

**WESTCHESTER
SAVES**

\$251 Million by

taking out
items from
the library
instead of
buying them



\$6.7 Million by

attending a library event
instead of
going to a
movie



\$4.3 Million by

using WiFi access at the
library



**INVESTING IN LIBRARIES
PAYS OFF!**

Libraries continue to be warehouses for information with open access—a source of education and power for all.

Adapting to new technologies, libraries have become the place where people can log onto the Internet and email; learn how to download e-books, music and videos; and even charge their cell phones—with the help of the original Search Engine—public librarians!

710.30 FTE Paid Staff
based on 35-hour work week

\$55.6 MILLION
Generated in Personnel Expense

Westchester Library System (WLS) provides cost effective, centralized services out of one location versus each library providing them individually. This includes: Maintaining the network that supports public access computers, the online Integrated Library System (ILS) and a delivery service that allows library users to take out and return books from any of the 44 library locations in Westchester County.



**2018 STATISTICS FOR
WESTCHESTER LIBRARIES**

Library Visits	7,352,711
Library-sponsored Programs	39,998
Library-sponsored Program Attendance	747,246
Reference Transactions	1,488,781
Yearly Hours Open	118,158
Sessions at 815 public use computers	1,109,999
Wireless access uses at 44 Wifi locations	970,486
Interlibrary Loan	956,563
Total Circulation	6,802,461
Items in Libraries' Collections	5,088,228



LIBRARIES INVEST IN THEIR COMMUNITIES!

Libraries not only help those who enter their walls but build strategic partnerships with other community agencies. WLS and the libraries are not direct social service providers; but by distributing information for, increasing awareness of and working with community partners, libraries can help address the growing list of social needs and provide a clearer referral path to the resources available. Here is a sampling of innovative collaborations.

Libraries are uniquely positioned to assist with the goals and objectives to increase awareness of the importance of a complete count for **Census 2020**, the first to allow for online responses. As a trusted institution, libraries can dispel fear and mistrust and remove digital barriers (digital skills, internet and computer access). WLS is actively involved in the Westchester County Complete Count Committee (CCC), and WLS and its member libraries have formed their own CCC. Training is being provided about the 2020 Census questions and how library staff can assist their users—whether via distribution of printed materials, referral to another resource or the use of dedicated Census kiosks.



Westchester Reentry Task Force Resource Guide was produced in collaboration with the County's Reentry Task Force and is designed to serve those returning to Westchester County from State Correctional Facilities.

This guide leverages WLS's participation in several reentry collaborations and the website/information service—

Westchester Connections:
<https://connections.westchesterlibraries.org/>



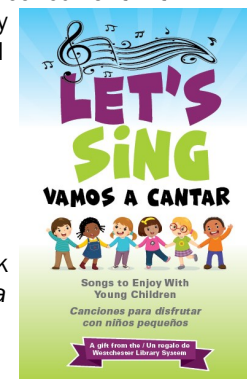
Westchester Resilience Coalition fosters awareness of the impact of trauma and exploration of actions that can prevent and heal trauma. WLS provides **Breath-Body-Mind Workshops** that teach simple techniques for reducing stress, allowing individuals to focus their thoughts and positively engage with the world around them.

The **Empathy-Driven Problem Solving series** focused on the impact of homelessness and housing insecurity on individual behavior and introduced techniques for engaging individuals who can be challenging to service.

As a result of working with the Coalition, “**Kid Zone**” **book carts** were placed in 3 major Department of Social Services offices. These carts offer a distraction for young children accompanying their parents during the process to obtain essential services and an opportunity to promote library resources and early literacy.

In its fourth year, **AARP Foundation** has offered **Tax Preparation** for free at **14** library locations. WLS assists with providing space for training of the volunteers and internet connection at the libraries for the e-filing services for both Federal and State tax returns. About **7,700** Westchester tax payers were helped. By ensuring that tax payers received the refunds due to them and tax credits to which they were entitled, approximately **\$4 million** in disposable income was returned.

WLS promoted an **Early Literacy Outreach** program among library staff concurrent with conducting outreach at early childhood centers and Head Start programs in a number of Westchester Communities. The key aim was to make an active connection between new families and their local library. A bilingual songbook entitled, *Let's Sing/Vamos a Cantar*, was distributed to libraries, partner agencies, hospitals and other venues to build awareness of the importance of early literacy and local library services.



Read Better, WLS's core literacy tutoring service offered in collaboration with Hadassah Westchester, is a companion service to **HSE Connect!** that offers information on pathways and resources for obtaining a high school equivalency (HSE) diploma. *Read Better* volunteer tutors meet adult developing readers at library locations convenient to the student.