

## MFRL by the Numbers

### Items checked out

623,297

### Visits

341,285

### Computer use

59,396

### Programs

894

### Program attendance

28,374

### Community room uses

10,851

### Website hits

265,309

### Database use

238,507

### Card holders

39,995

### Total collection

214,159

### Passports

1,172

## Awards

### Sensory Museum

2024 VaCo Achievement  
Award

## Grant-funded Projects

### Tovertafel for Persons with Disabilities & Seniors

ALA/PLA  
\$20,000

### PLA Digital Literacy Phase II Public Library Association

\$6,000

### Annual Programming and Support Grant

MFRL Friends of the Library  
\$31,647

### Digital News Archive Support & Teen Services Development

MFRL Foundation  
\$40,000



**Meadowbrook Library** Meadowbrook Library continues to thrive at the heart of the Eastern Montgomery community. This year, Meadowbrook launched twice-weekly **GED classes** in partnership with **New River Community College**, helping students achieve their educational goals. Patrons enjoyed a rich array of recreational and cultural events, including the **Fall Harvest** celebration, the **Bubble Brigade**, the **Grinch Program**, and a delightful **Spring Tea** accompanied by a live harpist. Additionally, Meadowbrook established and maintained vital partnerships to address food security by providing **Summer Meal Boxes** for families and introducing the **Meadowbrook Free Fridge** in April.

**Blacksburg Library** Blacksburg Library served as a vibrant community hub, offering space, programs, events, and educational opportunities for people of all abilities. **Sustainable Blacksburg** sponsored **Lunch and Learn** programs each month on topics ranging from **Backyard Bears** to **Home Solar**. Persons learning English looked to the library for free **English Conversation**, **English for Life** and **Family READS** programs. **Community Swaps** turned out hundreds looking to stock up on Kitchen Supplies, Craft Supplies, Back to School stuff, and more. With **Cardinal News**, Blacksburg hosted a **41st District Candidate Debate** for the Virginia House election that was broadcast on **Blue Ridge Public Television**. The award-winning **Sensory Museum** program created a safe place for members of the community with sensory issues, while art programs provided all abilities with opportunities to create. Blacksburg joined with **YMCA at VT** for **Welcoming Week** and **Healthy Kids Day**, and kept young people engaged with storytimes, STEM programs, and special events..

**Christiansburg Library** Christiansburg Library filled the year with community partnerships. They hosted tours with participants in the **Montgomery County Docket Court** and students from the **Hughes Educational Center**. The **Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners**, **Radford University**, **New River Blues Society**, **New River Community College**, **Blue Ridge Potters Guild**, and **Community Housing Partners** all presented informative and interactive programs to continue lifelong learning in our community. **Christiansburg Institute** brought a local history display including a presentation of an original turn-of-the-century diary transcribed by a local historian. Individuals from the community also created their own programming to connect with their neighbors through hobbies, including chess and quilting.

**Jessie Peterman Memorial Library** The Library celebrated its **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday** with a tea and a program honoring the women who worked to create the library, including **Jessie Peterman** herself. A number of the **original Floyd Library advocates** attended. The **Floyd County Library Building Fund** launched its **Pavilion Project** with an author talk by renowned mystery writer **Martin Clark**. The project will add an 850-square-foot outdoor education space outside the library, offering a spot for programming and a pleasant perch for patrons to enjoy free Wi-Fi and relax. Award-winning children's author **Katherine Applegate** visited in May, discussing her novel **Wishtree** and her writing process, and taking questions from the children and teens in attendance. The second year of the **Floyd Free Fridge** saw 29,074 lbs. of food distributed in partnership with **Plenty Farm and Food Bank**.

**MFRL Mobile Library** At over 200 regular stops and visits to community events such as **Floyd Small Town Summer**, **History on the Huckleberry**, **Blacksburg Holiday Parade**, and **Summer Solstice Fest**, the **Mobile Library** greeted 2640 patrons. New regular stops were added at **Warm Hearth Village**, **Huckleberry Park**, and **Gateway Baptist Church**.



# Montgomery Floyd Regional Library Annual Report 2023-2024

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library  
*One stop, unlimited possibilities*

## Katherine Applegate Shares *Wishtree* with Young Patrons

Newberry-award winning author **Katherine Applegate** visited Jessie Peterman Memorial Library to share how she became a children's writer, to engage with her many readers young and old, and to share the story of *Wishtree*. Registration exceeded room capacity, so Ms. Applegate graciously added a second session. The message of the story – that all we can wish for in the end is a world that welcomes us – provided a jumping off point for inspiring discussions with the author that ranged as far the children's imaginations. After the talk, patrons transformed the tree in front of the library into a Wishtree for all.



## Tovertafel Enriches Library Experience for Persons with Disabilities

Through a grant from **ALA/PLA**, MFRL brought the **Tovertafel** to our users. Tovertafel is an enriching activity platform that uses videogame-like technology to create meaningful and engaging experiences for groups with memory issues, and for persons with developmental, cognitive and intellectual disabilities. This research-driven platform provides libraries a new way to establish and maintain interest for these users, while giving them a sense of achievement, togetherness and fun. **Tovertafel** programs have begun to great response at Meadowbrook and Christiansburg and will be provided at all locations.

## Welcome To Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

MFRL is proud to join with volunteer groups who have brought **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** to the New River Valley. The Imagination Library provides a free book monthly to each participating child 0-5 straight to their home. Over 1,600 area children are getting their books monthly, thanks to partners **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Montgomery County** and **Christmas for Children Floyd**.

2023-2024

### MFRL Major Program and Service Partners

- AARP Tax Assistance
- Adventure Clubs of Montgomery County
- American Red Cross
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Montgomery County
- Cardinal News
- Carilion Clinic
- Causeway Community Services (formerly NRVCS)
- Claytor Lake State Park
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Montgomery County
- DMV Connect
- Eastmont Community Foundation
- Floyd County Public Schools
- Friendship Café
- Funeral Consumer Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge
- Head Start of the NRV
- Hokie Electric Vehicle Team
- La Leche League
- Lifelong Learning Institute
- Literacy NRV
- Lyric Theater
- Mill Mountain Zoo
- Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center
- Montgomery County Public Schools
- Montgomery County Social Services
- Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club
- New River Art and Fiber
- New River Blues Society
- New River Community College
- New River Valley Agency on Aging
- NRV CARES
- NRV Resiliency Network
- Palliative Care Center
- Quilts of Valor
- Radford University
- Radford University Occupational Therapy
- Red Sun Farms
- Shawsville Ruritan
- Sustainable Blacksburg
- Sweetgrass Yoga
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Master Naturalists
- Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts
- Virginia Tech Cook Counseling Center
- Virginia Tech CS Squared
- Virginia Tech Mathematics
- Virginia Tech Moss Arts Center
- Virginia Tech NanoEarth
- Volunteer Montgomery
- Wolf Trap Institute
- Women's Resource Center of the NRV