundation.org

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44-99 Library Cooperative

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Behind the Scenes Stories from the Stanislaus County Library 2011-2012

Jobs

Justin was a young skilled worker who had been unemployed for nearly a year. He and his wife had a six-month-old baby and he was anxious to get back to work, so he could support his family. Frustrated with what seemed like an endless job search, he came to the library for help.

Because it was a slow evening, the librarian was able to give him personal help. She helped him find some job search resources that enabled him to spruce up his résumé. He submitted four applications online and he left the library with a book about interviewing. Justin thanked the librarian for helping him.

Three weeks later he returned with a small bouquet of pink roses. He had gotten a job as an electrician and he just wanted to let the librarian know that the time she took to help him made a huge difference in his life.

A lot of people are losing their jobs in the valley, because business is down. But when the economy takes a hit, our libraries are busier than ever. Last year, librarians answered 114,868 reference questions. Libraries mean business – whether it's helping someone with a job search or a business plan or even improving their literacy skills.

Literacy

Maria, now 58 years old, moved to Turlock from Mexico when she was a teenager. While she learned to speak English, she never learned to read or write the language. Maria married and raised four children. They all went to college – the youngest will graduate next year. Her oldest daughter is married, has a great job and is expecting a baby. Maria will be the baby's caregiver when her daughter goes back to work.

Maria is proud of her family and happy with her life, but she worried that she wouldn't be able to read to her grandchild. Maria enrolled in the ReadingWorks adult literacy program at the library. It's only been three months, but she's already improved her reading by two grade levels. She's making plans now to take the baby to StoryTimes at the library.

Last year, 1,417 adults improved their reading and writing skills through ReadingWorks. During the same time, 66,955 children and their caregivers attended StoryTimes and other childrens programs.

Children

When Josh was three years old, he started to stutter. A lot of smart kids do. It's a brain synchronization issue: the mind goes faster than the mouth, and it takes a while to sort it out. If you saw the movie the "King's Speech" you know what this can do to one's self-esteem.

When Josh started first grade he was just learning to read. His mother took him to the library to check out books. There he saw other children reading to dogs - inside the library! The Read to a Dog program fascinated Josh and he begged his mom to sign him up.

The first time Josh got to read to a dog he got stuck and stammered so badly he couldn't finish. His mother watched in anguish. Josh stopped and stared at the dog feeling embarrassed and angry. The dog looked back, with patience and calmness. It put a paw on Josh's leg. Josh calmed down. He started again and did much better. That was a turning point. He came back and read to the dog many times. He went to a speech therapist. When he started fourth grade, he got a part in a school play. Josh doesn't stutter anymore.

In 2011-2012, 170 children read to trained therapy dogs at libraries in Modesto, Oakdale, Salida and Ceres. Read to a Dog is just one example of how our libraries *do* change people's lives.

Centennial

The Stanislaus County Library system was established in 1911 and opened the doors of the new McHenry Library on May 1, 1912. It is said that eight-year-old Merle McHenry, the son of the library's late benefactor, checked out the first book that day (and returned it late). The McHenry Library was expanded in 1928, and in 1971, a new Modesto Library opened one block away. The McHenry Library building is still cherished by the community, now as the McHenry Museum.

To celebrate the 100-year history of the Stanislaus County Library system, a bookmark design contest was held for children and adults, birthday parties were held at each branch and a history booklet was published. Written by local resident Michael McGranahan, the history chronicles facts and figures, as well as fun stories about the library system. The history is available for checkout at all library branches.