

# Public Libraries Thrive—Communities Thrive

Public Libraries are about books, right? Absolutely! Our citizens checked out almost **55 million** items from North Carolina Public Libraries last year. They read our books for pleasure, enlightenment, learning and education. Public Libraries strive to provide books that equally represent our diverse communities—something for everyone!

**Public Libraries are about so much more.**

Public Libraries provide **vital services and resources that help communities to thrive.**

- Job seekers use the library's computers and the professional help of library staff to create resumes and find jobs.
- Small business owners use library services and resources to start, support, expand or improve their businesses.
- New businesses pick communities based on what they can offer the workforce. Public Libraries are a strong pull.
- Retirees and other new residents pick a new community based on the strength of its public libraries. In turn, property values increase in communities with strong public libraries.
- Adults not only learn to use computers at the library, but are taught the skills they need to navigate the vast amount of information available to them 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- Children and their caregivers are engaged in reading readiness programs that support success in school.

Public Libraries provide this support to their communities every day they are open. They provide professional staff that deliver excellent customer service to all.

Stories about how public libraries improved or enriched someone's life abound. Just ask your friends and neighbors for their stories. Success stories can also be found at <http://nclibraryadvocacy.wordpress.com>.

The more resources public libraries have the better equipped they are to help the community to thrive—that's why public libraries need **\$17 million in Aid to Public Libraries**. This increase will put state aid back to pre-recession levels and allow public libraries to do more than survive—they and their communities will thrive!

