

The story of Promises Made, Promises Kept begins when the richly diverse communities of Solano County, from Vallejo to Rio Vista, spoke in one voice and said

"YES!"

*Our libraries are vital,
and we are willing to
pay for them!"*

T

wenty years ago, Solano residents had the foresight to understand that their libraries were more than books. They knew that these centers of inspiration and learning were essential for a community's success. In 1997 they agreed to tax themselves with an 1/8 of a penny sales tax which provided a crucial, dedicated source of funding. In return, promises were made:

*More books
More hours
More services
for youth*

The next critical juncture occurred during the Great Recession. In the face of crippling revenue reversals, could library leaders keep their promises? Yes! With the help of reserves and labor-saving technology, Solano County Library stayed strong when so many people needed so much.

In 2012, voters demonstrated their support again, this time by over an 80% majority, and extended the 1/8 of a penny sales tax, ensuring that Solano County Library continues as the people, places and services that spark curiosity, inspire creativity and champion learning.

LIBRARY VISITS

Library Visits



**Live One-to-One
Tutor.com Sessions**

6,812



Are the promises still relevant? After all, 1998 was a time when the Internet was new, all books were paper and phones were for ... phoning.

The book budget continues to be robust. Hundreds of new books arrive each month, each one chosen to entice a young person to fall in love with reading or unlock the imagination of an adult. Investment in digital choices continues, so that free books, movies, and courses are available anywhere, anytime with just a click.



20,810

Hoopla Digital Checkouts
Since 9/20/16



5,158

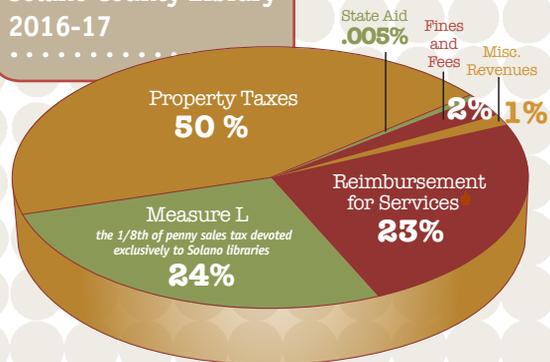
Facebook and Instagram friends

578,316

Visits to
solanolibrary.com

In addition to being open morning, noon and night, library staff expand the Library's reach and meet Solano residents where they are. Librarians work with school officials to provide tutors to at-risk students. They visit senior centers for "gadget clinics" and restaurants for book discussions. Free tickets to learning destinations such as museums, zoos and art galleries are downloaded from solanolibrary.com and professional tutors are ready from 1-10 p.m. every day, for one-to-one, on-demand, online sessions, in English and Spanish.

Funding Sources for
Solano County Library
2016-17





Attendance
at
Free
Events

121,232

With over 120 storytimes scheduled every week, each one carefully planned to make books irresistible to children, the tax-funded surge in services for children is apparent. But the plethora of storytimes and other book-based programming is just the beginning. There is homework help, afternoon “adventures” and special teen events each week. In addition, the Library plays an important role in supporting children’s explorations in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This leadership in STEM

153,447

Questions
Answered



34,812

Volunteer Hours



education was recognized nationally when Solano County Library was chosen to be one of only 75 libraries nationwide to receive a NASA @ My Library Grant. The grant’s purpose is to increase STEM learning opportunities, especially in underserved populations, which helps to spark the trajectory of Solano’s future scientists and engineers. Among the NASA workshops held so far are those that introduce robotics, computer coding, and weather prediction as well as a wildly popular “Pre-Eclipse Party.”

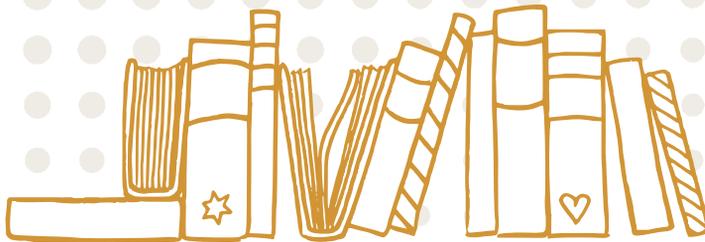
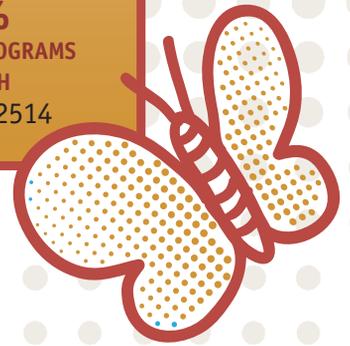
2,099,490

Items Borrowed



859

Free Lawyer Consultations



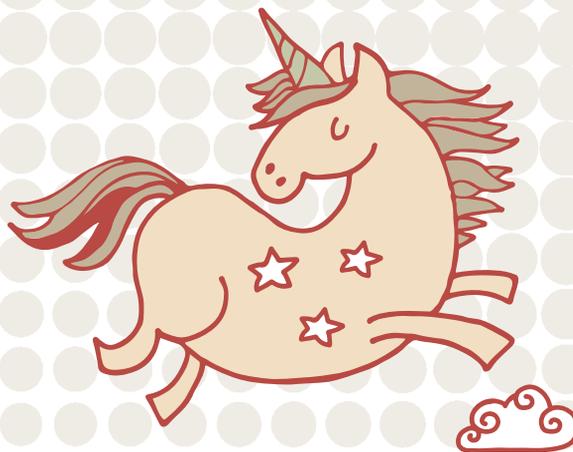
250,000

Books in Pediatric Clinics Since 1999

7,614

Summer Reading
Challenge Participants

Everyone is welcome at Solano County Library. Visit us soon, either in person or online, and witness first-hand the power of promises made and promises kept.



60

Link+ Lending Partner Libraries

1,464

Storytimes Presented



53,146

Books Read in the Summer Reading Challenge



1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533