

NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to support the Redwood City Public Library in cultivating literacy, life-long learning, and community connections.

The Impact of Hotspots

The Bridging the Digital Divide project—made possible by the Redwood City Library Foundation (RCLF)—makes personal wi-fi devices (hotspots) and computers available for checkout from the downtown and Fair Oaks libraries to provide wi-fi connections at home for Redwood City residents who need internet access. Stylianos (left in photo below) and Aaron (right) provide a good example of this program's success, and how important and life-changing it can be.



Stylianos has a learning disability that prevents him from attending school and learning in a group setting. His mentor, Aaron, is with Omelegah, Inc., a San Mateo company that works with developmentally disabled adults. They were recently in the downtown library where Aaron was helping Stylianos to check out a hotspot. A wi-fi connection at home will help Stylianos complete his GED.

Stylianos said, "I need internet access in order to complete my homework and to do the research required to earn my GED. I also have to learn at my own pace, using audio equipment to help me with comprehension. Being able to check out a hotspot from the library makes my learning process so much easier. I can do it from home with Aaron's help."

Thank you to all our donors for making this possible. Stylianos is receiving the support he needs and is well on his way to a GED because of you!

Portable Wi-Fi Devices Available for Checkout



Introducing our New Logo!

After 20 years, RCLF is happy to announce our new logo (at top left). The colors match those used by the Redwood City Library, and the four squares represent the four library branches.

Fair Oaks Library Renovation

The Fair Oaks library is only 3,200 square feet, but it's estimated that last year it had 64,000 visitors. That is why the library will undergo a renovation and a 600-square foot expansion this year. The Fair Oaks branch is a gathering place for seniors, students, and residents of all ages. The renovation and expansion will allow the library to accommodate the many well-attended programs and community events hosted here each year.

The expansion includes a dedicated area for teens and a new play area for children learning how to read. In addition, an interactive play structure shaped as a farmer's market truck will help children develop early literacy skills in English and Spanish while educating them about food and nutrition. Another important upgrade will be the ability to move furniture and shelves around to accommodate a variety of programs. The library currently allows students to check out wi-fi hotspots and computers, funded by RCLF, as part of the Bridging the Digital Divide program.



Redwood City is contributing \$141,000 toward the improvements with additional funding from Danford Foundation, First Church of Redwood City, Kaiser Permanente, Latino Community Council of Redwood City, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, RCLF, Rotary Club of Menlo Park, Sequoia Healthcare District, Simms Metal Management, Wells Fargo Foundation, and many other community partners.

The Early Childhood Learning Center in the Fair Oaks library is one of several projects supported by RCLF this year.

The library will be closed for 3 to 4 months once construction begins in February or March, with some of the library activities moved to the Fair Oaks Community Center. Work on the Early Childhood Learning Center is estimated to begin in June. Your support will make a real difference in turning this small library into a community hub!

Redwood Shores Interpretive Center Needs Upgrading

The Interpretive Center at the Redwood Shores library opened in 2008 and if you haven't seen it, it is worth a trip. Adjacent to the Belmont Slough and the Bay Trail, the center has floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the wetlands. Outdoor displays depict native birds, allowing visitors to identify the live birds they see. Interactive displays inside show other wetland life, including a large aquarium with living native fish and plants. Other exhibits include a build-a-bird activity, a bird footprint interactive game, a mud sculpture, and a display illustrating the need for recycling. The center is visited regularly by school children, including classes from local elementary schools.

Because the center is 10 years old, RCLF is raising funds to update it with modern technology in order to provide more interactivity and the flexibility to rotate and update information. Some displays have faded; others have missing or broken pieces. The aquarium required emergency repair in 2017, for which Oracle generously donated \$10,000. The wetlands itself has evolved due to climate change and rising sea levels, which has diversified the associated wildlife and plants, and the center's displays and data need to be updated accordingly. Library staff is working with a group of students from Design Tech High School to do the design work.



Design Tech Team Recommended Changes

Design Tech is a public charter high school supported by Oracle that combines academic content with creative problem solving. The 550 students practice collaborative problem solving using technical tools. Over the span of four months, 10 students put in a month's worth of work conducting interviews with library users and gaining insight about what improvements are needed. The students then proposed solutions to current problems at the center.



Redwood Shores Interpretive Center

To educate children about the environment and make the exhibits more engaging to younger children, the Design Tech team identified areas that need improvement, including dull colors, sharp edges, and the need for more interactive displays. The aquarium is hard to see and needs more color. Games are broken; signage is too high and sun-bleached. Displays need to be more exciting, and information needs to be updated.

Recommendations will be incorporated by Split Rock Studios, a vendor specializing in designing aquariums, zoos, and interpretive centers around the United States. They will include more interactive displays in the entry signage and throughout the exhibit, a touchscreen and refurbished rocks for the aquarium, and repairs for the build-a-bird exhibit, the mud sculpture, and the bird footprint interactive game. A new 21-inch suspended shark model will also be added. Information in all exhibits will be updated to reflect the effects of climate change and rising sea levels.

RCLF has received a \$50,000 grant from the Moore Family Foundation to start the renovation process. Our goal is to raise \$220,000 more for this upgrade, along with funds to improve the Early Childhood Learning Center in the Redwood Shores library. Your donations are encouraged.

STEAM Fest on the Square

RCLF and the Redwood City Public Library, with sponsorship from the Redwood City Cultural Commission and the Port of Redwood City, are organizing STEAM Fest on the Square on Saturday, April 28 from 11 am until 3 pm in Courthouse Square

and the San Mateo County History Museum. To be an exhibitor (deadline April 2), sponsor, or volunteer, sign up at:

> www. SteamFestivalRWC .org



Many thanks to our generous donors!

The following individuals, groups and businesses contributed between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

\$100,000+

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

\$20,000-\$49,999

The Bothin Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

Equinix Global HQ Oracle Corporation Scandling Family Foundation

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Woodside High Robotics Team at STEAM Fest 2.0

\$50-\$99 (continued)

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Woodside High School Robotics

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Of Paul & Maureen Roskoph's Birthdays Gloria & Howard Levin

Of Carla Sillin Jane Day



Our Current Programs & Initiatives

Your gifts promote literacy and building community for all ages through the following programs:

Bridging the Digital Divide

Funds new computers for the Downtown Library Teen Center, and supports data & annual software licences for laptops & hotspot devices.

Career Online High School in the Library

Allows adult learners to earn a High School Diploma & Career Certificate.

Interpretive Center Upgrades - Redwood Shores Library

This initiative will fund improvements to the center and allow children to learn about wetlands and the wonders of the SF Bay.

Writing Cats & Dogs

A 6-week creative writing and art program for children 8 to 12 that builds awareness about homeless animals while teaching writing and storytelling.

Our Upcoming Events

STEAM Fest on the Square

Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Courthouse Square • 2200 Broadway, Redwood City

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read

September 22 through 29, 2018

Downtown Library • 1044 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City

Redwood City Library Foundation 1044 Middlefield Road • Redwood City, CA 94063 www.rclfdn.org • (650) 780-7045

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