

Memo to: White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees  
From: Libby Hollahan  
Date: September 3, 2014  
Re: Library Foundation Report

**FY 2014-2015 Overview:**

The Foundation approved its budget at the June 25 meeting. In addition to continuing the Campaign for Phases II and III of the first floor renovations, the foundation will raise funds for technology upgrades and refurbishments for The Trove, which is turning ten years old next year. We are incorporating a "Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday" theme into several of our fundraising events next year and also plan to solicit Trove parents for smaller donations.

A new initiative this year is a fall City-wide newsletter to promote Phase II/III and highlight the achievements of The Edge's first year. It will also include a tear-out page for a new fundraiser, the "Dough Raiser," discussed below. The newsletter is now at the printers with a mid-September mailing planned.

We will work to expand our corporate and foundation support, looking for funding for certain key programs (Reading Coach, tutor.com, Poetry Slam, and technology grants for The Trove and the Learning Commons).

**Capital Campaign/Renovation Project:**

The Foundation's Phase I commitment of \$400,000 to the City of White Plains was paid in full as of June 30. In Phase II, our revitalized adult services area will be named the "Hope & John Furth Learning Commons," in recognition of Hope and John's dedication to the Library and the Foundation for many years. We have begun Phase II fundraising, sending proposals to a group of Hope's contacts, and have received over \$50,000 in gifts to date.

**Grants:**

--Shinnyo-en Foundation: The "Collaborative Grant" supported a summer TV production workshop in The Edge, consisting of two 2-week sessions (10 a.m.-1 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.) The class was taught by two Eastview teachers, two high school student mentors, and Library staff. There were about 16 students enrolled in each session. The students created a total of nine news features, including the Tappan Zee bridge, the Farmer's Market/Wespac, the China Institute, the World Cup, service animals, and the building of The Edge. These stories will be shown on the Global Ambassador's REACT news, the School District and City Cable stations, and linked to the Library website.

The "Edge" grant supported a wide range of summer programs in The Edge, including sewing and robotics workshops, and will also support a "Build a High Powered PC" workshop this fall. This grant also paid for a substantial amount of the technology in The Edge, with additional purchases to be made this fall.

--Allstate: Our grant for 2015 has been approved, with a check expected later in September. For 2015, the grant will cover a full calendar year of Job Club and career programs (part of the economic empowerment focus area), as well as a continuation of teen safe driving programs.

--Target: We received a grant of \$2,000 as part of Target's Early Reading initiative. The grant program is "Common Core Bag-A-Tales;" it includes buying new science and math themed books for the Trove's book bags that are circulated as a set with teaching materials, and family reading activities based around science themes during the year.

**Events:** On October 9, the Foundation is holding a new special event, the "Library Dough Raiser." Thirteen White Plains restaurants are participating and will donate to the Foundation 20% of receipts from diners who bring in a special voucher. The vouchers are included in the City Wide Newsletter and will also

be distributed in the Library at the circulation desks. Proceeds of the event will be used for the Trove (updated technology as well as programs).

November 8: **Ninth Annual Fall Gala: Stories to Inspire Us** Honorees are Philip Kent, White Plains native, foundation donor in honor of his parents, and former head of Turner Broadcasting; the Friends of the White Plains Public Library, and Latino U. The Gala will also kick off the Trove's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Year. Fred Singleton and Jen DeMilio will again co-chair. Save the Date cards have been mailed, with invitations to follow late September

Plans for our inaugural **Spelling Bee** are being developed; Beth Roach and Beth Kava will co-chair. Modeled after Scarsdale Library's event. To be held in late February at one of the School District auditoriums.