
DATE: June 5, 2025

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
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Amber D. Mathewson
Library Director

SUBJECT: Director and Support Services Report – May 2025

It is both an honor and a deeply emotional moment as I prepare to close this chapter of my professional life with my retirement on June 7th. After 34 years with the Pima County Public Library—eight of those as Director—this moment is filled with gratitude, reflection, and hope for the future.

When I first walked through the doors of our library system, I knew I was entering a world where stories come to life, knowledge is boundless, and communities are built. What I didn't fully realize at the time was just how profoundly this journey would shape me. The library has been more than just a workplace; it has been a home where I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative power of literacy, the unyielding strength of community, and the magic that happens when people are given the resources and encouragement to grow.

Throughout my career, I have been inspired by the unwavering dedication of my colleagues—each bringing passion, creativity, and a deep commitment to service every single day. Together, we have built programs that extend far beyond bookshelves. We have created spaces that welcome, uplift, and empower. We have championed literacy not just within our walls, but in the very fabric of our community.

My additional involvement with Literacy Connects and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest has only reinforced what I have always believed—that literacy is the foundation upon which opportunity is built. That libraries are more than repositories of books; they are gateways to lifelong learning, safe havens for curiosity, and catalysts for change. And that community service is not an obligation but a privilege that allows us to shape a world that is more informed, more compassionate, and more connected.

As I step into retirement, my heart is full knowing that the legacy of our work together will continue in the hands of remarkable people like you. The future of the library is bright, because it is powered by individuals who believe in its mission as fiercely as I do. Keep

advocating for knowledge. Keep fostering curiosity. Keep opening doors for those seeking a better tomorrow.

Thank you to my colleagues, mentors, friends and the Library Advisory Board. Thank you to the community that has trusted and supported this institution. And most of all, thank you for allowing me to be a part of something so much greater than myself.

Though I may be retiring from my role, my commitment to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning will never fade. I look forward to seeing the continued impact of your dedication, and I will always be cheering you on.

Unexpected Library Closures –

4/12/2025	Eckstrom-Columbus	Other	Less than half Day	security gate malfunction caused delay in opening.
4/17/2025	Cavigila-Arivaca	staffing	Lunch 1 hr	closed 12:30-1pm
4/30/2025	Cavigila-Arivaca	staffing	Lunch 1 hr	closed 1:30-2pm
5/1/2025	Cavigila-Arivaca	staffing	Lunch 1 hr	closed 1:30-2pm
5/9/2025	Cavigila-Arivaca	staffing	Lunch 1 hr	closed 1:30-2pm

- Arivaca has a current Librarian I vacancy will hopefully be filled with the current hiring process.

Donations July 1, 2024-April 14, 2025

7/2/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	18,070.65	Books and Jewelry Sales
7/2/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	6,413.26	April Sales
7/2/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	6,146.75	May Sales
7/23/24	United Spiritualist Church of Mankind	40.00	Systemwide Donations
7/23/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	6,258.06	2nd Quarterly Payment
7/23/24	<i>Friends of the Oro Valley Library</i>	6,041.41	Book Sales
7/23/24	<i>Friends of the Kirk Bear Canyon Library</i>	1,962.81	3rd Quarter Donation
7/26/24	Susan Nimue	10.00	Systemwide Donations
8/6/24	Philip Supina	500.00	DVD Request
8/20/24	<i>Friends of the Green Valley Library</i>	3,000.00	Green Valley Library 50th Anniversary
8/30/24	Eric & Shirley Gale	305.00	In Memory of Lila Warner - Book Plates
9/12/24	Anonymous	20.00	Systemwide Donations
9/20/24	Pat A Wernes	20.00	Systemwide Donations
9/24/24	Joanne Gilbert	300.00	Print books by Robert Carr and Sharon Sala
10/4/24	Jorge Gerbracht	18.00	Systemwide Donations

4/1/25	Margaret Brahm	25.00	Systemwide Donations In honor of Laurie
4/3/25	Carolyn Vergo Harria	50.00	J Smith
4/4/25	Elizabeth A Scott	20.00	BCN Story time Systemwide
4/15/25	Anonymous	10.00	Donations 2nd Quarter
4/15/25	<i>Friends of the Kirk Bear Canyon Library</i>	2,500.00	Donation Esmond Station
4/17/25	Anonymous	20.00	Library
4/29/25	Bernadette Kern	50.00	Systemwide Donations - Staff Appreciation Systemwide
4/29/25	Eleanor Soreson	50.00	Donations Fashion Books - nameplates: In memory Laurie
4/29/25	Stephen Cummings	200.00	Ann Johnson Smth
5/9/25	<i>Friends Of The Pima County Public Library</i>	65,000.00	
5/16/25	<i>The Pima Library Foundation</i>	19,500.00	For Career Online High School December 2024
5/20/25	<i>Friends Of The Oro Valley Public Library</i>	7,398.33	Donation January 2025
5/20/25	<i>Friends Of The Oro Valley Public Library</i>	7,685.03	Donation February 2025
5/20/25	<i>Friends Of The Oro Valley Public Library</i>	7,253.66	Donation March 2025
5/20/25	<i>Friends Of The Oro Valley Public Library</i>	7,191.46	Donation

FY25 Cash/Check/EFT donations: \$601,396.79

FY25 Net PayPal donations: \$2,796.07

FY25 TOTAL donations as of 5/20/2025: \$604,192.86