Spears Named New Executive Director

In December, the Board of Trustees announced the selection of John Spears as PPLD’s next Executive Director. “Over the past five years, Pikes Peak Library District has earned the reputation as a true pioneer of 21st Century Library services,” said Board President Ken Beach. “Our vision of elevating these services to the next level requires a unique individual to lead the Library forward from this point. Understanding the importance of the decision, the Board has spent 15 months in the search process and we are pleased and excited that John Spears has accepted our offer to lead PPLD to that next level. John is a groundbreaking visionary and exceptional leader.”

Spears was previously the Executive Director of Salt Lake City Public Library. He led a staff of 325 employees in a seven-facility city library with an operating budget of $17.2 million.

PPLD and Partners Bring Little Free Libraries to Manitou Springs

Two years ago, the little free library idea came to Manitou Springs from Steve Wood of the non-profit organization Concrete Couch. He approached the Friends of Manitou Springs Community Library to create a little free library. It was perfect timing, as PPLD was awarding micro grants for library programs. This funded the creation of 10 little free libraries placed around the center of Manitou Springs. There were construction sessions, an installation party, and a going-official party that involved members from throughout the community. Manitou Springs Library employee Chi Ito spearheaded the Library’s efforts on the project and is pictured on the cover of this report.

Tri-Building Project Capital Campaign Completed

A generous gift of $250,000 from Lyda Hill brought our Tri-Building Project Capital Campaign to completion at the end of 2015. Funding for the Tri-Building Project has been achieved due to PPLD’s fiscal management and successful fundraising. The Tri-Building Project was PPLD’s most ambitious fundraising project to date, with 691 donors including individuals, organizations, Library staff, and in-kind gifts helping PPLD reach its $3.9 million fundraising goal. Funds from the project went toward the opening of Library 21c and extensive renovations to East and Penrose Libraries as PPLD continues expansion of 21st Century Library service to our patrons.

Locations

Cheyenne Mountain Library
1785 S. 8th St.
(719) 633-6278

East Library
5550 N. Union Blvd.
(719) 531-6333

Fountain Library
230 S. Main St.
Fountain
(719) 382-5347

High Prairie Library
7035 Old Meridian Rd.
Falcon
(719) 260-3650

Library Express
3337 Cinema Pt.
Library 21c
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.
(719) 884-9800

Manitou Springs Library
701 Manitou Ave.
(719) 685-5206

Monument Library
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr.
Monument
(719) 486-2370

Old Colorado City Library
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 634-1698

Palm Lake Library
66 Lower Glenway St.
Palmer Lake
(719) 481-2587

Penrose Library
20 N. Cascade Ave.
(719) 531-6333

Rockrimmon Library
832 Village Center Dr.
(719) 593-8000

Ruth Holley Library
685 N. Murray Blvd.
(719) 597-5377

Sand Creek Library
1821 S. Academy Blvd.
(719) 597-7070

Ute Pass Library
8010 Severy Rd.
Cascade
(719) 684-9342

For more information about PPLD, visit ppld.org or call (719) 531-6333.
Leadership

Within the pages of this report is a wealth of information on what PPLD accomplished during 2015. What is more important, though, are the countless stories behind each of these accomplishments and the impact that each of them had on the lives of those PPLD serves. As a public library, our true measure is not in how many items are loaned, how many people walk through our doors, or how large our program attendance is. Our impact should be measured on the difference that we make in the lives of our users and the community.

As we move into the future, the achievements of the past year will be built upon, and PPLD will continue to work with the communities it serves to create the spaces, services, and collections that will allow people to reach their goals, whatever they may be.

It is an exciting time for PPLD, and the changes that you have seen over the past few years are just the beginning. On behalf of the staff and the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for the support you have shown PPLD in the past, and I promise that we will continue to provide the excellent level of service you have come to expect long into the future.

John Spears
PPLD Executive Director

The Library is governed by the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members, who are appointed by a committee of members from the Colorado Springs City Council and the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners.
2015 Notable Presenters

All Pikes Peak Reads
Hampton Sides — In the Kingdom of Ice
Clive Thompson — Smarter than You Think
Gene Luen Yang — American Born Chinese

Mountain of Authors
Carrie Vaughn — Low Midnight

Frank Waters Award
Michael McGarrity — Backlands

Golden Quill Award
Mel McFarland — Midland Route: A Colorado Midland Guide and Data Book

State Poet Laureate
Joseph Hutchinson — Bed of Coals (winner of Colorado Poetry Award)

Cheyenne Mountain Library had great turnout for the LivyWell: The Treasured History of a Neighborhood program on Saturday, January 23 (co-sponsored with the LivyWell Improvement Society).
## Donations

### $250,000
- **Lyda Hill**

### $100,000
- The Anschutz Foundation

### $25,000 - $99,999
- Donors and Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District
  - The Mary K. Chapman Foundation
  - Helen W. McCaffery
  - Joe and Linda Woodford

### $10,000 - $24,999
- Children’s Hospital Colorado
  - El Pomar Foundation
  - Friends of the Manitou Springs Library
  - Les E. Kennedy

### $1,000 - $4,999
- Alice Aronovitz
  - Apple Foundation
  - Deborah Adams and Charlie Campbell
  - Broadmoor Garden Club
  - Dwight S. and Sue C. Brothers
  - Kenneth and Anne Beach
  - Patricia Burns
  - Cascade Investment Group
  - Colorado Springs Science Center Project
  - Science Fair Assl.
  - Esther Beynon and Althea W. Metzger
  - Dotties Croneman Fowler and Matthew D. Beeke
  - Ert Credit Union
  - Friends of the Cheyenne Mountain Library
  - Friends of the Monument Library
  - Friends of the Old Colorado City Library
  - Friends of the Rockrimmon Library
  - John Froehle
  - Patricia Froehle
  - Gulf Eagle Supply
  - David and Cathy Grossman
  - Ellen Harrington
  - Jean L. Harris
  - Jeffrey S. Hindi and Kerry J. McChesney
  - Thomas J. Hendi
  - Donna Hildbrand
  - Mark and Debra Hybl
  - Mark and Dawn Kelly
  - Cary Loewen
  - Katherine H. Loo and Jim Raughton
  - Amanda Matthews
  - Joshua and Jennifer Mayes
  - Mark and Carol McMillen
  - Sandra L. McNee
  - Paula and Jay Miller
  - Ron D. and Una Nip Branch
  - Michael and Kathleen Clowery
  - Jerry and Diane Flatzgriff
  - Pikes Peak Community College
  - Rocky Mountain Restaurant Group
  - William and Mary Jo Schraml
  - Robert Leigh and Melanie Traup
  - Doug and Lynne Telford
  - Wayne and Terry Vanderschuur
  - Thomas O. and Patricia B. Web

### $500 - $999
- Richard Brownfield
  - The Buettner Family Foundation
  - for Leigh and Al Buettner
  - Center for Non-Profit Excellence
  - Certiﬁty of Success
  - Michael and Joyce Crane
  - Joe and Elizabeth Davis
  - Charles Davis
  - Larry Dunn and Diane Kelley
  - Lindsey and Joanna Fischer
  - Thomas and Mary Jo Froehle
  - Lawrence and Judith Gojodzi
  - Robert and Sherrin Hendrich
  - William and Kathy Hybl
  - Rita Jordan
  - John and Lyn Karchen
  - Donna Kohlman
  - Terence and Elizabeth Lilly
  - Jon and Becky Medved
  - Robert and Jennifer Naff
  - Mary R. Olshevsky and Brian E. Zable
  - John and Julian Orson
  - Pikes Peak Genealogical Society
  - Highlands Ranch
  - Pikes Peak Watercolor Society
  - Peggy Stevens
  - Shoﬁeld Tools Inc
  - Dale Stevens Jr.
  - Abraham Stuparu
  - Jesse Taylor
  - Ramesh and Roopa Thali
  - Dan and Kathy Wilkens
  - Colly and Mary S. Zumwalt

### $100 - $249
- A 1 Notary Training, Inc
  - Alvanzo Art School
  - Ann N. Black
  - Richard and Dorothy Bradley
  - Joe and Elizabeth Davis
  - Ben and Carol Finch
  - Daniel and Margarit Foster
  - Wanda M. Garrile
  - A. J. Gerathy, Jr.
  - Albert and Dora Gonzales
  - William and Mauro Gross
  - Robin Hammitt
  - Susan L. Hammer, Madonna Herbert
  - Thomas and Sandra Higel
  - Constance Hopkins
  - Kyle and Sally Hyl
  - Jane and Connie Joiner
  - Stephen and Cheryl Lebel
  - Lee and Stosh Leader
  - Manitou Springs Women’s Club
  - Greg and Vicky Manlove
  - Margaret Marcia
  - Patrick and Cheryl Martin
  - James E. McPherson
  - Nancy Miltz and Edward Appleman
  - Margaret Morris
  - Joseph P. Naile Jr.
  - Willy J. Pale
  - Marjane Anis-Paizlen
  - Pikes Peak Genealogical Society
  - Donald and Ewe Robinson
  - Nancy Saltzman and Greg Roman
  - Aje Sakamoto
  - Larry and Cliff Shaffner
  - Richard Skorman and Patricia Seator
  - Virginia Snow and John Carter
  - Joe Tisbom
  - Chris and Karen Trujillo
  - Thayer and Marian Tutu
  - Dennis L. Vazquez - Sabo
  - Carol L. Wallace
  - Margaret Ward
  - William Wheeler
  - Kyle Wilson
  - Tatiana Zonte

### $250 - $499
- Bernard and Natalie Adams
  - Artful Living Deux Inc.
Children

PPLD knows how important early literacy is to families and the community, which makes Children's Services perhaps the most important aspect of the District. One way the Library emphasizes early literacy is our annual Countdown to Kindergarten Carnivals, held at several locations each year. These events are designed to get families interacting with one another in ways that are both fun and effective in improving early literacy skills.

The rest of our children's programming in 2015 was also very popular. PPLD put on 5,797 free events at our libraries and at community partner locations with a total of 172,674 in attendance, up 10% from 2014.

PPLD's Summer Reading Program: "Every Hero Has a Story!" had 20,564 participants, culminating in four regional parties with inflatables, bubbles, hula hoops, an obstacle course... and of course the ever-popular helicopter landing at George Fellows Park behind East Library.

The Educational Resource Center (ERC) opened at East Library to provide materials for families wanting to enrich their children's education. Math, science, social studies, and language arts kits, as well as art and music resources and computer software, are available for families with students of all ages to use.

In 2015, PPLD circulated a total of 2,334,009 items from its children's collection.

Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District

The Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District was established on the 50th anniversary of the Colorado Springs Public Library (March 11, 1955) and incorporated in 1969 as a nonprofit organization. The Friends is a constant advocate for the Library. Today, with 900 members, the Friends sponsors and supports numerous programs and events to further the enjoyment of reading and love for books for all individuals.

The Friends of PPLD are best known for their volunteerism, their bookstores in each library (you never know what you will find in the ever-changing inventory of previously-read books and magazines) and, of course, the Friends Big Book Sales held three times each year.

One program the Friends of PPLD holds each year is the Betty Field Memorial Youth Writing Contest, which is open to all public, private and home school students in grades 6 through 12 in El Paso County and areas served by PPLD. Winners were honored on April 2 at East Library. A list of winners can be found at writingcontest612.info.

The Friends also gathered some of the Pikes Peak region’s outstanding Latinas at Latina Voices, the fifth annual presentation of talented women who have explored and helped define their culture. Presenters included musician/singer Michelle Abeyta, fine artist Terri Sanchez, military nurse Vivianne Mestas, and the Ballet Folklorico de la Raza, a local dance group.

Western mystery writer Michael McGarrity was the 2015 winner of the Frank Waters Award, presented for literary excellence annually by the Friends of PPLD. Local historian and author Mel McFarland was the 2015 winner of the Golden Quill award, given to a Pikes Peak region author for a body of work.

Tributes Made in Love and Respect

The following were honored by their family and friends with a thoughtful gift to PPLD:

As part of Penrose Library’s renovation, there was a facelift and new design to the exterior front courtyard and Judy Noyes Memorial Children’s Garden. This critical redesign improves safety and security for the downtown Colorado Springs location.

Gregory Alexander
Martin Aronovitz
Mary Magdalene Baumgardner
Barry Bernstein
June Briggs
Lillian Frances Channing
Edna McFarland Chieboun
Susan Connelly
Carl Crane
Mary Therese Froehle
Maureen Harrison
Larry Lashley
Nelda Pauline McNamara
Ray Mobley
Diane Morrin
Robert G. Muir
Judith M. Noyes
Kristi Oaks
John Mathias Paul
Shannon L. Reece
Arthur “Bob” Roberts
Sarah Shaeffer
Peggy Shivers
Elizabeth (Bette) Shraeb
Grace Shraeb
Patricia Stevens
Charles L. Tutt

SPELL (Supporting Parents in Early Literacy through Libraries) PPLD was awarded a grant through the State Library to reach parents of young children with early literacy information. PPLD worked with Parenting Matters of El Paso County, Pikes Peak United Way, and Princeton Academy. As a result, 97% of reached parents are more confident in helping their children be ready to read in kindergarten and 83% know what everyday activities to do with their child(ren) to help them be ready to learn to read in kindergarten.

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### Finances

PPLD’s Finance Office has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for 24 consecutive years. PPLD currently maintains no outstanding bonds or certificates of participation. It has remained debt free for more than a decade.

*All 2015 figures presented are final and extracted from audited reports

#### 2015 Revenues

- Property Tax $24,146,678
- Specific Ownership Tax $2,765,049
- Fines and Fees $529,897
- Interest Income $23,420
- Other Sources $1,956,929

#### 2015 Expenses

- Personnel $15,709,445
- Library Materials $4,424,935
- Contract Services $3,066,378
- Capital $4,955,657
- Other Expenses $1,973,323

PPLD surpassed one million digital circulations in 2015 through OverDrive, one of the digital distributors on PPLD’s CyberShelf. This made PPLD the first library system in Colorado to reach this impressive milestone.

The one millionth checkout was *Dune: House of Harkonnen* by Brian Herbert in eBook format, checked out by a patron registered at PPLD’s Cheyenne Mountain Library.

### 2015 Metrics

- Service Population 616,089
- Library Visits 3.5 million
- Circulation of Materials 8 million
- Reference Transactions 532,000
- Public Programs 13,072
- Computer Sessions 1.1 million
- Days Open 354
- Employees 477
- Volunteers 1,981
- Meeting/Study Room Reservations 38,712

PPLD employees are not just very knowledgeable – many of them are experts in select subject areas – but they are also highly celebrated for their customer service skills. Based on direct feedback from library patrons, PPLD staff has an approval rating of 99.7 percent.

If you want to know more about PPLD, visit us online at ppld.org.

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Special Events

In 2015, PPLD hosted free programming and events that ranged from musical performances to lectures, from community theatre to parades, parties, and seasonal celebrations.

Dragon Theatre Productions, under the Imagination Celebration programming umbrella, rehearsed and performed two plays at Library 21c: Peter Pan and What Color Is That Dress? Dragon Theatre presents classic stories and newly written productions while being inclusive of anyone and everyone that has ever wanted to trip the footlights. These community productions again proved to be audience favorites.

The 12th annual Pikes Peak Regional History Symposium, with a theme of "Military Matters: Defense, Development, and Dissent in the Pikes Peak Region," brought together presentations on a range of fascinating viewpoints from a subject well known in the region.

The view from the creative mind was the emphasis of many of PPLD’s special events this year. Again in 2015, nearly 6,000 people attended the District’s 2nd annual Colorado Springs Mini Maker Faire, exploring the works and dreams of 60 “makers” as they engaged the audience with interactive works and play. The same flavor of exploration was evident at the area’s What IF Festival of Innovation and Imagination in downtown Colorado Springs, an event co-sponsored by PPLD. The District was also the host to the first ever TEDx ColoradoSprings, gathering a roster of thinkers and entrepreneurs that spoke of things that are and things that could be.

Keynote speaker Carrie Vaughn headlined the 9th annual Mountain of Authors, which showcased authors of the Pikes Peak region and also included two panel discussions of interest to aspiring writers.

The year drew to a close finding PPLD participating at two iconic community events. The Festival of Lights Parade was an opportunity for the Library District to reflect on the holiday season with a decorated Mobile Library and loads of staff volunteers walking the parade route. PPLD’s Children’s department, in partnership with the Colorado Springs Children’s Museum, kept the celebrations going right up to the year’s last day, playing and interacting with thousands of the region’s youngsters as they rang in 2016 at Noon Year’s Eve at the Olympic Training Center. It was a perfect ending to a special year of events and collaborations.

(Clockwise from top left): Dragon Theatre Productions, TEDxColoradoSprings, Carrie Vaughn, Colorado Springs Mini Maker Faire, Ice House Entrepreneurship Program Facilitator Training
High Prairie Library held their 5th annual Harvest Festival, a celebration of the season with booths, refreshments, animal displays, and more... a fall carnival for eastern El Paso County.

Business and Career

PPLD offers resources for the development of skills needed to compete in an increasingly digital world. Instructors from partner organizations teach various technology-based classes, such as programming languages, gaming development, etc. This includes hands-on training and support for job seekers or those looking to develop their career skills.

In 2015, PPLD expanded its offering of business classes, adding programs such as Never Fear Networking Again, Cyber Security, and Facebook for Businesses. These new classes joined other ongoing classes like Minding your Business and Linking in to LinkedIn.

PPLD employs two full time business librarians who do outreach and network with various business groups in the community. They also regularly meet one-on-one with entrepreneurs about the many business resources PPLD has to offer.

PPLD’s many meeting and study rooms are heavily used, often by small business owners using the spaces for meetings, hoteling, and access to our wireless network. Patrons also use these areas to leverage our projectors, smartboards, and teleconferencing solutions.

The Library’s website, ppld.org, also contains many job search and career tools, including resume and interview assistance. Our website also contains business databases that can help entrepreneurs or small business owners learn to write a business plan, as well as perform market, demographic, or industry research.
Music

PPLD hosted many free, live music performances throughout 2015, including the Manitou Springs Library Lawn Concert Series, the Monthly Musicaile Concert Series and Shivers Concert Series.

A special collaboration with KCME-FM and the U.S. Air Force Academy Concert Band stirred hearts and minds in Library 21c’s Atrium. Also playing in the Atrium was Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, with a fantastical children’s concert, Tyrannosaurus Sue, complete with giant dinosaur balloon puppets.

The District also launched the Local Music Project at ppld.org/LMP, which connects our community’s talented musicians with listeners by providing a platform from which artists may be discovered and their music heard.
Teens

PPLD’s Teen Services had an exciting year of change and expansion of services, including the addition of a new teen center at Penrose Library in August.

In 2015, the Library District offered over 1,150 programs for teens, with a total of nearly 25,000 participants. The Summer Reading Program “Heroes: Unmask!” had over 5,000 participants.

Regular programming included knitting clubs, writing groups, teens on laptop times, anime groups, gaming days, movie nights, craft programs and teen advisory council meetings. One of the more successful new programs is AfterMath, an after-school math tutoring program. Many special events were also held throughout the year.

Escape Velocity, a local comic book store, donated comics for Free Comic Book Day in May and also donated raised funds to the PPLD Foundation in support of Teen Services programming.

The District-wide Teen Art Contest continues to be successful. The theme for the eighth year of the contest was “Out Of This World.” Many creative and artistic pieces were entered into the contest and displayed at Penrose, East, and Library 21c during the month of April.

Cheyenne Mountain Library staff member Danielle Smith started a book club at Cheyenne Mountain High School that has been a huge success and a great way for the library to become even more relevant to teens.

Teen Services staff went out to schools in the Pikes Peak region and booktalked to 4,300 students and teachers over the course of 120 sessions. They also gave library resource classes to nearly 900 students and teachers.

Teen Volunteers contributed over 16,476 hours to the Summer Reading Programs, Teen Advisory councils and doing other volunteer activities across the District. That’s a 119% increase from 2013!

If all of this isn’t proof enough that the Library is a great place for teens, The Colorado Springs Gazettte’s Best of the Springs named PPLD “Voter’s Choice for Teen Hangout.”
The Creative Computer Commons (C3) at Library 21c is a unique combination of spaces and resources dedicated to building skills, developing content, and encouraging enterprise. C3 has a Business and Entrepreneurial Center, Center for Public Media, Makerspaces, gaming labs, art galleries, and a large, multi-purpose venue. It is populated by the latest technologies, exceptional professional staff, and cutting edge materials.

Over 3,000 people attended C3 programming in 2015, with favorite programs including Quilting Basics, Crochet Basics, Intro and Intermediate 3D Modeling with 123D Design, Intro to GIMP (free photo editing software), Intro to Stencyl (free video game creation software), Hands on 3D Printing, and Simple Circuits.

Makerspaces in C3 contain many machines and tools, including sewing machines, 3D printers, a laser cutter, and a CNC machine. A makerspace with similar equipment opened at East Library in 2015, and another will be coming to Sand Creek Library in the coming year.

Here are some highlights from over 800 projects that took place in the C3 makerspaces in 2015.

**3D Scanning and Printing**
- A patron with a broken faucet part scanned and printed a duplicate copy. The faucet was 18 years old and no longer available on the market.
- A local engineer has intermittent jaw pain and is working with his dentist to create a mold of his jaw and teeth. He plans to re-create the lower half of his skull so that he can apply his engineering knowledge to find out more about the friction and motion effects of his mandibular joints. We helped by 3D scanning a plaster cast of his teeth so that he can assemble a CAD model of his jaw.
- Two teens were working on inventing a phone case that would convert body heat to energy to be able to charge a cell phone. They came in to 3D print a prototype for the case.

**Laser Cutter**
- A patron created a scroll box using the laser. The details on each side of the box are amazingly beautiful.
- We helped restore an old puzzle that a patron used to work on with her grandmother. Several pieces had been lost, so she scanned the puzzle to create SVG files of the missing pieces. She cut them out of wood and painted them to match the rest of the puzzle.

**CNC Machine**
- Plaques for many events were made, including a test piece for the Royal Manticoran Navy Fan Association in Colorado Springs.
- Brass gears for a pocket watch/GPS device that is a hybrid of a mechanical clock and Arduino system were created.
- Prototype parts were made for a type of perpetual motion machine derived from a “bessler wheel,” a kind of flywheel.
The Center for Public Media (CPM) at Library 21c provides a collection of resources dedicated to the public production of multimedia, the development of multimedia skills, and public exhibition and performances. These aspects of Library 21c are comprised of a video production center and studio, an audio booth, audio and video editing stations, classroom facilities, a portable video story booth, traditional and multimedia exhibit space, and a large performance venue with professional sound, lighting, and presentation capabilities.

PPLD has operated a Video Production Center for more than twenty years, producing award winning programs for broadcast, archival, and community involvement purposes. The audio/video studio and editing bays at Library 21c allow PPLD to expand the scope of producing, directing, and editing digital video to encompass the general public. Use of the center’s state of the art equipment and software is facilitated by staff and accompanied by hands-on training and virtual tutorials.

Programs produced by the public through the center will be selected for broadcast, streaming, and dissemination through PPLD TV, PPLD.TV, Rocky Mountain PBS, and other local media outlets.

In 2015, the CPM offered 126 classes to 1,200 patrons in video production, audio production, and photography. Almost 200 patrons checked out audio and video equipment for their own use, and the video/audio studio was reserved 150 times.

Two years ago we had an idea for a TV show, and with broadcast quality equipment available to us from the Center for Public Media, we set out to film our TV series Hittin’ the Road. The show made its debut on PPLD TV not long afterwards.

Today, Hittin’ the Road is completing its second season on Rocky Mountain PBS and beginning work on its third season. And we are happy to report our show is still being shown on PPLD TV. We enjoy our relationship with CPM and feel we would never have been able to get to where we are without the amazing people and the resources available to us at CPM.

Donna Vessey
Adventurista, Hittin’ the Road
The makerspaces of PPLD are generating creativity, innovation, and learning. To foster such endeavors, PPLD created a Maker/Artist in Residence program. A call for makers and artists generated submissions from a wide variety of creative types. Those selected each spent six-week, paid tenures as PPLD’s Maker/Artist in Residence, during which time they taught classes in their specialized fields throughout the Library District.

Adult Literacy and ESL

PPLD’s Adult Literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language) program offers free tutoring and English language learning for adults. Using trained volunteers, the program provides a friendly and helpful environment for people who are just learning English, as well as native English speakers who need to improve their reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Participants can choose from a variety of programs in which they can practice reading and speaking with a group, or get individual guidance from a tutor, and more. We served over 500 individuals last year through individual tutoring, seven ESL classes, five General Education Development (GED) classes, and one Adult Basic Education class. Also, Speak English classes were held at multiple libraries.

A naturalization ceremony was held in July at Library 21c. Individuals from 22 countries became naturalized citizens; 41 immigrants represented the following countries: Brazil, Canada, People’s Republic of China, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey and Vietnam.

Stone Soup

Every spring, PPLD publishes Stone Soup, comprised of entries written by the participants in the Adult Literacy & ESL program. Here are excerpts from the 19th edition. You can pick up a copy of Stone Soup at any PPLD location.

Ukraine 1953 by Igor Hill
I was born in 1953 in Ukraine near Black Sea. I married beautiful girl in 1975, we have only one daughter. She married American military, and went to USA. They have two beautiful sons, Antony and Daniel. I and my wife came to Colorado Springs and want to help our daughter with the boys. I know about many things and wish to teach our grandsons about them.

How Have the ESL Classes Helped You? by Vladimir Butorin
ESL classes give me great pleasure. I began to better understand their American friends and relatives. Lessons in grammar made my writing more accurate and interesting. Communication with the teacher helps me to overcome the psychological barrier in conversation with people on the street and at home. The listening lessons helped me to better understand American English on television, on radio, in the movies. ESL classes helped me to find new friends among the students.

My GED Story! by Marina D.
I am Marina. At the age of 26 I’m still coming to the GED class because I started my life the other way around. I was in high school, but I got married. Then I had my two kids and it was impossible to finish high school because I had to take care of my children. But after a few years my kids grew up and I decided to return to finish and complete my GED because I would like to get a better job or maybe go to college, and also because I want to be prepared and help my kids when they need help with their homework and be an example for them and have them feel proud of me.