

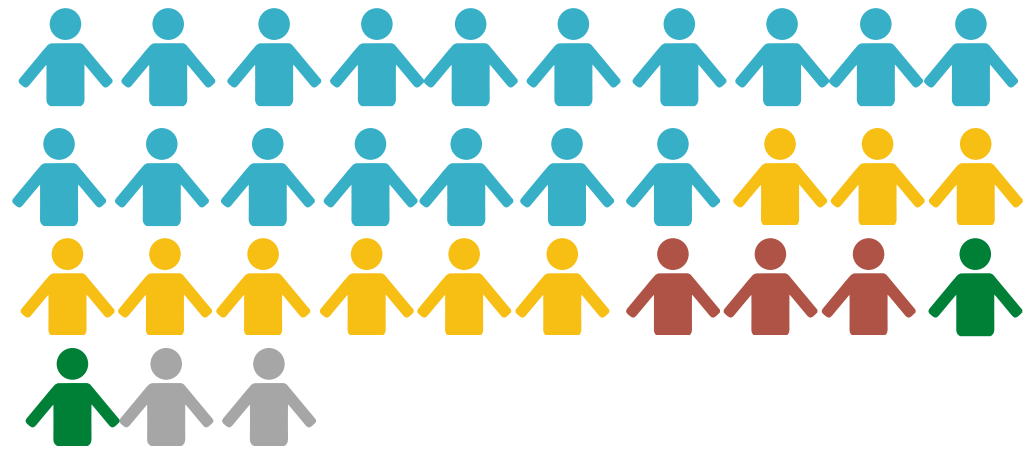


PORTER COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



2021
YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome Back, Porter County!



● Valpo ● Portage ● South Haven
● Hebron ● Kouts

Visitors by Location

330,087 visitors systemwide

In 2021, PCPLS welcomed over **330,000 visitors** into our facilities.

- Our branches were open nearly **15,000 hours**, a 25% increase over 2020.
- PCPLS issued **6,223** new library cards in 2021.



8,579 people used our meeting rooms **2,916** times - an increase of **56%** over 2020.

PCPLS Staff provided our community with

- 420 Notarizations
- 37 Test Proctor Hours
- 24,036 Reference Answers



Porter County residents provided PCPLS with over **1,200** volunteer hours.

PCPLS

Financial Highlights

By providing over 400,000 physical and 900,000 electronic items, PCPLS saved Porter County residents a total of over **\$20,968,431** - a per capita savings of at least **\$145**.

We invested over **\$1.2 million** into PCPLS' facilities in 2021, including crucial HVAC upgrades systemwide, repairs to Hebron's entrance stairs, replacing Valparaiso's and Portage's roofs, and more.

THANK YOU, PORTER COUNTY!

- \$10,000 library bequest
- \$70,937 Rotary Library Garden donations
- \$7,740 Friends of the Library donations
- \$15,053 other donations

PCPLS supports our local economies.

- **47% of expenditures went back into Porter County**
- **54% of expenditures stayed within Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties**
- **54% of all expenditures were put back into the State of Indiana**

Your tax dollars at work.

- \$41.11 average per capita tax levy
- \$41.06 average per capita expenditures

Collection Highlights

BY THE NUMBERS

Physical Collection

- 235,348 Books
- 45,217 DVDs
- 16,875 Periodicals & Newspapers
- 14,394 Music CDs

Electronic Collection

- 836,482 Ebooks & eAudio
- 24,658 Graphic Novels
- 3,490 Magazines
- 295,839 Music Albums

2021 saw some exciting new additions to our collection, including

- **Updated hotspots**, for more reliable internet access from home
- Engaging grab-and-go **picture book kits** on over a dozen topics, including cats, friendship, night critters and many more.
- New **Playaway Launchpads** featuring mathematics
- Dozens more teen and adult **board games**

2021 Checkouts

- 1,033,506 physical item checkouts
- 377,386 electronic item checkouts

Collection-wide improvements

- Shelving upgrades throughout system
- DVD case retrofit to allow for collection growth

2021 Inter-Library Loans

- 2,162 items loaned to other libraries
- 1,175 items borrowed from other libraries

Technology Highlights

- 40,741 patrons used PCPLS computers for a total of 24,622 hours in 2021.
- Our website was accessed over 227,000 times.
- Our eNewsletter reaches over 15,000 people monthly.

Porter County residents can count on PCPLS for technology access and assistance.

Inside the library, patrons can access the **internet via our expanded WiFi network, use our databases, get personalized tech help,** and more.

From home, patrons can use our **hotspots, access additional databases, or get online assistance** through our Virtual Customer Service.



- Through social media, we reached over 445,000 people.
- Our 30 databases were accessed nearly 200,000 times.

Outreach & Partnership Highlights

In 2021, PCPLS moved beyond its building walls to partner with:

- Girl Scouts
- Boys and Girls Club
- American Red Cross
- Valparaiso Events
- Porter County Parks
- Purdue Extension
- Rotary Club of Valparaiso
- Kiwanis Club of Valparaiso
- City of Valparaiso
- The school corporations of Porter County

PCPLS created **7** StoryWalks at **2** locations including the Rotary Library Garden and Sunset Hill Farm County Park. One of these StoryWalks was written and illustrated by 2 of our local Girl Scout Troops.

Outreach by the numbers:

- PCPLS staff reached over **21,000** people at **56** outreach events in **2021**. This is an attendance increase of **669%**!
- Staff interacted with over **6,000** people at the **2021** Porter County Fair!

PCPLS

Programming Highlights

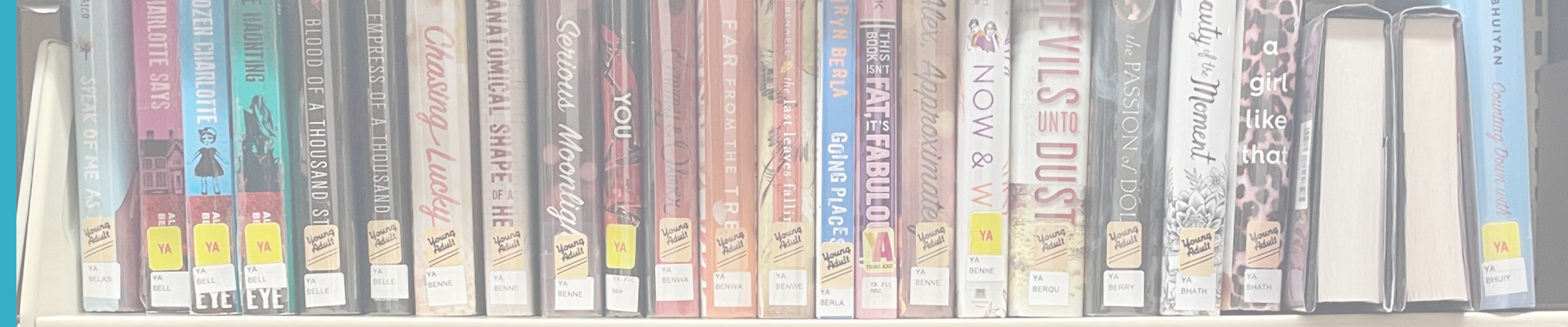
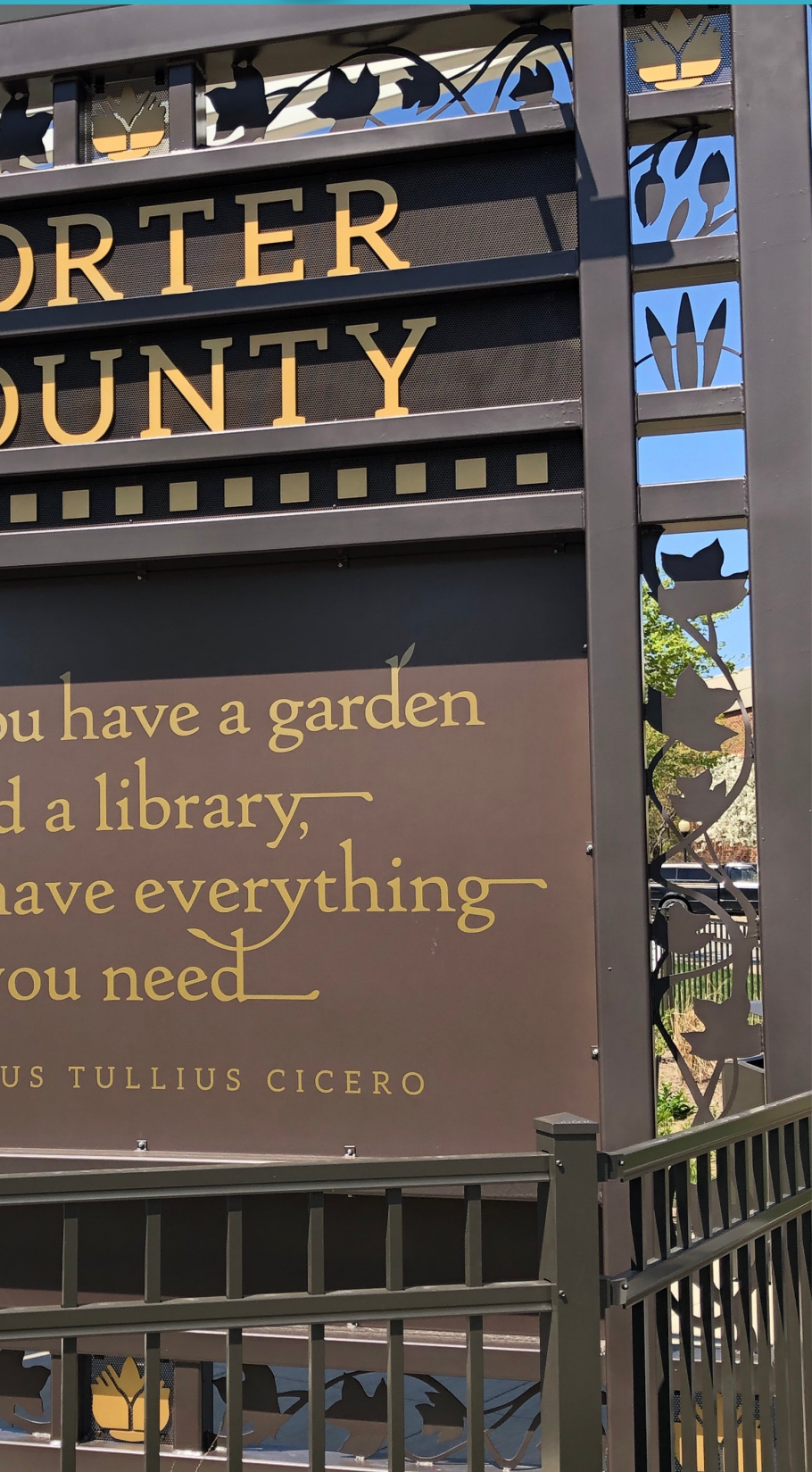
PCPLS programming continues to grow!

2021 saw the Grand Opening of Valparaiso's Rotary Library Garden, a beautiful setting for programming and community events.

In 2021, **36,307** community members attended **632** PCPLS programs - a **68%** increase from 2020.

Reading challenges inspired community members to relax with a good book.

- **3,061** patrons participated in **4** reading challenges.
- Summer Reading participants read a total of **25,750** books.
- Pages for Pizza and Cozy Winter Challenge participants read for a total of **151,512** minutes or **2,525** hours.



PCPLS Community Perspectives

"Thanks so much for getting us through!"



"...my local library @pcpls has always been phenomenal at meeting community needs - but even more so during the pandemic."



"Thank you for all you've done and continue to do to keep our library open and safe! Being able to come here and check out books has been more than just a way to pass the time for me during this pandemic. It has been a much needed rescue from it! Having the simple joy of getting lost in the pages of a good book has made all the difference in helping me to cope with this past year, and all that has happened in it. So thank you all, for all of your tireless work & dedication in keeping our library open, and in keeping all of us readers in our 'happy place!'"



PCPLS

Community Perspectives



"Great place, staff is number one in my book."



"Thank you, Porter County Public Library System, for all the services you offer!"



"Always came here as a kid and I loved it - quiet and organized. Huge selection of books, plenty of community activities, never lets me down."

