



**701 Cocoa Avenue  
Hershey, PA 17033**

December 19, 2017

To our Library Community:

I'm amazed to look around and see that the past six months have flown by and the faces that were once unfamiliar are now a warm reminder of this caring community and committed staff. Our community continues to shine in their volunteer efforts but recently I've been amazed at the generosity focused on the Toys for Tots box at the library. Not only did it fill up with generous contributions, but it filled up 3 times! Our Giving Tree, a program intended to collect hats, scarves and gloves for a local shelter quickly filled up with donations and our initiative to collect personal care items for Love Inc. has our bin overflowing.

And then there's the staff. Library staff directly face both the harsh and beautiful realities of our world. Library work often means introducing kids to their favorite book, celebrating when a patron gets a job, and being a friendly face to welcome folks out of the summer heat and winter cold. Library work sometimes means tactfully referring patrons to a shelter or responding during a behavioral health crisis. Library work always means helping people.

Library thinkers often get stuck focusing on what needs to change or how quickly we need to innovate. Driven by a fear of irrelevancy, it's possible to lose sight of what a rare gem we are to begin with. Each person who works or volunteers in a public library feels a calling to serve, they wouldn't be there otherwise. This time of year, I hope to take time to acknowledge their commitment, as well as the commitment of our Township, to supporting the good work of libraries.

Until next time,

Laura O'Grady

