



# HRLS

## *Director's Report and Highlights*

*December 2025*

### *A Very Special Month*

As of December 18, 2025, the Handley Library branch is officially a fully accredited **Family Place Library**! Two representatives from the national review team conducted a site visit to assess its programs, services, space and collections aimed at children ages 0-5 and their families/caregivers. Achieving accreditation means the library is meeting the **best practices standards**

for early literacy, parent education and family support. Above, Handley Youth Services staff and members of the review team celebrate the hard-won achievement.



**Staff Development Day** is held each year in December to bring staff members from all three branches together, to honor staff members with special work anniversaries, to hear about the year's successes and plans for the future, and to gain information to enhance their professional development. **Donna Huges**, on the left, was honored for her thirty-five years with the Youth Services Department, first at Handley and then at the new Bowman branch. **Karen Basque**, on the right, was honored for her twenty years of service with the Handley branch Circulation Department.

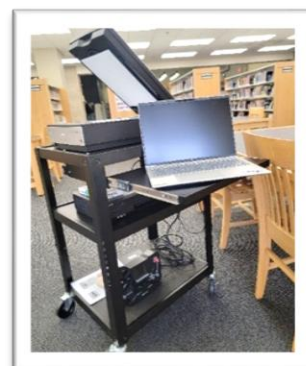


Additionally, since approximately 75 % of the system's staff are part-time, the day also offers the branches an opportunity to bring together members of individual departments who have very different schedules to review procedures and assess goals as a group. Pictured during one of these sessions are members of Bowman's Circulation and Information Services staff who simultaneously decorated bandannas for shelter animals as a "Crafting for a Cause" project for the Ester Boyd Animal Shelter.



December also saw Archives complete the processing of two linear feet\* of a new collection of photos and documents donated by Patrick Mulvey. Patrick grew up in Winchester, and his family owned two clothing stores: **Mulvey's Haberdashery and The Oxford Shop**. Mulvey's Haberdashery started around 1949 selling men's clothing and accessories. The Oxford Shop, specializing in high-end men's and women's clothing, opened in 1965. The photograph shows the interior of the Oxford Shop on opening day and part of the Honda motorcycle that was raffled off for the occasion.

The Technical Services Department finalized the makeup of the new **HRLS Memory Cart** to be housed at the Bowman branch. The Memory Cart, to be rolled out in the New Year, will offer basic digitization tools to the public. It will allow patrons to "save" their "old school" memories by transferring them from paper, film, and discs to electronic formats.



### *With Lots of Holiday Themed Activities*



To kick off the holiday season, the Friends hosted The Trombone Collective from Shenandoah University at the Handley Library. The student musicians treated the crowd to holiday tunes, let children in the audience play conductor, and even took requests from the audience. The Friends also hosted their annual holiday concert by the Apple Valley Ringers at the Bowman Library. The group welcomed over 120 patrons during the two performances.

In Berryville, The Clarke County branch staff members once again participated in the city's holiday parking meter decorating contest and walked in the Christmas parade. Joining forces with Friends and the PR and Outreach team they distributed special bookmarks promoting the resources of the library and encouraged people to sign up for a library card.



And even at Winchester Airport HRLS was spreading the holiday spirit. PR and Outreach staff members created a special story time headed by Ms. Donna and included a visit from a very special person dressed in red and sharing holiday treats.

## *Year's End*

In a hugely successful outreach program, the Handley Youth Department took the Story Box outreach program to 16 daycares and preschools in the 22601-zip code area. The program models the importance of talking, singing, reading, writing and playing. Close to 500 students had the opportunity to learn about the power of words, books and reading and over 60 more children in the area now have library cards.



\*Archives stores the papers and photos of a collection, in these grey cardboard boxes shown here. They measure the size of the collection by the width of the storage boxes that hold a particular collection. The three boxes in the photo equal one linear foot. Note the green ruler along the bottom of the boxes. So now you have an idea of the size, two linear feet, of the Patrick Mulvey Collection mentioned earlier. To add to your understanding of Archives, this year they processed 12 linear feet of new archival and manuscript collections, plus new books and journals. There were 1538 research visits from three countries, 34 states and the District of Columbia. And they hosted 40 programs, outreach events and tours.

## *A Few Additional HRLS statistics for 2025*

Visitors: 393,350

Checkouts: Physical: 587,454...Digital: 206,157...Total: 793,611

New Items Added to the Collection: 14,762

Programs For All Ages: 2,162

Outreach Events: 173

Volunteer Hours: 8,675

### **Contributors:**

**Mary Anton, Bowman Library Branch Manager**

**Matthew Bernstein, Technical Services Manager**

**Gina Byrd, Executive Director, Friends of Handley Regional Library**

**Adrienne Davis, Handley Library Branch Manager**

**Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head**

**Lorna Loring, Manager of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**

**Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager**

**Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach**

**Alison Waddell, Clarke County Library Branch Manager**

*The Handley Regional Library ... [handleyregional.org](http://handleyregional.org)*

