

MEMO

To: Toronto Public Library Board
From: Heather Rumball
Date: March 24, 2014
Re: Adopt-A-Branch Donations

Attendees of The Book Lover's Ball 2013 who made donations on-site at the event towards the Adopt-a-Branch fundraising appeal received the attached letter summarizing the enhancements subsequently made possible through their collective giving.

In addition to the donations detailed in the attached letter, gifts were designated to the Toronto Reference Library and for North York Central Library. As identified by the Library, these gifts enabled the following initiatives:

Toronto Reference Library

The donations enabled the purchase of hearing assist equipment for the atrium and user education classrooms. This equipment includes transmitter, antennae, rack, receiver, ear speaker and batteries and will improve the listening experience for those with hearing impairment attending programs and courses.

North York Central Library

The donations were combined with other donations directed towards NYCL for the purchase of two laptops for loan to customers to use while in the library, to support self-directed learning, digital literacy, and access and use of technology and information.



Heather Rumball
President, Toronto Public Library Foundation

January 24, 2014

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Hall
C52-100 Queen St. W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Ainslie,

With the upcoming 2014 Book Lover's Ball a few weeks away, I am delighted to share with you the details of a recent report prepared by Toronto Public Library that outlines what the generosity of Adopt-A-Branch donors – like you – enabled for Toronto Public Library users in 2013. With your support and a matching gift from TD Bank Group at last years' 2013 Book Lover's Ball, a total of \$75,000 Adopt-a-Branch donations was directed to more than 36 branches of Toronto Library's 98-branch system. Your generous donation to the Library has made a difference to the service in our Library branches, through enhanced programming in a variety of different ways.

Here's how your support has made Toronto Public Library's branches even stronger over the past year:

LCD Projectors and AV Equipment

LCD projectors were purchased for 9 branches, resulting in enhanced programming and training experiences for customers of all ages.

- Rexdale
- Weston
- Oakwood Village
- Black Creek
- Richview (2)
- Wychwood
- St. James Town
- Flemingdon Park
- Port Union

A television with a DVD player was purchased for Humber Summit, where a film discussion group is currently enjoying critiquing classic films and reading biographies of movie stars.

Computer Games

Gaming supports literacy and is an alternative system of learning. Of interest to people of all ages, it is particularly appealing to young males, drawing a hard to reach demographic into the library. Computer games were purchased for 13 branches:

- Agincourt
- Bridlewood
- Evelyn Gregory
- Jane/Dundas
- Maria A. Shchuka
- Oakwood Village
- Downsview
- Brentwood
- Mount Pleasant
- Northern District
- Pape/Danforth
- Mount Dennis
- Malvern

Collection Display Equipment

Library users at 12 branches are benefiting from improved displays of library collections using specially designed acrylic display equipment. Retail-style displays enhance the browsing experience making it easy for customers to find interesting materials to read and enjoy.

- Agincourt
- Maryvale
- Steeles
- Armour Heights
- Downsview
- Mimico Centennial
- Flemingdon Park
- Gerrard/Ashdale
- Pape/Danforth
- Danforth/Coxwell
- Main Street
- McGregor Park

Furniture

18 branches benefited from the addition of furniture to meet the demand for community programming. At 14 locations, tables and chairs for meeting rooms were provided to improve the quality of the space.

- Barbara Frum
- Deer Park
- Parliament Street
- Queen/Saulter
- McGregor Park
- Annette Street
- Forest Hill
- Taylor
- Leaside
- Port Union
- College/Shaw
- St. Lawrence
- Yorkville
- Bendale

At Sanderson and Fairview, podiums were purchased to enhance the quality of presentations at library programs and public meetings. At Jane/Dundas, a display unit and cushions were purchased and at Hillcrest a new rug was acquired.

Beaches Reading Garden

Adopt-a-Branch funds from 2013 donations added additional furniture to the Beaches Reading Garden which opened the week of June 3, 2013 in a lovely shaded area behind the branch facing Kew Gardens. The reading garden is a pilot project that started in the fall of 2012 in response to the suggestion of local residents, including an enthusiastic community group, Friends of the Beach Parks. Comfortable and inviting tables and chairs, as well as a kiosk of reading materials are available on a daily basis (depending on weather), extending library service beyond branch walls and into the park.

Lights, Sound, Action Program at York Woods

An effects processor was purchased at York Woods to support the Library's contribution to "Lights, Sound, Action", a partnership project to connect youth with educational and employment opportunities in the cultural sector.

Native Art at Spadina Road

Newly framed and matted native artwork will hang in the recently renovated Spadina Road Branch. This library houses the Native People's Resource Collection and the beautiful artwork illustrates the service focus of the branch, making the branch a welcoming space for customers of all backgrounds.

Programming

Adopt-a-Branch funding supported special programs at two branches in 2013. At Bloor/Gladstone, a dedicated month of programming celebrated the 100th anniversary of this landmark heritage building. Afterschool youth programming was enhanced at Flemingdon Park, a neighbourhood with a large population of children and teens.

I hope you will take pride in the depth and breadth of what your support has enabled at Toronto Public Library. It is the generosity of donors like you that help the Library achieve more and better things for Toronto Public Library users, beyond what municipal funding allows.

The upcoming 2014 Book Lover's Ball on February 6, is slated to be an unforgettable evening with more than 60 of Canada's most celebrated authors confirmed. If you haven't yet purchased your ticket, there is a limited number of tickets still available. Please contact Mimosa Kabir at (416) 393-7237 or mkabir@torontopubliclibrary.ca for more details.

Thank you again for your gift in support of our Adopt-a-Branch program and Toronto Public Library branches. I look forward to seeing you at the Book Lover's Ball.

Best regards,



Heather Rumball
President