

# Foundation Builder

Rochester Public Library Foundation, 101 2nd St SE, Rochester, MN 55904 • [www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org)

## Appreciation Letter from Renee Berg

The second floor of the Rochester Public Library houses the non-fiction collection, magazines, reference books, quiet study rooms, adult internet stations and a number of smart and helpful staff.

Over the past few years there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people who use the second floor area for re-educating and retraining themselves as the working world changes, and the library has partnered with Workforce

DevelopmentInc.toofferservices.

On the second floor of the public library, at the corner of Career Drive and Opportunity Boulevard, employment help awaits. Every Tuesday from 1:30 - 3:30 pm, Ed Duda from Workforce Development, Inc. is available at the "Career Corner" to offer information and support for job seekers. For the first hour, Ed holds a session on an employment topic such as Behavioral Interviewing or Job Search Skills Needed for Success.

Ed is available after class to counsel people with employment issues, help with applications, and encourage people in their job hunt.

Below is a success story that library staff enjoyed hearing; this is why we come to work every day. We all thank Renee for sending us the letter and for her willingness to allow us to share it with you.

May 1, 2013

Dear Audrey, RPL Board Members and Staff,

This letter is to thank you for what you do, what you offer, what you have at the Rochester Public Library. I've been an avid library patron for a decade but during the last six months my patronage shifted to a different level—I kinda moved in. In November I lost my job. And two days after that job loss your Study Room C became my new office. Your wi-fi became my wi-fi. Your printer became my printer. Your copier became my copier. You gave me a home. A home with a sweet view, too.

I recently got a cool new job and as I transition back into the work world, I want to thank those most deserving and you, the library, made the top of the list.

In spending substantial time at the library in the last half year I saw I wasn't the only jobless one; I was among many, many jobless ones. We were there seeking more than job leads. We were there seeking a replacement place to go for our lost workplaces. We were there seeking replacement people for our lost coworkers. We were there seeking a replacement purpose for our lost purpose. I can't speak for the others but for me I will remark this—that half year would have been unbearable without the library as my nesting place. You also provided it at my ideal unemployed price point: free. And you provided it, often, with a quick hello, a sweet smile, a smart, thoughtful conversation. Kudos. My library time also allowed me to witness all your incredible, devoted staff does. You handle boisterous, misbehaved

# Appreciation Letter

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patrons. You cater to the young, the old and to the cantankerous. You tolerate the noisy cell phone talkers and the sobbing babies. You help everyone. Many missions claim they do this; few missions do this. You do this. I hope it's a point of pride for you.

During childhood I came to regard the library as my second home. Since then within every city I've lived, I rent or buy my home, first. I find the library, second. Your library, the Rochester Public Library, is the one where I've spent the most time. And I always feel lucky, fortunate, blessed, that it's as good as it is. It is better than other libraries; for its people, for its resources, for its physical space. Your library, our library, is among the very best. You already know this, I bet.

So I write to say job well done to all those involved in offering the public this respite. I found peace, and solitude, and direction in Study Room C. You did, to a quantifiable degree, save my unemployed mind in 2012-2013. I appreciate it, and you. Merci.

Devotedly RPL yours,

*Renee Berg*

Renee Berg



## Help Wanted: Volunteer Board Member

The Rochester Public Library Foundation exists to increase support for the Rochester Public Library programs and services, touching the lives of thousands,

today and for generations to come. The Foundation is currently seeking additional Board members who are passionate about supporting

and promoting the library.

If interested, contact  
John Hunziker, 328-2343,  
[jhunziker@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:jhunziker@rochester.lib.mn.us)



The Rochester Public Library received a \$47,327 grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation to help improve health for the residents of Rochester and Olmsted County. Funds were used for the creation of a Wellness Corner at the library.

The Wellness Corner brings the expertise of local agencies to address all aspects of a person's health. By being a neutral, centrally-located, with more flexible hours than an 8:00-5:00 type of facility, the

library can remove barriers and provide health equity and literacy for those most in need. In addition to weekly health screenings by various health professionals, some of the other activities being planned are:

- Career classes and career counseling
- Resume classes
- Open lab for typing practice and resume creation
- 6 week class on living with chronic illness
- Monthly dental screening
- Programs/classes by dieticians
- MNsure navigator assistance
- Open lab for online tax filing for those who qualify for myfreetaxes
- Spine checks and fall prevention classes



# Strategic Plan & Building Changes

2012 saw community members, volunteers, and library staff working together to create a new strategic plan for the Rochester Public Library. The plan was approved by the library board in December 2012. Three primary goals were established during the planning process: Grow Literacy and the Ability to use Library and Information Resources; Engage the Community; and Build Infrastructure to Meet Community Needs.

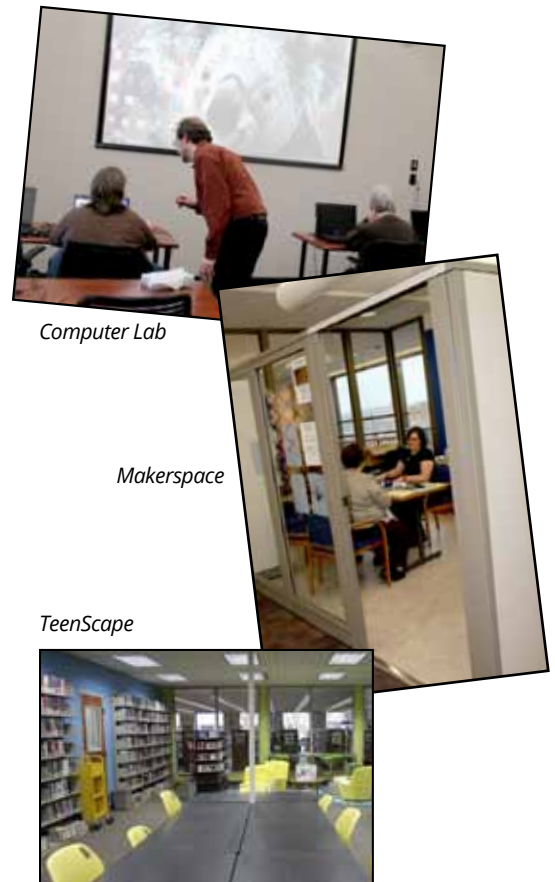
2013 saw the beginnings of the plan's execution. This year, building activity has focused on moving, redesigning, and remodeling various areas, in both the public and staff areas. The overall objectives of the structural changes are aligned with the strategic goals listed above, which, simplified, represent strengthening the engagement between the library and the people in our communities. As a place, the library provides a place of safety both at a personal level and

with others, enabling the exchange of disparate ideas. In another aspect as place, the library engenders a sense of belonging to everyone who walks through its doors.

As you walk around the first and second floors, the changes are evident. There are new creative spaces, a new computer lab with Skype capability, a new homework help area, new study areas, a new wellness room, and new carpet on the second floor. The first floor has a new Young Adult room with computers, bookshelves, a creative space, and seating. By year-end, there will be a new reading area and a new user-friendly electronic technology learning station with devices for training (ipads, tablets, eBook readers etc.), chairs, and knowledgeable staff close by in Reader Services to offer assistance.

The primary funding source for these changes has been you – through the

Rochester Public Library Foundation. We hope it is clear that your dollars have been put to meaningful use in order to better meet the needs of all.



The Corner will be staffed in collaboration with many community partners, including Mayo Clinic's College of Medicine-Physical Therapy Department, Olmsted Medical Center, Olmsted County Community Services and Public Health Services, Winona State University's nursing programs, and the local Workforce Center.

While available to all residents, the primary focus will be to reach populations underserved or uninsured, such as low income, homeless, and the elderly.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library director, comments, "Wellness is so much more than just physical health. We are grateful to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation for helping us launch a sustainable program that pulls together the strengths of agencies in our communities and can serve as a model for other libraries to augment the health of their communities. Getting appropriate information and referral on topics and services are paramount to everyone's health and wellness."



I would like to give: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_ \$500 for Book-A-Year Endowment

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



*Thank you for your tax-deductible support of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.*

## Homework Help

- Hours of service: 6-9PM every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the school year
- Where: Rochester Public Library, 2nd Floor
- Volunteers provide individual assistance to students with specific questions regarding their daily homework assignments

Although all students in the community are welcome, the academic levels of the students who attend are generally grades 4 to 12.

Students do not need to register ahead of time.



## Happy 1st Birthday!

The bookmobile turned one year old on September 16th! It has saved approximately \$3,000 in fuel costs during the first year of operation.



## LibRadio

[thecobbradio.com/programs/libradio](http://thecobbradio.com/programs/libradio)

**Podcasts are available at the link above.**

LibRadio — brought to you by your very own Rochester Public Library — will make you laugh, it will make you cry, and it will make you shake your head in disbelief. Discover new music, movies, books and more. Be amazed by John Hunziker's reflections on Rochester history. Plug your ears for Shouty Librarian's phone-in show and be astounded by what we come up with next. Your library is awesome and we aren't afraid to broadcast it!

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13TH ANNUAL

**WIT, WISDOM & WINE**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013 ~ 6:30 PM

ENTERTAINING AND INFORMATIVE SPEAKERS  
SILENT AUCTION - JEWELRY RAFFLE - WINE & HORS D'OEUVRES

EVENT IS HELD AT THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

  
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