

# Best Sellers

*Our favorite stories about your Library's impact*

## Teens Extend a Helping Hand Around the World

**“Y**ou can change the world with one idea and the technology to make it real.” That’s the inspiration for the new Tech StudiOH! at Flint Public Library.

“Technology is about more than burying our noses in cell phones,” says Kay Schwartz, Library Director. “Computer science is used all around us in every field. It is vital that children learn how to become creators of, not just consumers of, digital technology.”

We have all heard that college graduates struggle to find jobs. That’s why it’s shocking to realize more than 500,000 technology positions are actually going unfilled. There simply are not enough qualified candidates to fill them. There are fewer computer science majors now than there were 10 years ago! Women and minorities are particularly under-represented in the computer science field.

That’s why we have chosen digital literacy as a critical strategy for the Library. Our Tech StudiOH! involves onsite as well as mobile opportunities for kids to be exposed to computer science. We partnered with the Mott Community College FABLAB for the Flint Kids Care



● *Thirty local teens experienced the power of technology through 3D printing.*

Hand Project so that teens could learn about digital printing, and then use it for something powerful. Students who are interested can explore more Library activities. They can also use our extensive online resources for self-study.

“The E-NABLE design for plastic hands was born out of a crazy costume idea. It spread via social media and led to a working prosthetic hand printed and built by volunteers around the world,” says Schwartz. “That work has transformed the lives of more than 2,000 children in

just a couple of years. Who knows what genius ideas are lurking in the minds of Flint kids? Tech StudiOH! is a great way to bring their ideas to life!”



● *A \$50 prosthetic hand is priceless to a child born with only one.*

## (Grand) Mother Knows Best

"I don't like to read." Most of us have heard a child say this at one point or another. Kids who struggle with reading, or haven't found books they can connect to, naturally need a little coaxing. During our Summer Reading Challenge, we saw many kids achieve things they never thought were possible, thanks to some encouragement and hard work.

Library story times are not enough to teach children to read. Kids spend a lot more time at home than they do with us. So parents, grandparents and caregivers are the single biggest influence on a child's love of and aptitude for reading. If you don't think you have an influence, read on! These short vignettes all highlight the importance of adult encouragement for reading. You'll see why we have decided to call 2016 the Year of the (Grand) Mother.

### CHECK US OUT ONLINE

Flint Public Library has just launched a fresh new website. It's mobile responsive, so you can use it from your computer, tablet or cell phone.

Whether you're browsing for your next downloadable book, searching for online courses, or looking for ways to engage your kids with reading, you can find it all at [www.fpl.info](http://www.fpl.info). You can also make a gift to help keep the Library strong and vital. Check it out!

### Can't I play the computer instead?

Colin is an 8-year old who had his eye on the computers when he started coming to the Library this summer. He didn't want to read. He wanted to play games. His mother insisted that he do at least 6 of the 11 challenges in the Summer Reading Program.



#### ● Colin

She brought him and his sister in a couple nights per week, and it was a struggle at first. Mom persisted, and the Library staff worked with Colin to help him find books he liked. Colin started the Summer Reading Challenge late, and he barely managed to finish his challenges. But he persisted, and earned his entry into the Grand Prize Drawing. And wouldn't you know it? Colin won a bike! He was literally jumping up and down with excitement. And the best news is that Colin has learned to enjoy reading in the process. His bike is a daily reminder that reading can be as much fun as playing on the computer. Mom can just smile and keep bringing him to the Library!

# Our favorite stories about your Library's impact

## There's nothing to do...

Gabe and Andrew just moved to the Flint area earlier in 2016. These two young boys were starting to repeat the refrain that kids so often use in the summer, "I'm bored. There's nothing to do." Their grandmother knew exactly how to fix that problem! She told mom and dad about Flint Public Library. The whole family showed up every Saturday for programs, to complete challenges, and to check out books. The two boys both scored big in the Grand Prize Drawing. Andrew won a tablet, and Gabe won a Kindle Fire. Now they can read digital books, and get online to use the Library's KidsWeb resources for games, book reviews and more. These kids may be new to the area, but they're very familiar with the Library and think of it as a great place to come for fun.



● Gabe



● Andrew

## Let's get moving!

Charity (10) and Jacoby (7) have been coming to the Library with their grandmother for many years. Grandma has a plan when she shows up! Last year, she had the kids read about running and then dash around the building so they could earn their fitness bracelets. This year, she made sure they both came to the Library to complete the Summer Reading Challenges. We would overhear her talking to both kids about the importance of education for their futures. Jacoby struggled with focus, but grandma and the librarians kept working with him. Both kids stuck with it, and completed enough challenges to enter the drawing. Amazingly enough, both siblings won! Charity is the proud owner of a new bike, and Jacoby was excited about winning a microkite. These two kids are gaining valuable skills (and some great prizes) thanks to their grandmother's patience and persistence.



● Grandmother Manns



● Charity and Jacoby

**The best thing you can do for a child is help him or her learn to read. Visit our Children's Learning Place and ramp up the excitement around reading!**



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is to be Flint's go-to place  
to learn for life.**

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