



## Prince William Library Foundation was nominated for the Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Award

The Prince William Chamber Business Awards and Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Awards are held annually to honor the best of local businesses and nonprofits. Awards recognize excellence in business, innovative practices, outstanding contributions to the community, and organizations that stand out among their peers. You can read more at [pwchamber.org/2022-business-awards](http://pwchamber.org/2022-business-awards)

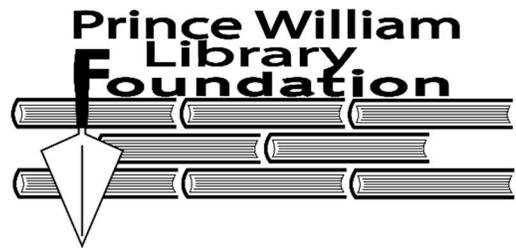
The awards will be announced on February 24.

### Foundation's Nomination:

Since 1997, Prince William Library Foundation (Foundation) has been helping Prince William Public Libraries (PWPL) excel on its mission of bringing people, information, and ideas together to enrich lives and build community in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

The Foundation serves as a conduit to acquire grants and raise funds through community interaction, all which support programs otherwise unavailable to PWPL. The library system does not use the Prince William County budget for non-operational costs such as programs and program materials. These are fully funded by corporate and community sponsorships and grants.

In CY2021, the Foundation was awarded grants in total value of more than \$59,000 and received sponsorships in total value of \$36,500. These funds allowed PWPL to launch new programs and services and maintain and enhance existing programs.



One of the main successes of 2021 was Summer Reading. This national initiative encourages children and young adults to read during summer break to prevent the “summer slide” and maintain – and even increase – their reading skills during the summer.

At PWPL, Summer Reading is one of the most popular and impactful programs. While in 2021 the number of Summer Reading participants was still lower than before the pandemic, it was almost double compared to 2020. Moreover, the completion rate was not only higher than in 2020, but also higher than pre-pandemic numbers.

More than 4,000 people participated in the program and more than 1,200 of them completed the reading challenge. To do so, participants had to complete 10 activities such as Do a fingerplay or rhyme, Read a book you chose by its cover, and Exchange a book recommendation with a friend. A total of 42,099 books were read during the Summer Reading 2021.

The importance of this reading program is evidenced by the continued contributions of the Prince William community. Despite the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a record number of businesses, corporations, foundations, and individuals supported Summer Reading 2021.

Thanks to the community support, the Foundation could also support PWPL in enhancing two other essential literacy programs – 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and 100 Books Before Graduation. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten helps children ages 0 – 5 develop the important pre-reading skills that provide a solid reading foundation – a key to school and learning success. The goal of 100 Books Before Graduation is to help young adults in grades 6 – 12 improve vocabulary and test scores and prepare them for life after high school. In 2021, both programs were enhanced with new promotional materials and updated graphics, reading lists, advertisement and engagement strategies, and incentives and graduation ceremonies. More than 3,600 children participated in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and more than 700 young adults in 100 Books Before Graduation programs as of December 31, 2021.

In addition, the Foundation secured funding to allow more girls to attend Girls Who Code, a program designed to inspire, educate, and equip girls with the computing skills to pursue 21st-century opportunities; and to expand Learning Circle, a small-group learning program designed to advance career preparation, digital inclusion, and economic empowerment for people with underdeveloped skills.

The Foundation’s support also allowed PWPL to start programs and projects such as a literacy program for children residing at Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center; a workforce skills improvement program for Prince William County Juvenile Detention Center; and a comprehensive outreach project introducing library services to at least 500 new readers and underserved community members. Implementation of these grant programs were a milestone for the Foundation and PWPL since they help underserved community members who otherwise cannot utilize the free services of public libraries.

In addition, the Foundation helped fund Central Green, an outdoor library space for environmental education and several community-building projects such as Seed Library, community composts, and library pollinator gardens.

In the last week of 2021, the Foundation secured funding for PWPL Story Trails. A story trail is an outdoor reading and exercising experience and a creative way for people to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. PWPL will provide community members with more spaces to relax, exercise, read, socialize, and spend quality outdoor time, which will – consequently – improve their health and wellbeing.

PWPL is doing meaningful and beneficial work in the greater Prince William community. It's evident through CY2021 successes, including the increasing demand for library services and materials; the opening of Manassas City Library, PWPL's newest library; the sustained support from local government; and the increasing number of local businesses interested in supporting libraries by monetary donations and engagement in programming. This is the ultimate success for both PWPL and the Foundation.

**Nomination Deadline  
Extended to January 7th**

**PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER  
BUSINESS AWARDS  
2022**

*Join us for the*  
**2022 Business Awards & Silent Auction**  
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5:30-9:30 PM  
Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club  
6901 Arthur Hills Dr. Gainesville VA 20155  
Members: \$95, Future Members: \$125  
(Snow Date: March 9, 2022)

**THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON!**