

DATE: May 6, 2021

TO: Library Board, Pima County Public Library

Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Administration
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Karyn Prechtel-Altman
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Public Services and Community Engagement Report – April 2021

Below you will read reports of customers *literally* dancing through the doors of libraries in the week of April 5. If not dancing, then they were singing or effusively thanking staff for being here and being open. It is unanimous – our public loves libraries and library workers!

I have been working with an amazing group of library leaders in the Urban Libraries Council Anti-Racism Action Team to produce a recently published leadership brief titled Anti-Racist Executive Leadership for Public Libraries. The Action Team's next step is to publish benchmarks for anti-racism work in all North American public libraries.

Highlights of April's activities:

District 1 - Funded by the Friends of the Oro Valley Library, ground was broken for a mini-plaza east of the library building.

District 2 - Quincie Douglas Library Branch Manager Marissa Alcorta is the newly elected Vice President of the re-instated Tucson chapter of REFORMA (The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking).

District 3 - The manager of the Arivaca library has been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of *Arivaca Human Resources* <https://www.arivacahr.com/>.

District 4 - The Joyner-Green Valley library is also serving the Sahuarita community until their new library opens, and they are seeing up to 100 people in the first hour of the morning!

District 5 - During the month of March, the Ask a Librarian team answered 304 letters from individuals who are incarcerated. These letters range from requests for images to articles on wind turbines.

Biblio Lotus - PCPL's newest affinity team Biblio Lotus was introduced to the public on March 23 through a blog on the Library website and its own webpage, timely after the Georgia shooting and national #StopAsianHate wave.

LGBTQ+ - Our Book Face Friday posts on Instagram have been popular; one reached over 4,000 people and received 249 likes! Instagram has helped us create stronger partnerships with local non-profit organizations supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Nuestras Raíces - PCPL's Nuestras Raíces Team collaborated with schools, preschools and other youth-serving organizations to distribute close to 2000 new books to children (pre-K through 3rd grade).

Many Nations - As one of the goals of the Many Nations Team to *spread the wealth*, the staff at the Richard Elías-Mission Library helped create over 600 children's giveaways to highlight Cuaresma, the Yaqui (Yoeme) Easter celebration.

Kindred - Kindred team members will attend and present at this year's National Conference for African American Librarians hosted by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) held virtually from July 28 to August 1.

Welcome to America - The Welcome to America team was proud to present the first Global Arts Spotlight program in partnership with Arizona Public Media this past March.

Administration:

Latinx Program Manager – Anna Sanchez

In April, we celebrated El día de los niños/El día de los libros. We distributed close to 2000 new books to children. As the county begins to open back up, I have begun reaching out to Latinx-serving organizations with whom we have previously collaborated to begin visualizing future partnerships within the context of the new landscape. Our Tucson REFORMA Chapter is once again active and I have been involved in the monthly meetings, keeping members informed of the work our Nuestras Raíces Team is engaged in at PCPL.

Library Services Manager - Kate DeMeester

April was a busy month. Much of my focus was on assisting branches with their efforts towards re-opening our inside spaces to the public. I had the chance to help at some service points, and can say that people were so happy and excited to be back! I also worked with some of our managers and circulation managers on the procedures for our book locker rollout. We have narrowed it down to two different backroom procedures. We will try both at different locations, and once we see which is best for staff and the public, that method will be selected for all book locker locations.

Library Services Manager - Sharla Ronstadt

I visited several branch visits this month including the Woods Memorial Library, Dusenberry-River Library, Flowing Wells Library, and Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr. Library. I also facilitated manager group meetings to collaborate and share information as it pertains to current services. We completed the New Manager Training meetings this month. In addition to supporting the branch libraries, I also coordinated Substitute Librarian's extra hours assignments and conducted two orientations for those returning to work extra hours. I also started attending the Pima County sustainability training program, called THRIVE, in collaboration with the University of Arizona and Mrs. Green's World.

Library Services Manager - Amy Rusk

It is National Poetry Month! There have been many meetings with managers and staff as they adjust to re-opening to the public. Ken Zambos and I began work on a virtual learning path for interns and graduate assistants working in our libraries. Many Nations team members - in partnership with the librarians for the Tohono O'odham and Yaqui/Yoeme Nations - have been working on a Land Acknowledgement Statement for PCPL, which will be presented to each tribe's chairman and council this month. Once vetted, it will be brought to PCPL administration for approval.

Program Manager for Literacy and Connected Learning – Kendra Davey

At the end of April, PCPL celebrates El día de los niños/El día de los libros. This year, members of the Nuestras Raíces worked with elementary schools and preschools to distribute over 2,000 books to students.

Kendra Davey and Kelly Kuper were guest presenters for an Early Childhood Education class at the University of Arizona. They shared information about early brain development and library programs and resources for families.

Program Manager for Workforce and Economic Development – Ken Zambos

In April, Pima County Public Library participated in the Money Smart Week national campaign in conjunction with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to raise awareness of consumer financial matters. These free webinar trainings provided information on federal student loans, bank accounts, tax-related fraud and identify theft, and personal finance during Covid-19.

Library staff also continued to offer virtual programming for GED in both English and Spanish, and on a variety of workforce topics, including resume help, preparing for virtual interviews, and applying for jobs online.

PCPL Affinity Teams:

Biblio Lotus – Xuan Zhou

Forming a system-wide team dedicated to serving the Asian communities in Pima County has been an ongoing conversation since last August. Starting with four members, they worked on the structure of the team, and made initial blogs for the Celebration of Lunar New Year 2021 and the Day of Remembrance. Biblio Lotus was presented to all staff on Lunar New Year day, February 12, when Biblio Lotus posted an announcement to the Intranet and called for membership. Four new staff members have joined since then, thus making it a team of eight. The new members add great forces and resources to the team.

Biblio Lotus has also received enormous support and guidance from Administration, other affinity groups, and staff across the system. On March 23, Biblio Lotus was introduced to the public through a [blog](#) on the Library website and its own [webpage](#), a timely approach after the Georgia shooting and national #StopAsianHate wave.

To serve its mission, Biblio Lotus has worked diligently on suggesting collection items, creating lists and blogs, and building community relationships with other cultural organizations.

Kindred – Tenecia Phillips

The Kindred team hosted two Read Black events, one in February and the other in March. Both events were well-attended and fostered meaningful, lively discussion on topics including racism, sexism, Black hair culture, and allyship. Feedback about the events has been positive and the team is discussing a plan to continue the monthly events in the 2022. May 29 will mark the team's first Author Talk. This event will take place on a virtual platform and will be a brief Q & A, short reading, and meditation exercise with author, life coach, meditation guide Rebekah Boruki. This Author Talk event will also serve at the 2021 Summer Learning kick-off event.

Kindred team members have registered for and will attend this year's National Conference for African American Librarians, which is hosted by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA). This conference will be held virtually from July 28 to August 1. The team is excited to not only attend the conference but present as well!

LGBTQ+ – Kaitlyn Sparks

The LGBTQ+ Services Committee is hard at work planning virtual events for Pride Month in June and October. We have been active on our website creating books lists and blog posts. In one blog

post, we shared fictional and real people who have inspired us to promote self-acceptance and share formative LGBTQ+ literature: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/were-inspired-by>.

On Instagram, our Book Face Friday posts have been popular; one reached over 4,000 people and received 249 likes! Important topics such as Transgender Day of Visibility are popular as well, which lets us know we are reaching our target audience, the LGBTQ+ Community and their allies. Instagram has helped us create stronger partnerships with local non-profit organizations supporting the LGBTQ+ community since we are able to help spread information about resources many of those organizations provide.

*Rainbow Reads: A positively queer book club for adults continues to work well virtually with regularly even more attendees than we had in our pre-pandemic in-person meetings. Conversations are lively, and one member referred to *Rainbow Reads* and the sense of community created with the other members as their “lifeline”.*

Nuestras Raíces – Marissa Alcorta

In April, we celebrated El día de los niños/El día de los libros. Our Nuestras Raíces Team collaborated with schools, preschools and other youth-serving organizations to distribute close to 2000 new books to children (pre-K through 3rd grade). The team also developed and distributed a Grab 'n Go Kit, entitled *bookjoy* which is celebrating children and the love of reading by encouraging children to write their own mini book and providing information on the origins of Día and how it is celebrated in the U.S.

Our first Nuestras Raíces Savannah message went out on March 30 and has been well received. Many thanks to the Communications and Systems Office staff for their guidance in crafting the content.

Welcome to America – Tara Foxx-Lupo

The Welcome to America team was proud to present the first Global Arts Spotlight program in partnership with Arizona Public Media this past March. The program invites artists and artisans from refugee and immigrant backgrounds to share their cultural and artistic connections with the wider community. This first program featured Fadi Iskandar, a local Syrian refugee and accomplished violinist. Fadi shared his music and story with the audience and then participated in a live Q&A using the Arizona Public Media platform. The highlight of the performance was when Fadi's daughter joined him for a duet. Her talent demonstrated to the audience how deeply rooted music is to their family and life. The event was a success and was the most well attended of any virtual program AZPM has presented since things moved to virtual last spring.

In line with the team's vision and mission, the program will consist of a series of virtual events. Each program will highlight a culture or region and will feature different arts and art forms. The team has benefitted from the assistance of a graduate assistant from the University of Arizona I-school, who will continue to support the team through an additional internship this coming summer. For any who missed the program, you may view it at the Arizona Public Media site at the following link:

<https://about.azpm.org/p/community/2021/3/25/191961-global-arts-spotlight/>

Library Branches by District:

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhurst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Dewhurst Catalina Library enjoyed a successful reopening this month. Many patrons were excited to come inside to browse and pick up reserves and to express directly to staff how grateful they are for the library and its materials. As a direct result, our circulation numbers rose and the branch was able to accept overflow items from other branches to expand our offerings.

Each week we have craft kits--either from the library or Tucson Recreation Department-- to distribute to families with children. These are eagerly snatched up and the kids sometimes have the previous week's craft to show us when they next come to the library. Dewhirst Catalina Library staff are eager to begin outreach again to local schools and home schooling groups as we expand our staff and services in the coming months. Meanwhile our staff continues to help with online programming like the *Story Sketches* and *Job Leads*. For April, we have a display of Southwest books, a display of poetry books, and will distribute a poetry craft/kit for kids and teens.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

The resumption of in-person services this past month brought a multitude of experiences at Dusenberry-River. Patrons were able to expeditiously browse and check out their own material while computers, Wi-Fi tables, copiers, printers and fax machine were readily accessible. Staff were able to welcome our community with additional book displays and a staff designed 13 ft. delightful dragon reading a book in our children's area. Our virtual Teen Advisory Board is going strong. After passionate zoom speeches, they held officer elections for the upcoming year on an anonymous digital platform they created. Other groups such as Storytime families and Tucson Museum of Art presenters and aficionados have also expressed interest in the next steps with in-person programming. Deliberations are only just beginning on the feasibility of virtual series with Tucson Museum of Art. An addition to the most often repeated sentiment of "Thank you for all that you are doing" is now "Thank you for being open".

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini regulars have been thrilled to learn they can come into the building and browse for their own materials now. While staff are getting into the rhythm of having more *normal* transactions, we're hearing throughout the day just how much the library supported our patrons in 2020 and early 2021 despite our doors being closed to the public for most of that time. Every day we hear gratitude for our creativity during COVID-19 as well as our drive to still serve customers efficiently and safely. In the last two weeks we've been open to indoor access, I've lost count of the number of times I've heard customers tell me that Pima County Public Library is their favorite and/or most valuable service supported by their tax dollars.

Staff at Nanini are still packing snacks for kids throughout Pima County. Snacks get distributed to Wheeler Taft Abbett, Eckstrom Columbus, Martha Cooper, Santa Rosa, Valencia, Wilmot, and Woods Libraries weekly while we've been serving snacks daily here as well. In March alone, staff at these branches handed out almost 5,000 individual snack bags from Amphi School District. Thanks to other vital programs and partnerships, PCPL has been able to distribute food throughout the pandemic from additional sources with support from the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, the USDA and the National Guard.

Oro Valley Public Library – Pam Park

The feeling this month at Oro Valley Library was one of excitement. Patrons expressed their happiness at being able to come into the library once again to browse, use computers and pick up their holds. Almost every patron coming in the door for the first time after the re-opening would say, "This is so exciting!" Staff was excited as well to be able to provide services inside the building as we step closer to providing full services. Branch circulation rose with patrons' ability to browse and choose their materials from Oro Valley's sizeable collection. This month has seen a refreshed periodicals department at Oro Valley with re-labeled shelves for this popular area of the collection. Staff has noticed that patrons are drawn to browsing and checking out popular magazines. Our children's room bulletin board now features a cheerful Elmo character wearing a mask with a reminder to wear them. This month ground was broken for the mini-plaza east of the library building. Irrigation is being installed for the desert vegetation that will soon be planted. This is a project funded by the Friends of the Oro Valley Library. The Friends held an outdoor *box sale* this month

near the library. Pre-filled boxes of different genres were offered for purchase in the sidewalk by the Tree of Knowledge sculpture.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Meggin Kitterman

Customers are happy to be back in the library. Staff have received many wonderful comments from customers expressing appreciation for library services when the doors weren't open and joy that the doors are now open. More than one person has danced thru the entrance—and plenty of the dancers were adults!

To recognize staff on National Library Worker's Day, one grateful customer brought treats and said "for staff at the best library ever."

Staff are happy the customers are back, too. Being able to collect homework materials, have conversations that help staff connect people with community resources and helping people use a computer or fill out job applications, reminds staff of how much people rely on library services. The interactions are filling some of the void that developed this past year. This hope has accelerated staff planning to reach community members not receiving library services.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr Library's Senior Children's Librarian/Assistant Manager met with Christine Hoekenga, Program Coordinator-Environmental Education for Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation to plan an exhibit of art entries to The Living River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest for youth, ages five-19. The Art and poetry entries will be exhibited throughout ABB's children room over the summer.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Lu Guerrero

On April 5, Eckstrom-Columbus Library resumed indoor services to appreciative customers. Self-service printing, faxing, copying and internet computer sessions are services available to the community once again. Many customers throughout the month have made a point of thanking staff for providing assistance and guidance.

In partnership with the library's Nuestras Raíces Team, Eckstrom Columbus provided 29 free books this month to students from Lineweaver Elementary in celebration of Día De Los Niños. The teacher expressed her excitement declaring, "This is great! The kids will love them!"

The library's food and nutrition programs, through the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and the Arizona Department of Education, continue to be highly utilized by families on a daily basis. Eckstrom-Columbus also receives and distributes fresh produce provided by the food bank twice a month.

Quincie Douglas Library – Marissa Alcorta

Quincie Douglas staff participated in book giveaways to Ocotillo Early Learning Center and the John Valenzuela Youth Center (in collaboration with Galeria Mitotera). Staff took over five hundred new books to share with students in celebration of Día de los Niños! Staff also participated in a month's long collection of discarded children's book to share with Davis Elementary classes in our *Spread the Wealth* program. Overall, it was a great month to share to love of reading with community schools and students!

Branch Manager Marissa Alcorta is the newly elected Vice President of the re-instated Tucson chapter of REFORMA (The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking). It's exciting to get the local chapter of this organization going

and find ways for the Library to collaborate to continue to create those connections and foster services to the Latinx and Spanish Speaking community of Pima County.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Kelly Wilson

April saw the doors once again open to welcome our community into our lovely Sam Lena-South Tucson Library. Our new Tuesday through Saturday schedule began this month and we are slowly building awareness of our new open hours. Our patrons have turned up to use our computers, fax, copy and print, pick up snacks and to browse our beautiful collection.

One early morning this month Sam Lena-South Tucson library staff took part in a wonderful community cleanup sponsored by the Pima County Attorney's office and Galeria Mitotera. There was a huge turnout of neighbors and friends who participated in beautifying our environment.

We continue our partnership with Project PPEP to distribute Federal Food Boxes every Thursday from our meeting rooms. This remains a very popular and much needed service.

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

While Arivacans are certainly thrilled to be able to browse again, our front porch has been busier than ever. Round River Conservation Studies along with the Sky Island Alliance have been conducting research throughout the border region, and the students have been using our WiFi to write up their research and participate in Zoom presentations. Every table has been full and the atmosphere has been boisterous. After such a quiet year, their energy and exuberance are wonderful to have at the library.

After working with *Arivaca Human Resources* (<https://www.arivacahr.com>) on several community projects, I have been invited to sit on their Board of Directors. I look forward to bringing our library resources to this important community partnership. We are currently working together to bring library books to community members who are homebound and already receiving food delivery, as well as planning ahead as we all transition out of COVID and into gathering together again and bringing in volunteers to support resuming and in many cases expanded community services. More recently, we joined forces to educate the community and visitors about directing their state taxes to local Qualified Charitable Organizations and the three nonprofits participating received over \$1000.00 in donations after only a week of making the information available within the community.

Flowing Wells Library – Ingrid Trebisky

Flowing Wells Library staff and customers are happy that the library is once again open to use computers, and browse! One of the staff greeters wrote on one of the daily stat sheets that the quote of the day was, "Thank you for your generous hospitality!" Flowing Wells Library also hosted the Pima County Assessor's office with an outside table once again this month.

Flowing Wells Library celebrated *Poem in Your Pocket Day* and National Poetry Month with colorful takeaway poems for both children and adults in construction paper pockets. The staff person who worked on this was giddy with excitement to be doing a program once again in the library. Customers were very happy to get *their* poem.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Richard Guinn

The Salazar-Ajo branch was able to open doors again for browsing this month. And we have had quite the turnout. Computers are being used, books are moving and we are even highlighting options such as magazine checkouts. We recognize that this is a unique time and while we miss our previous programs we are very happy to be able to have the doors open again.

Woods Memorial Library – Em Lane

At Woods Memorial Library, staff and customers are delighted to be offering in-branch services again. The first morning we opened felt like Christmas as all staff hustled around the branch to get it ready for our community. We have heard countless exclamations that folks are thrilled to be browsing and we are happy to help them get everything that they need. We have seen an uptick in circulation this month and we are all looking forward to the days we can do programming again.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

Gibson Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

When the libraries opened for browsing on April 5, it was the first chance patrons had to see inside their new library. The circulation rate tripled! A woman browsing in the stacks with her teen daughter was overheard saying, “Oh, no! Do I have too many books?” She quickly answered her own question concluding, “No, there’s no such thing.”

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Victoria Salajko

The opening to public on April 5 went smoothly here, and people were so happy to come in again. During the first hour we were open, between 10 – 11 am, we had 87 people visit our library! On another morning during our first week, 100 people walked through our doors in the first hour. The snacks were very popular when we were receiving them, with both adults and families alike. Many families from Sahuarita are coming here for the first time and the activity kits are flying out of the library. We have had a busy computer lab and lots of circulation, so we are very grateful to have the staff from the Sahuarita library here helping out!

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman

National Library Week was full of excitement at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library. As all of Pima County’s libraries reopened on April 5, the elation was palpable. Customers lined up outside the doors 30 minutes before we opened to wait to enter. Our community was just as happy to see us as we were to see them!

Our branch also has a very beautiful addition to celebrate. Joe Pagac, a talented Tucsonan muralist, finished a brand new mural on the library’s exterior that same week. This mural was generously donated by the Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library. Our new work of art is full of magical whimsy and literary references, so we hope many people will stop by to experience it and love it as much as we do. Mural photos can be seen on the library’s facebook page.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Kassy Rodeheaver

When the Miller-Golf Links Library opened the building to the public on April 5, we were happy to greet a line of people who had heard of the change in service and were eager to use the computers and to browse our shelves. Ever since that change, it is hard to go more than an hour without hearing someone say “I’m so glad to be able to browse/use the computers/just be in the building!” One visiting grandmother told staff that she checks out picture books from us to read them to her granddaughter in Myanmar via Zoom every day, so a stop at the library is a regular event for her.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Customers are so happy to be able to come inside the library again. One customer reported that she brought her two year old to Murphy-Wilmot the first week that the doors opened. She was impressed by how friendly and welcoming the staff was. The mother said her little boy loved the lei and a science kit he was given and he wanted to take home all the books that he saw! Even though she and her son were only in the building for about 10 minutes, he kept talking about it when they got home. They plan to make weekly library visits going forward.

One of our older customers shared that her browsing visit this month was one of her first outings since the pandemic began. Having just completed her vaccinations, she was excited to return to her beloved Murphy-Wilmot and overjoyed by the beautiful displays of new book that surrounded her. Indeed, she became so overwhelmed with emotion that she left with tears in her eyes. Murphy-Wilmot staff is humbled and grateful to provide services to her and our other dedicated customers.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva

Frank De La Cruz – El Pueblo Library – Irina Delone

Despite remaining temporarily closed for customers, El Pueblo Library continues to run Grab-n-Go Snack Program five days a week between 3-5pm. For the first three weeks of April we gave out 428 snacks. In addition, we distributed 150 Grab-n-Go Activities.

Our relationship with Mulcahy YMCA Children's Daycare Center continues to be strong. This month the Library gave away 75 books to celebrate Día de los Niños. On top of this, the Y was provided with 69 checked out books and DVDs to be used during storytimes.

One of our staff members continues to deliver library and donated materials as well as Grab-n-Go kits to the Native American community. This month we provided 25 of the Grab and Go kits to the Dr Fernando Escalante library at the Pascua Yaqui reservation. In addition, 150 adult fiction and non-fiction items were delivered to the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. The items will be shared with several other parishes in Pima County that serve various Native American communities. On April 13th we delivered 219 adult/teen/children nonfiction and fiction items to the San Xavier Education Center. Some of the items are kept for the library on the San Xavier reservation while others will be given away to the community.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

This month, after a long break, customers began coming back inside the library again – and they are thrilled! One person did a little dance as she exclaimed, "Yay! Yay! Yay! You're open!" Adults are pleased to use computers, make their own photocopies, and browse the collection. Kids are checking out lots of books, too. A conversation with one family revealed that the child's teacher had assigned students to come to the library and check out books for the weekend. The family willingly complied, checking out armloads of books as well as seeds. And our youngest customers have enjoyed taking home and decorating paper butterflies, insects, and flowers, which their parents return to us to hang on our children's bulletin board.

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Tenecia Phillips

During the month of March, the Ask a Librarian team answered 304 letters from individuals who are incarcerated. These letters range from requests for images to articles on wind turbines. We will send up to 10 double-sided pages of information to the person who has written us. If their first question or request takes up 10 pages, we will wrap up the letter. Sometimes, that means we can't answer all the questions asked but multiple letters can be sent in a month (maximum of five). In our guidelines that have been shared with those we are writing us, we have informed them that we are able to provide information and photos that are accessible on the internet or in books. Since our staff use county computers, we are required us to follow employee guidelines which does mean that there are limitations to websites we can access. Those writing express their gratitude and one letter received this month was in an envelope with hand drawn pictures with the words "Thank you from those who are information deprived".

Martha Cooper Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Martha Cooper Staff welcomed customers inside again for a variety of services this month including self-service faxing, copying and printing, computer use, browsing and holds pick up. Customers were happy to return to the library and many have taken advantage of the available services. Many

expressed their appreciation for the library, the way that our department has been dedicated to ensuring safety for all, and their overall appreciation for our services. Welcoming our customers back with safety at the forefront has helped staff to feel purposeful and it has been a joy to see many familiar community members returning to visit.

Snack and produce programs continue to be a benefit to the surrounding community and a way to support kids and families during this difficult time. Snack attendance was steady this month and our produce delivery was once again a success, running out in just a couple of days.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Alina Rowe

The Richard Elías-Mission Library has been busy welcoming patrons back into the building for a brief visit for browsing, picking up holds, fax/copying/printing, and computer use. We have heard from many patrons that they are happy to be able to be back at the library. We also continue to offer curbside pick-up because there are still patrons who are not comfortable coming into the building.

A patron came in to the Richard-Elías Mission Library on April 13 and asked if we would continue book bundles now that we are open for browsing. She indicated that getting a bundle of cozy mysteries was the highlight of her week. She was excited to learn this service is continuing.

With the reopening, we added displays of new items, mysteries, children's new items, Lucky day items, along with the continuation of book and DVD bundles. Many patrons have enjoyed the ease of finding new items without searching the stacks.

In partnership with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, we continue to offer daily snacks for children, about 20 snacks are given out a day. We will have to increase the amount for next month because most days we are running out.

As one of the goals of the Many Nations Team to spread the wealth, the staff at the Richard Elías-Mission Library helped create over 600 children's giveaways to highlight Cuaresma, the Yaqui (Yoeme) Easter celebration. The kit included a cascarón craft, recipes, coloring pages, information about the Yaqui Nation and the Cuaresma celebration. All open libraries received these kits to share with their communities.

Southwest Library – Angie Grischkowsky

Southwest Library remains closed for the time being. Instead, Southwest staff are providing support at three other branches during the staffing shortage: Richard Elías-Mission Library, Eckstrom-Columbus Library, and Miller-Golf Links Library. We look forward to reopening in the future.

Valencia Library – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

The Children Services team at Valencia Library were busy preparing for Día de los Niños. In anticipation for it, the team reached out to surrounding early childhood organizations and informed them about the book giveaway. About 500 books were requested and we are excited to say that we were able to fulfill this request. We were very happy to have the opportunity to reconnect with our community. In continued celebration of Día de los Niños, we also put together a papalote, or kite, Grab-n-Go activity. Families will be able to stop by Valencia library and pick up a kit to make and decorate their own flying kites.

As a step towards promoting the Seed Library and food sustainability, the team at Valencia Library planted seeds in newspaper pots and gave the seedlings out to the community. About 60 plants including sunflowers, carrots, beets, and radishes were giving away with information about the Seed Library.