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5,200 Signed Library Postcards Delivered to Erie County Executive After Rally at Central Library

The following information was distributed by Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director, Mary Jean Jakubowski earlier this afternoon during a "Turn the Lights Back On - Flip the Switch for Library Funding" rally at the downtown Central Library. The event was covered by all 3 TV stations, YNN News, The Buffalo News, Tonawanda News and WBEN Radio.

The rally preceded delivery of the first installment of 5,200 signed postcards to Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz. The postcards, signed by library patrons and supporters, asked the County Executive to restore \$3.6 million in funding. The Library System has lost county funding for 5,100 open hours, on an annual basis, across all of the 37 free public libraries since 2010; as well as funding for programming, materials and other public services.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries by the Numbers

In 2011, System wide:

- 8.1 million + items were borrowed from our 37 libraries covering from one end of Erie County to the other -- 1,045 square miles
- 842,000 + public computer hours were logged—many by people looking for jobs
- 470,000 + reference questions were answered
- On any given day, nearly 17,000 people walk through our doors. Visitors to Erie Counties Public Libraries was 3,657,908 million people in 2011— higher than the annual attendance of all of the local professional sports teams combined.
- 3.18 million online databases were downloaded from the library's website
- **For every \$1, in county funding the library receives, \$6.70 is returned in services to the community**

And this year, through the end of August:

- 87,560 patrons accessed Wi-Fi from the libraries
- 170,229 E-books were borrowed
 - 4,524,222 total hits were made to the Library System Website and Catalog
- Almost 41,000 local kids and their families attended exciting Summer Reading programs
- Summer Readers read more than 12,000 books totaling more than 1 million minutes of reading!!

Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries are a bargain, providing services at a low cost:

(*compared to library systems serving similar sized populations)

- Operating expenditures are in the lowest third (Rank:15 out of 20)
- Average cost per open hour is the second lowest of the group (Rank: 19 out of 20)
- Covers a larger service area with smaller branches (1,045 square miles) (Rank: 5 out of 20)

www.BuffaloLib.org

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Tags:

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