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Georgia Library Spotlight - Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

Anchored at the Robert A. M. Stern-designed Columbus Public Library, the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries continue to provide successful programming, outreach, and services to all residents of Columbus, Georgia and the surrounding Chattahoochee, Marion, and Stewart counties.

A vital addition in recent years is two new bookmobiles. One is a complete digital bookmobile, featuring Wi-Fi and broadband Internet service via satellite

hook-up. Funded by a major grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, this vehicle is designed to serve rural areas that have limited or no access to broadband technology. The digital bookmobile stays several hours per location to allow patrons enough time to access the Internet for job searches, state assistance, employment testing, and more. The new Muscogee County bookmobile is a state-of-the-art mini-library on wheels. Visiting over forty-three locations in the metro area, this bookmobile was funded by a generous gift from Aflac, the insurance company headquartered in Columbus. Scheduling for this vehicle is geared to senior homes, low-income housing areas, and several apartment complexes that cater to those with disabilities.

The Columbus Public Library is also home to the Columbus Library for Accessible Services (CLASS), one of the twelve sub-regional talking book centers in Georgia. A recording studio,



designed to National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) standards, was donated by area restaurant Country's Barbecue and has provided a vital service in recording newspapers and books for patrons throughout the state. CLASS now finds itself in the forefront of helping adopt the BARD

Mobile app from NLS that is anticipated to transform the delivery of materials in the near future.

Library programming continues to be a community favorite. Over 53,000 patrons attended more than 1,800 events over the course of the last fiscal

year. Program highlights included the First Annual Columbus Children's Book Festival. Despite a rainy day that forced activities inside, approximately 4,000 patrons attended presentations by R. L. Stine, Jane O'Connor, Jerry Pinkney, and others. A week-long visit by The Wall That Heals, the touring half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, brought several thousand to the library. This was the culminating event of The Big Read, a month-long series, which this year celebrated Tim O'Brien's collection of short stories, *The Things They Carried*. Additionally, the Building Common Ground lecture series brought notables like Nikki Giovanni, Dave Isay, Jonathan Haidt, and Michelle Norris to town for a series of provocative talks. The library also hosted the ALA exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*.

More information about Chattahoochee Valley Libraries can be found at www.cvlga.org or by calling 706-243-2669.