



PETERS TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OPENING BOOKS, DOORS AND MINDS

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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2025 LIBRARY STAFF

Lacey Love, Library Director
Illyanna Logan, Assistant Library Director
Katie Marchand, Administrative Assistant
Kate Provident, PR & Marketing Coordinator
Shannon Pauley, Head of Youth Services
Linda Esposito, Children's Librarian
Patty Hartenbach, Youth Services Technician
Sarah Lawrence, Youth Services Technician
Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator
Dani Mizia, Adult Services Technician
Nancy Martin, Archivist
Sarah Quinn, Technology & Makerspace Librarian
Mary Kipling, Head of Cataloging
Nancy Lojek, Cataloging Assistant
Dianne Finnegan, Patron Services Coordinator
Sue Andrewson, Library Assistant
Carol Johnson, Library Assistant
Tracy Lucas, Library Assistant
Jamie Mack, Library Assistant
John Masilunas, Library Assistant
Victoriya McKay, Library Assistant
Roz Rider, Library Assistant
Anne-Marie Shaw, Library Assistant
Stephanie Shultz, Library Assistant
Noreen Balach, Facilities Maintenance
Lily Marchand, Youth Services Intern
Hannah Cataneo, Page
Olivia DiFrancesco, Page
Justin Mattes, Page

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ian W. Parker, Chair
Beth Markocic, Vice Chair
Yvonne Weaver, Treasurer
Stephen Shepard, Secretary
Scott Beinhauer
Lauren Cantwell
Lara Clarke
Rachel Gogos Kartofilis





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2025 was an incredibly successful year for the library, thanks to our extraordinary team of staff, board members, volunteers, and Foundation members. We continued to grow and update our programs, resources, and services to meet the needs of the Peters Township community.

The Youth and Adult Services teams offered programs to more than 25,000 participants this year, and we took the library on the road for 64 outreach and classroom visits. Our Technical Services Department processed nearly 7,500 new items to grow our stellar collection, and the Circulation team continued to do a wonderful job of getting nearly 270,000 books and materials into the hands of our patrons. We remained the highest circulating library in Washington County in 2025!

I'm so proud of what the library team accomplished this year, providing services to all of our patrons that allow them to learn, explore, and connect. Our partnerships have remained crucial in sustaining the library as an outstanding community asset, and we're looking forward to continued relationship-building with our local school district, community organizations, and county libraries through the upcoming year.

We have lots of new and exciting changes on the horizon for 2026, so please visit ptlib.org/news to stay up to date with our monthly newsletters.

LACEY LOVE
LIBRARY DIRECTOR





THE PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Peters Township Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the library with financial and volunteer support. The Foundation raises funds each year to augment the library's normal operating budget. With your support, the library can provide even more impactful and engaging programming and an even greater abundance of resources.

Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who made gifts to the Foundation in 2025 through the annual mailer, honor and memorial gifts, Novel November ads, sponsorships, and WCCF Gives.

Foundation Data

- Number of FY25 donors: 503
- Number of Consecutive Donors Who Gave From FY21 - FY25: 165
- Average Donation: \$160
- Used Book Sale Income: \$13,200
- Total Dollar Amount Raised in FY25: \$88,252
- 60% increase in WCCF Gives donations

The Foundation generously funded and supported a wide variety of library projects in 2025, including:

- New Makerspace technology, including a Glowforge Laser Cutter and iPads
- New Youth Services collection of Tonieboxes and Tonie characters - *learn more about Tonies on page 6*
- Additional tables for the Reading Room to provide programming flexibility
- Home delivery for patrons with mobility challenges
- Sponsorship of our Read Local Eat Local and Boos, Brews, and Books events



Boos, Brews, and Books
Adult Halloween Party
"Through the Looking Glass"



Read Local Eat Local

2025 Foundation Board

- Maura Kelly, President
- Shar Campano, Vice President
- Marji Dickson, Treasurer
- Diane Lioon, Secretary
- Logan Carlisle
- Taylor Duda
- Sue Freyder
- Kathleen Gallant
- Meghan Greenwood
- Kay McEvoy
- Matt Siconolfi
- Sandy Sola
- Kim Wensel





NOVEL NOVEMBER



SHAWN "S.A." COSBY

Our annual Novel November event brings a nationally known author to our community for an evening of conversation. Since its inception in 2017, Novel November has hosted eight authors representing a variety of genres, including romance, mystery thriller, science fiction, historical fiction, narrative nonfiction, fantasy, and literary fiction.

Shawn "S.A." Cosby joined us at the Peters Township High School Auditorium on November 6, 2025 with an audience of more than 300 people. Cosby is the award-winning crime fiction author of *Razorblade Tears* and *Blacktop Wasteland*. Foundation President Maura Kelly led the discussion with Cosby, covering his writing process, upcoming adaptations of his works, recommended reads, and challenges of writing in the crime fiction genre. The discussion was followed by an audience Q&A session and book signing. 90 guests attended a VIP reception that included light refreshments, a pre-event book signing, and a complimentary copy of Cosby's newest release, *King of Ashes*.



2026 AUTHOR

We are excited to announce our 2026 Novel November guest, Katherine Center, the author of over half a dozen books, including *The Bodyguard*, *The Rom-Commers*, and *How to Walk Away*. Center will join us on November 5, 2026 at the Peters Township High School auditorium. She is a contemporary romance author whose books have made countless Best-Of lists. BookPage calls her "the reigning queen of comfort reads." Visit ptlib.org/katherinecenter to be notified when tickets go on sale.



YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Department offers programs, materials, and services for the community’s youngest readers and their families. We continued to offer seven weekly storytimes on a seasonal basis, as well as monthly programs like Lego nights, chess classes, family bingo, Paws for Reading, and American Girl Book Club.

The Youth Services Department focused on offering outreach events and highlighting the importance of the library to local students, teachers, and parents. In 2025, Youth Services staff spoke at PTA meetings and teacher in-service days, provided information at kindergarten registrations, shared stories in classrooms, visited all freshman English classes as part of orientation, and presented to every library class at all three elementary schools. We also continued our 2024 initiative of hosting all fourth grade English classes for a field trip to the library and getting them registered for their very own library cards.



NIGHT WITH WQED

The Youth Services Department has had an ongoing partnership with the WQED Inquire Within program for over ten years. Through this partnership, the library can offer fun and educational programming utilizing resources from PBS Kids properties. In 2025, such programs included monthly Night with WQED events, Wild Kratt Wednesdays, and a special meet-and-greet event with the character Donkey Hodie! WQED also provided us with resources and giveaways to use at outreach events. Special thanks to Clearview Federal Credit Union for sponsoring our WQED programming.



580

Programs Offered



16,000+

Program Attendees



22%

Increase in participation
from 2024



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships and local presenters continue to be so valuable to our programming lineup each year. In 2025, Youth Services partnered with the National Aviary, the Pittsburgh Zoo, Goldfish Swim School, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Andy Warhol Museum, our local Police and Fire Departments, and PHEAA, among many other organizations.

Partnerships with local educators also proved fruitful in 2025. Our summer Building Blocks and Paper Engineering programs were hosted by a local STEM teacher. The library's annual Preschool Palooza event brought in 125 visitors to meet with local preschool representatives. This program also allowed us to make stronger connections with preschool directors, improving our outreach efforts.



TONIEBOX COLLECTION

The library created a new Youth Services collection of Tonie characters and Tonieboxes this year, generously funded by the Library Foundation. Tonies are innovative audio players for kids that are designed to bring audio stories, music, and learning to life for kids of all ages. Easy to use and perfect for little hands, Tonies feature everything from Disney favorites and bedtime stories to mindfulness activities and interactive learning experiences. Our Tonies have circulated more than 1,400 times since the collection was started earlier in 2025!



308

Youth STEM Programs



48

Classroom and Off-Site Visits



5,940

Outreach Participants



TWEEN & TEEN SERVICES



VOLUNTEERS

Much of the department's success in 2025 was reflective of our wonderful teen volunteers. In order to volunteer at the library, teens must participate in our monthly VolunTeen Group. This group helps to plan and orchestrate many of our teen programs. These volunteers also gather to complete particular projects for the library, including decorating the library for holidays and the summer reading program, and working on service projects. In 2025, teens volunteered 472 hours of their time to help the library!

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

One very successful partnership this year was with the Peters Township Police Department. In conjunction with Officer Mallory Jarzynka, we offered a Know Before You Go program for older teens. This program was designed to prepare and equip young adults with practical skills to navigate real-world situations safely and responsibly before they head off to college. We covered topics such as personal safety, situational awareness, bystander intervention, drug and alcohol awareness, and appropriate use of emergency services.





HEALTHY COMPETITION

The library held its third annual Tween and Teen Writing Contest, culminating with a reception honoring all participants on April 8 at the library. This year's theme challenged writers to explore the word "wonder." From poetic and philosophical musings to beautiful descriptions of nature, the 19 teens and tweens entering the contest addressed the theme in a variety of creative ways. Judges scored entries based on creativity, technique, and theme. Over 70 participants, family members, and friends gathered at the reception for prizes, refreshments, and the announcement of winners.

Competitive spirit thrived in the Youth Services Department, with the addition of monthly teen and tween trivia programs. We also hosted Pictionary parties, taste test challenges, Mario Kart tournaments, cupcake boss competitions, Mathletes battles, and timed jigsaw puzzle challenges.

WORKING TOGETHER

The Youth Services staff also partnered with other library departments throughout the year to offer a variety of teen and tween programs. Tweens loved the escape room programs that were planned in conjunction with our Library Archivist. Participants had to discover clues and solve puzzles, all while learning about unique stories of iconic Peters Township buildings and community members.

Our teen and tween Makerspace programs also continued to see a lot of success, with participants learning about 3D modeling, the Cricut machine, 3D pens, and Ozobots this year.





ARCHIVES

The PTPL Archives continued its mission of preserving and promoting the history of Peters Township by focusing on programming, outreach, and DIY digitization efforts in 2025.

We expanded the reach of the Archives by engaging with new audiences this year. Activities included a library booth at the Whiskey Rebellion Festival in July, local history-themed escape rooms for teens and tweens, a historical stroll at Brush Run Cemetery, a Township-wide scavenger hunt, and outreach presentations for the McMurray Rotary Club, a local girl scout troop, and sixth graders at Peters Township Middle School.

A new program, *Those Were the Days*, was launched in 2025 to encourage participants to learn, share, and reminisce about the Peters Township of the past. Presentation topics ranged from the origins of the Peters Township Fire Department to the history of Donaldson's Crossroads. More than 2,000 people tuned in to *Those Were the Days* presentations this year, either in person or on the library's YouTube channel.



MEMORY LAB

In January, we began offering a new service called the Memory Lab. The Memory Lab is a dedicated workstation with a professional grade scanner that enables our patrons to digitize their personal histories. The Memory Lab equipment was used for 150 hours during the course of the year. Community members brought in photobooks, shoeboxes full of slides, and personal artwork to convert to digital formats in order to preserve these memories and items for future generations.



MAKERSPACE



145

PROGRAMS



150

BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN
APPOINTMENTS



228

MAKERSPACE TO GO
CIRCULATIONS

2025 was a year of growth and development in the Makerspace, offering 145 programs that featured a variety of technology, art, and graphic design, as well as 150 Book-a-Librarian appointments.

To better support our community's growing interests, we added several pieces of new equipment in 2025, including a Glowforge laser cutter and engraver, two Cricut Maker 4 machines, and two Cricut hat presses. We also expanded creative learning opportunities in the Makerspace by introducing several traditional and digital design classes, such as Linocut Print Making, Paper Quilling, Laser Crafting, and Canva Graphic Design. Our first ever Laser Crafting class taught participants photo editing and .SVG generation skills to create unique engraved wood photo ornaments on the new Glowforge laser cutter.

The Makerspace's in-house equipment was also popular with over 180 people coming into the library independently to use the equipment for personal projects. Seeing so many people create both in the Makerspace and at home showed how important it is to offer flexible access to tools and technology to our community.



ADULT SERVICES



PROGRAMS FOR ALL

The mission of the library applies to those of all ages, and we accomplished so much this year while supporting our adult patrons looking to learn, explore, and connect. Purposeful programming for adults at the library helps foster meaningful community connections.

Throughout the year, the library hosted 51 book club discussions through our five book clubs: Afternoon, Evening, Mystery, Books & Brews, and Cookbook Clubs. These discussions boasted more than 650 attendees. In 2026, we are launching a sixth book club in response to community requests to discuss more current titles. The Bestsellers Book Club will meet on the second Saturday of the month to talk about new and buzzy releases.

In 2025, adults had the opportunity to engage with five different topics at our new Learn & Lunch series. From art history to local cemeteries, even General Grant made an appearance at these well-attended luncheons with food provided by the Library Foundation. This program series, as well as our regular Bingo, Sit & Fit, Crafternoon, Social Hour, and Those Were the Days programs all support our aging population. We hosted 65 programs for seniors or older adults. These daytime programs provided learning opportunities, movement, and socialization for attendees.

OUTREACH

The Adult Services Department also focused on outreach in the community this year. Every month, staff visited local senior living communities to deliver books and chat with residents. You may have seen us at the Farmer's Markets, movies in the park, Peters Township Community Day, or even at the Washington Wild Things game for their Peters Township night.



2025
Authors



READ LOCAL EAT LOCAL

September 6th marked the sixth annual Read Local Eat Local author showcase at the library, featuring local writers, illustrators, and food trucks in a unique festival celebrating the talent in our local community. Twenty-two authors and two food trucks headlined this year's event, with over 450 visitors purchasing books, meeting authors, and grabbing lunch. Save the date, because Read Local Eat Local returns on Saturday, August 29!

SWAPS

Since 2013, the library has hosted swap events for the community. While it started with puzzles, swaps have expanded to costumes, seeds, plants, craft supplies, and board games. These much loved programs helped community members recycle their own items and obtain new-to-them items. In 2025, over 300 people came to swap throughout the year.



GREEN THUMBS

With the advent of the seed library in 2022, the library began offering supporting programs for local gardeners. Through collaborations with organizations like the Washington County Master Gardeners, Phipps Conservatory, Seed Savers, and W&J Professor Dr. Candy DeBerry, we offered a robust slate of learning opportunities. This year, gardeners gleaned information through programs about container gardening, supporting pollinators, and growing perennial fruits, tomatoes, and garlic. The seed library, funded by the Peters Township Library Foundation, provided 1,412 packets of seeds to the community in 2025.



LIBRARY STATISTICS



125,785

In-Person Visits



415

Average number of daily visitors



6,922

Unique cardholders who checked out library materials

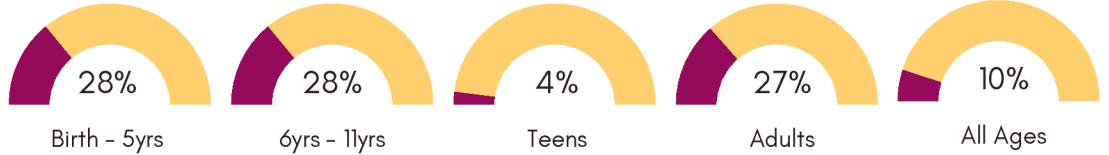


1,095

Programs Offered

25,282

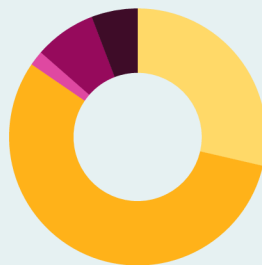
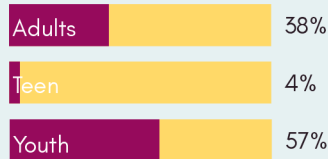
People Attended Programs



CIRCULATION

266,695

Physical items checked out



- 76,319 Adult Books
- 149,215 Children's Books
- 4,996 Audiobooks
- 20,696 DVDs/CDs
- 15,469 Other

CARDS

1,731

New library cards issued



18,270

Cardholders

SERVICES

1,412

Seed Library Packets

4,886

Study Rooms

2,122

Meeting Room Usage

12,370

Reference Questions

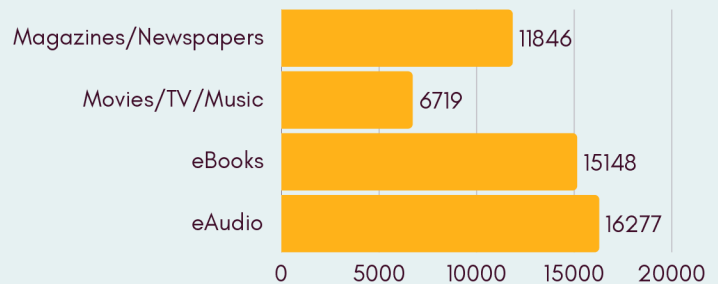
DIGITAL CONTENT

49,990

Digital books, audiobooks, and magazines checked out

22,235

Database searches



ROI

TOWNSHIP FUNDING

\$5.88

For every tax dollar invested in the library by Peters Township, residents receive the equivalent of \$5.88 in services.

\$6.4 MILLION

Total value of trackable library services provided to residents.

COLOR OUR WORLD™

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Readers, creatives, and learners of all ages joined us for a summer of art and imagination as we explored the way that art can enrich our lives and color our world. From June 7 through August 9, we had 797 active readers (217 adults, 509 children, and 71 teens) who logged their activities through Beanstack - an 18% increase from last year! Depending on their age group, they tracked books, minutes, or pages. Our Beanstack participants read more than 22,500 books and 222,000 pages, and logged 535,000 minutes of reading. The library gave out 373 halfway prizes and 145 prize baskets to our top readers.

The summer reading program officially opened on June 7 with a kickoff that had 650 community members in attendance. Participants received their goodie bags, listened to the musical talents of local duo Josh and Gab, learned about printmaking with the Andy Warhol Museum, made friendship bracelets, and enjoyed Wu's Shaved Ice. The winners of our second annual bookmark design contest were also announced at the kickoff.

Our summer programming lineup included a variety of DIY and art programs for adults and teens to explore their creativity, like tie dye, book folding, knitting, squeegee art, embroidery paintings, month-long drawing challenges, mini art galleries, book vases, Perler beads, and Dutch barn art. We also offered weekly drawing and painting classes for children and tweens.



22,500

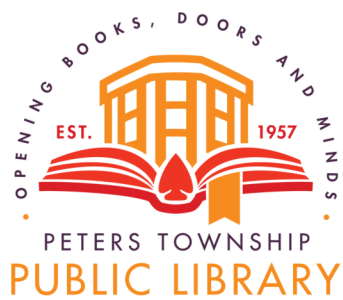
Books Logged

535,000

Minutes of Reading

222,000

Pages Read



616 E McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317



Peters Township Public Library
www.ptlibrary.org
724-941-9430