

## Service Enhancement Grants Roundup

We thought we would take a moment in this first issue of the WMRL WAVE to look back at the Service Enhancement Grants for the fiscal year that recently ended on June 30, 2012.

Using grant funds, the Allegany County Library System was able to launch the Access and Community Outreach & Education Project. This project addressed two main areas. First, it rejuvenated the existing after-school program at the South Cumberland Library. Second, it helped the library system create the Community Concierge initiative, an all-new outreach effort to provide maximum library exposure and community engagement at every level of service. As part of this initiative, Chris McGee now coordinates ACLS's Reference and Instruction initiatives while Joni Reed leads Community Outreach and Programming. Renee Mason, Linda Burkey, and Lisa McKenney round out the team. Both facets of the grant project have significantly helped the library system to change and respond to community needs while positioning the library for even greater community support.

The Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County was able to use their WMRL grant to address a variety of needs. The longstanding Genealogy and Local History initiatives at the Oakland library were able to be continued. WMRL grant funds were able to be used to support both children's and adult programming, including Storytelling with Puppets, Digital Photo classes, a Writers Workshop with author Lauren Carr, and materials for children's story times. Through the work of Children's Specialist Keela Pfaff, a new project was realized by creating a circulating educational toy collection at the Oakland Library. Needs also met through the WMRL grant included the replacement of outdated computers, barcode scanners, and other technologies. The grant was also used to supplement the Ruth Enlow DVD materials budget.

Washington County Free Library utilized their grant to pay for most of the cost of a new Storage Area Network (SAN). This can be thought of as the hard drive of the library, the place where all of the library's data is stored and accessed. With 90% of the old server's space used, the upgrade allowed WCFL to increase the network space available by 1500%, from 1.2 Terabytes up to 20 Terabytes. It's now projected that there is enough space for 5-6 years of data growth. Additional benefits include faster access and increased data security, whereby all data is copied to an off-site location and recoverable in case of a catastrophic loss on the primary server. WCFL has greatly increased its capacity to meet the data and technology needs of county residents. Through use of the same network, WMRL has also greatly increased its ability to meet the technology needs of the region's libraries.

What's next? The WMRL Advisory Board met in May and provided their approval for the FY13 WMRL Operating Budget. The new budget allows for Service Enhancement Grants of \$34,000 to be made available to each library system, at the same level of funding as the prior year. We'll check back in future issues of the WMRL WAVE for information on some of these new projects as well as other actions by the WMRL Advisory Board, which will meet again on September 6.

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