

# King County Library System Foundation

# News

Spring 2011



## One World, Many Stories

Sign up for the Summer Reading Program starting June 13. Pick up program schedules and reading logs from your local library and start reading to earn prizes. The program is open to preschoolers and school-age students.

The Read 3, Get 1 Free Summer Edition program also kicks off in June, with opportunities for teens to read, write reviews, and win prizes.

For more information on summer reading activities, visit [www.kcls.org](http://www.kcls.org).

## We're No. 1

Libraries are busier than ever before. In 2010, circulation grew by 5%.

Library users checked out a record 22,381,000 items in 2010 from KCLS, which ranks your library system as the busiest in the United States.

After many years in second (sometimes third) place, KCLS surpassed the Queens Borough Public Library in New York as the busiest system by number of items checked out.



## Foundation Focus for 2011: Literacy, Learning, Libraries

The KCLS Foundation supports programs that reach out and encourage residents of all ages to enjoy reading and learning. This year, more than 150,000 children, youth, and adults will benefit from the Foundation-supported programs in our libraries and in our communities. Here is a snapshot of programs we support:

Funding for books in the four **Library2Go!** vans. These units visit day care homes and centers, apartment complexes, community centers, senior centers and other venues.

**Books for Babies** provides reading tips, packets, books and an Early Literacy DVD to low-income parents of newborns.

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# Wild Readers Win Global Reading Challenge

The 11th annual Global Reading Challenge final round featured four teams of seven 4th and 5th grade students who matched wits in an intense battle of the books. The Wild Readers, from St. Thomas School in Bellevue, took home the trophy.

Last October, 1,757 students on 251 teams at 52 schools in 11 districts committed to reading a list of ten books. A grant from The Stocker Foundation provided the funds to purchase a set of the books for each team of seven students. In-school challenges began in January, followed by regional challenges and the final round in late March.

Final Round Teams included:

North Region - Gummy Bear Readers, Horace Mann Elementary, Lake Washington School District

South Region - Eager 2 Read, Lake View Elementary, Auburn School District

East Region - Wild Readers, St. Thomas School, representing Bellevue School District

Central Region - Reading Warriors, Tukwila Elementary, Tukwila School District

Author Sundee Frazier (*Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything In It*) talked about how she came to write Brendan's story.

The KCLS Foundation provided a signed copy of her book to all grand challenge participants.



## Global Reading Challenge Encourages Young Readers

I attended the King County Library System Foundation's annual fundraiser, the Literary Lions Gala. KCLS has been a client of ours for over a decade and I have lost track of the number of these events I have attended. Each year I come away with a renewed sense of the importance of shared values between designer and client. I am not only an architect designing buildings to support KCLS's mission, I am also a patron and a supporter. I have been continually impressed and, as an architect, challenged by KCLS's expectations of innovation in terms of building design and project delivery as well as library service.

Each year I share stories with KCLS staff about the impact their programs have had on our family. This year my ten year-old son's class participated in the Foundation's Global Reading Challenge, where class teams are formed to read a series of books, selected by KCLS, and then are tested on their knowledge of the books. I don't know if it was the competitive nature of the challenge, my son's deep respect for his teacher, or the quality of the books themselves, but he threw himself in to this challenge and competed hard to be on the team. This is a boy who reads no more than the required 20 minutes a day and is obsessed with baseball and sports. At one point he said to me "these are such good books—next year I think I'll read them all even though I'll be in fifth grade and we won't be doing the Global Reading Challenge." I read a few, too, and he's right—they are great books.

Thank you KCLS for doing such a fine job fostering the joy of reading through outreach to our schools.

*Sian Roberts, AIA, LEED AP, Partner, Miller Hull Partnership*



## Foundation Focus

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**Play and Learn** is a pilot project at two libraries that involves parents and focuses on early literacy activities.

**Reach Out and Read** supports conversations about reading during visits to pediatricians.

The **Ready to Read** program brings Early Literacy training to parents and caregivers.

**Fiestas** (Early Literacy Parties) offer Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers workshops and resources featuring peer-to-peer training.

The **Summer Reading Program** is a popular and effective way for young readers to maintain and enhance their skills over the summer.

**Study Zone** recruits volunteer tutors who work with students in the libraries and online. The Foundation also funds Free **SAT Classes** for teens in South King County.

The **Global Reading Challenge** involves teams who participate in “battle of the books” challenge events.

**Ready, Set, Read** encourages elementary school students to develop the reading habit and helps parents be reading coaches.

**You Choose the Next Newbery** involves students in voting for their favorite books.

**Read 3, Get 1 Free** encourages teens to read all year round; special incentives in the summer promote reading and creating video reviews and trailers.

**West Auburn High School Book Club** is a pilot project involving teens who read and discuss books on their lunch breaks.

**Your Future. Your Choice. Your Library.** This pilot project will help teens with information and resources on college, careers, jobs and financial issues.

**Literacy Toward Citizenship** offers workshops and workbooks to residents seeking citizenship.

ESL classes and free workbooks help new residents master the English language.

**Job Readiness for English Language Learners and Immigrants** will provide a series of videos and resources in four languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali and Chinese).

With reading at the heart of the Foundation’s mission, funding for **Take Time to Read** continues in 2011 and 2012.

For more information about these programs or how you can adopt a library and sponsor a program, contact Jeanne Thorsen, [jthorsen@kcls.org](mailto:jthorsen@kcls.org) or 425.369.3450.

## Literary Lions Gala Celebrates Readers, Writers and Libraries

The KCLS Foundation’s 18th Annual Literary Lions Gala welcomed 450 guests to the event at the Bellevue Library, March 5. Best-selling author Vince Flynn delighted the crowd with his keynote talk, including his remarks about becoming a reader and writer in spite of his dyslexia. The Foundation presented a Literary Lions Award to Nancy Pearl for her outstanding work in promoting reading. Thirty popular northwest authors sold and signed books and spoke with guests. The event raised \$100,000 for literacy and reading programs. See more photos at [www.kclsfoundation.org/literarylions](http://www.kclsfoundation.org/literarylions).



*From left: Author Vince Flynn, KCLS Foundation President Kathy Brown, KCLS Director Bill Ptacek, Emcee Nancy Pearl and KCLS Foundation Director Jeanne Thorsen.*

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## Tax-Saving Opportunity for Donors Aged 70½+

Under the extended charitable IRA legislation, you can make charitable gifts using funds from your individual retirement accounts (IRAs) without undesirable tax effects.

These IRA gifts can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. This unique opportunity expires at the end of 2011.

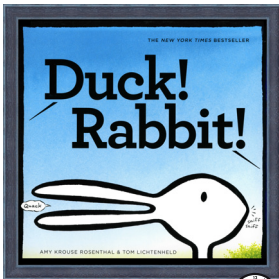
You may contribute funds this way if:

- You are age 70½ or older at the time of the gift.
- The gifts total any amount up to \$100,000 in 2011.
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA.
- You transfer the gifts outright to one or more qualified charities, (excludes supporting organizations, gift annuities, charitable trusts and donor advised funds).

## How to Make a Gift

Contact your IRA custodian for more information or to transfer your desired gift amount to KCLS Foundation. It is wise to consult tax professionals if you are contemplating gifts under the extended law.

For more information on making planned gifts to the KCLS Foundation, contact Cindy Sharek, [cjsharek@kcls.org](mailto:cjsharek@kcls.org) or 425.369.3225.



*Book Cover Walking Tour ends May 30.  
Visit [www.kcls.org/taketimetoread](http://www.kcls.org/taketimetoread)  
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