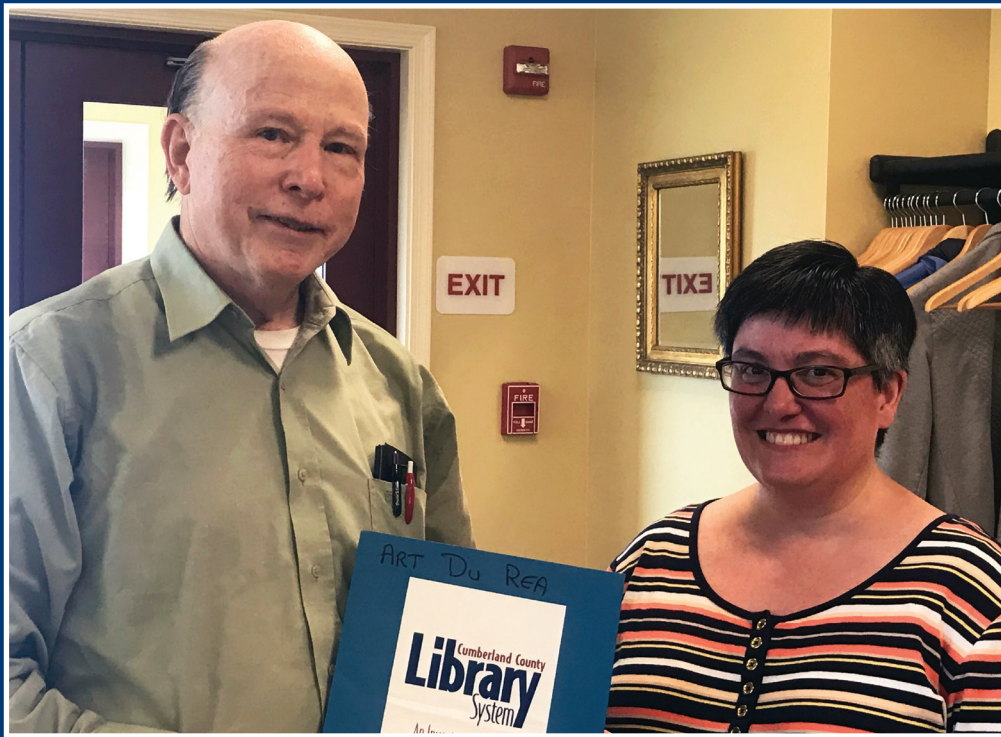


Fulfilling Needs and Finding Fulfillment at **THE LIBRARY**

Christa Bassett | Adult Services Outreach Coordinator | Cumberland County Library System
Jairee Counterman | Fundraising & Grant Projects Coordinator | Cumberland County Library System



Volunteer Art Du Rea, visiting Adult Services Outreach Coordinator Christa Bassett at the system headquarters

Just how are seniors involved with the Cumberland County Library System? They are not just involved—they are integral. Senior participation and support is vital to the library system and its eight member library locations, from the large number of residents who are active library customers to the hundreds of individuals who volunteer—in the libraries, in Friends organizations, in the community, as advocates and STAR (Service to Adult Readers) volunteers, and on boards of directors.

Margaret Santo is a volunteer shelver at Joseph T. Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg. She, along with other volunteers, shelves and makes sure that books and other library items are in the right place, so all patrons can find what they're looking for. When asked why she volunteers, she said, "I want to help and do something. It's not all about money. It's about giving and doing for others. I've been blessed with so much, I have my health. I have a roof over my head."

The desire to give back is one reason cited by many of the volunteers who donate their time to one (or more) of the eight library locations within the Cumberland County Library System. Other rea-

sons include a love of books, a love of libraries and being around books, the desire to stay active, the need to keep using professional skills, and a commitment to supporting a vital community service.

Julie Major is a STAR volunteer based out of Simpson Library. She selects and delivers books to a homebound participant. "I've been wanting to volunteer with STAR for years, but due to personal and work commitments, I was unable to make the commitment. So it wasn't a matter of if I was going to volunteer, it was a matter of when I was going to volunteer." Julie decided this was the year.

Many volunteers find that by donating their time, talent, and compassion, they also get much back in return. According to a Wharton College study, people who volunteer feel more useful, capable, and confident, feeling like they can easily accomplish future tasks. That's certainly true for Art Du Rea, a volunteer shelver at Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle. Art says, "Volunteering gives me a good reason to frequent the library as often as I do." Art interacts with library patrons while out in the stacks shelving and gets a great deal of satisfaction from helping people locate books.

Art also volunteers for the STAR program, which partners volunteers with homebound, mostly senior, residents. After STAR volunteers complete their training, they are matched with their participant, visiting at least once a month, delivering new books and picking up items already read to return to the library. STAR volunteers work with the same homebound library patron each month, providing not just reading materials but also forging friendships and helping to stave off some of the isolation endured by seniors who can no longer drive to their local public library.

Dianne Tiboni, a STAR program volunteer based out of the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, works with a husband-and-wife homebound couple. She sums it up like this: “What I do is pretty simple, really. I select books, pick them up from the library, and take them to my participants. The real question is not what do I do for STAR, but what STAR does for me. I am able to meet other people. I feel like I’m making a difference for others.”

Sam Yespy, both a volunteer shelver at Fredricksen Library and a STAR volunteer, concurs, “The homebound individual I am matched with for my STAR volunteer job is the nicest person I’ve ever met.” Sam was in the business world most of his working life. He derives “moral satisfaction” from his work, and encourages others to get involved. “If you have time and you enjoy people and you can stand on your feet, it’s the best thing you can do.”

Sam’s client, Richard Hollinger, has failing vision and receives 12-15 books on CD each month. Richard has high praise for both Sam and the STAR program. “Since I cannot see, there is lots of time with nothing to do. I’m limited in what my vision will allow me to do.”

Cumberland County’s seniors are active library patrons, library volunteers, and STAR program volunteers, but there’s yet another area in which seasoned volunteers are supporting libraries, and that’s in service to boards of directors and Friends of the Library. Each member library has an independent board of directors and a Friends group, in addition to the Cumberland County Library System Board of Directors and the Cumberland County Library System Foundation Board of Directors. Through collaboration between older and younger generations on the various boards, strategic decisions are backed by strength and wisdom.

Carolyn Blatchley, Executive Director of the Cumberland County Library System, says, “We are indebted to the men and women who volunteer to serve on our boards of directors and Friends groups, and the wisdom and often decades of experience they bring, not to mention their generosity in modeling leadership for future generations.”

For Cumberland County seniors looking for a way to stay active, prevent isolation and depression, share their wisdom and experience, provide a vital community service, make life better for someone less fortunate, and know they are valued and appreciated, volunteering at their local public library might just be the answer.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your local public library. If you know of a homebound senior who would benefit from STAR (Service to Adult Reader) services, please contact Christa Bassett at 717.240.7771 or cbassett@ccpa.net. For information about the Cumberland County Library System and its eight locations throughout Cumberland County, please visit www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.



Volunteer John Shenk of Mechanicsburg, shelving books for Simpson Library’s book sale

LIBRARY LOCATIONS AND HOURS

Amelia Givin Library
114 N. Baltimore Ave.
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065
(717) 486-3688
Mon: 10am-8pm
Tue: 10am-8pm
Wed: 10am-8pm
Thu: 10am-8pm
Fri: 10am-6pm
Sat: 9am-4pm
Sun: Closed

John Graham Library
9 Parsonage Street
Newville, PA 17241
(717) 776-5900
Mon: 10am-8pm
Tue: 10am-8pm
Wed: 10am-5pm
Thu: 10am-8pm
Fri: 10am-8pm
Sat: 10am-5pm
Sun: Closed

Bosler Library
158 West High Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 243-4642
Mon: 10am-9pm
Tue: 10am-9pm
Wed: 10am-9pm
Thu: 10am-9pm
Fri: 10am-9pm
Sat: 10am-5pm
Sun: 1pm-5pm

New Cumberland Library
1 Benjamin Plaza
New Cumberland, PA 17070
(717) 774-7820
Mon: 10am-8pm
Tue: 10am-8pm
Wed: 10am-8pm
Thu: 10am-8pm
Fri: 10am-5pm
Sat: 10am-5pm
Sun: Closed

East Pennsboro
(Branch of the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library)
98 South Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025
(717) 732-4274
Mon: 11am-5pm
Tue: 10am-8pm
Wed: 10am-8pm
Thu: 10am-8pm
Fri: 11am-5pm
Sat: 10am-2pm
Sun: Closed

Shippensburg Library
73 West King Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
(717) 532-4508
Mon: 9am-8pm
Tue: 9am-8pm
Wed: 9am-8pm
Thu: 9am-8pm
Fri: 9am-5pm
Sat: 9am-5pm
Sun: Closed

Fredricksen Library
100 N. 19th Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 761-3900
Mon: 9am-9pm
Tue: 9am-9pm
Wed: 9am-6pm
Thu: 9am-9pm
Fri: 9am-9pm
Sat: 1pm-5pm
Sun: 1pm-5pm

Simpson Library
16 North Walnut Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 766-0171
Mon: 10am-9pm
Tue: 10am-9pm
Wed: 10am-9pm
Thu: 10am-9pm
Fri: 10am-5pm
Sat: 10am-5pm
Sun: 1pm-5pm