

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
Report of the Executive Director – September
Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees
October 23, 2025

Barkman Library

New and Unusual Programming:

Marcus Bower helped to plan and implement IdeaCon!



Person in Mandalorian Costume

Outreach:

Barkman Staff wandering into the community:

- September 4th Heaton Middle School Open House Night attended by Ashleigh Campanella
- September 18th Community Outreach Event at “The Place.” Attended by Penny Jerman
- September 26th Pop-up Library event at Minnequa Parks Apartments attended by Ashleigh Campanella
- September 29th and 30th School Lunch Visit at East and Centennial High schools promoting the “Every Teens Book Club” attended by Estela Mungaray, Nick Naranjo, and Marcus Bower.

Reoccurring:

- Belmont Elementary Storytime Visit
- Head start Pre-K Storytime Visit
- Building Blocks Day Care Storytime Visit
- Pueblo Villa Library visit and craft
- Jordan Residential

Idea Forge Makerspace shenanigans:

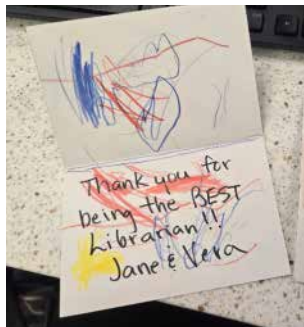
Minifig painting was so popular it has been requested that we continue to support the program!

The inclusion of the Bull during Hispanic Heritage month prompted some great block color creations



Two different pictures of a block color design of a Bull.

Storytime isn't just for kids! One of our grandmothers has such a great time, she helped her grandchildren create a heartwarming thank you card!



Handmade thank you card from two preschoolers and their grandmother.

Our Barky Basket Winner was Jasmine!



Photo of young girl posing with her basket prize.

Giodone Library

Giodone participated in multiple outreach events in September. Lorena started back doing a monthly storytime for Ascension and Thatcher Pre-Schools. We continue our partnership with Avondale Elementary. The library district provides books for the school in exchange the community can pick up holds and checkout books at the school. Lorena hosts a weekly craft at Avondale with an average of 17 students.

South Mesa Elementary invited us to their family night, and Sandy brought our wind tunnel that she received from NASA. She was able to demonstrate how birds fly on wind currents, and it was very popular with the students and their families.

The media tech at the school, Karla Brown, had the following to say about it “Thank you so much for supporting our SME Family Night! We had 101 families attend with a total 478 people in the building for the event! The African Bird craft and wind tunnel were a huge attraction for our families. Thank you so much for your continued support of our school. “



Sandy got a lot of use out of the wind tunnel, and also took it to Vulture Day at the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center. Where she spoke to 58 people about library services.

Lorena's monthly Coffee & Crafts program had a huge turnout. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage month they made Hojalata, or tin art is a form of Mexican folk art made by pressing delicate lines into metal and adding vibrant colors.



Candance created a September Reading Challenge that tied in with the Minecraft program, and helped us to check out more books. Kids can earn tickets by checking out books, and win a Minecraft prize at the program. We gave out 3 prizes, but the best prize was encouraging more kids to read!



In total we had 498 in program attendance. We had 6 public meeting room reservations and 26 study room reservations.

Greenhorn Valley Library

Program Highlights:

September has been a bit more relaxed in the branch as we recover from all our Summer Reading activities and instead focused on supporting IdeaCon and All Pueblo Reads. Other than an IdeaCon Costume Workshop the weekend before the event we stuck with our staple Story Times (one of which had a special chicken guest), Yoga, Family Friday, passive Scavenger Hunt, Magic the Gathering, and Dungeons and Dragons programs while supporting the return of the Happy Hookers fiber arts group, the Science Wednesday homeschool being back in session. One of the regulars at our kids' Dungeons and Dragons group had to move away, but has continued to participate virtually through laptops with webcams. Daytime Book Club discussed Braiding Sweetgrass, and Book Club After Dark wrapped up Final Girls Support Group and worked on selecting our books for next year. Our visit from Hickenlooper's office was not well attended but did have a couple grateful participants.



Outreach:

The Greenhorn Valley Branch really hit outreach hard this month as Ashley began teaching Yoga classes at the elementary school and bringing in library information as well as visiting the middle school and high school at least once a month to spread information about library resources and bringing in some to-go activities. We have continued to attend the SRDA luncheons with Ashley providing crafts and activities for the seniors there, Karaline is working with teachers at different grade levels about the possibility of starting in school book clubs, and I am working with Tech Services to try to figure out a way we could get holds on books for students marked to go to the schools. Additionally, I participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for Congressman Miles Lucero's weekly remote office hours out of Colorado City.

Displays:

This month we had several light Fall reads (and puns), unique magic systems, emergency preparedness, staff picks, and of course Banned Books Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. We are starting to integrate digital materials in our displays when possible. Karaline also suggested we move one of our displays previously used for DVDs and set it up in the children's area for a youth mixed media display which has been an exciting change. Our actor of the month was Jack Black.



Lucero Library

Tina

Highlight: Eva Baca Storytime

Description: I had my first outreach storytime of the new school year at Eva Baca Elementary's preschool class on September 10th. I went in two times (once in the morning and in the afternoon) since the school now has these teachers with two classes in the day. During the second storytime, the school had an incident where a fire started and the fire department and police had to shut down the school while I was reading to the class. I ended up staying a bit longer than I initially planned because of the shutdown. The teachers really appreciated it because the fire prevented them from letting their kids go outside to play and enable their routine to follow as usual. I elongated the session with an activity and talking in depth about what the library does and how they can come visit us at our "new, shiny library" that will open up in October.

Jessica

Description: Did you know we have a Spice Library at the Lucero Library? This is an opportunity for our patrons to "check out" five spices daily to spice up their lives. The only thing patrons need to do is fill out a food waiver. Each packet is about one tablespoon that ranges from saffron, vanilla bean, cumin, ground ginger, and more. Several team members of the Lucero Library and myself processed more than 300 packets in preparation for the reopening of our branch.

Chris

Highlight Youth Program: Snacks for facts

Description: we finished up our snacks for facts program that has the kids bring us a book and read 3 facts or a couple of long paragraphs and they earn three snacks. After the programs ended we spent our time packing up the El Centro, Museum area, and storage areas for our move back to Lucero. We packed, cleaned, and sorted up the collection so everything was ready for the move.

Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library

Program Highlights

- Adult Programming

It's been a busy month for adults and seniors at the Lamb Branch! We created vibrant Northern Lights tie-dye, carved Pueblo chili stamps, and crafted colorful luz del equinoccio alebrije lanterns to celebrate the autumnal equinox. We even experimented with screen printing patches, and while it was messy, it turned out to be both fun and productive.



Multiple patrons enjoying Senior Craft program!



Luz del Equinoccio Alebrije Lanterns

- Teen/Tween Programming

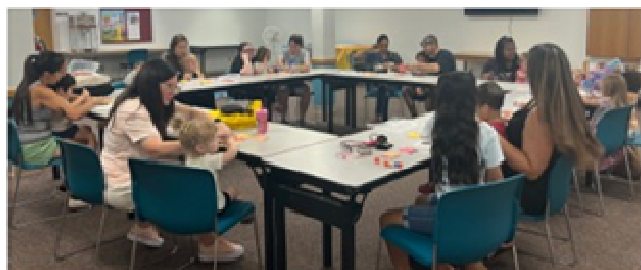
Marshmallow Towers - We closed out September with some friendly competition! The kids were separated and age groups were mixed up encouraging everyone to learn how to work together. It was a grueling hour and a half but they made it to the end and turned out some pretty awesome creations



Teens and Tweens enjoying Marshmallow Creations!

- Children's Programming

Our preschoolers had a wonderful time celebrating the season at a fall-themed storytime! After reading autumn stories, they got creative making their own colorful leaf wreaths to take home. It was a fun way to explore the colors of fall and practice fine motor skills while welcoming the new season!



Toddlers, Preschoolers, and caregivers enjoying stories and crafts!

YMCA:

- Children's Programming

We are fast in the groove of the new school year and the kiddos are doing great! They have picked up on our good morning song and almost all have the sign language and song down. They're always so eager to see what we are reading for the day and happy to participate!

- Adult Programming

The YMCA Creative Workshops just keep growing! This month, 28 participants joined us for a sparkling diamond painting craft and every kit found a home, with no leftovers!

Outreach Highlights

Alva had two highlights for outreach this month, a booth at the Fall Festival, that had a great turnout and provided connection to the community, and the grand opening of the Minnequa Park Apartments pop-up! This was a great success, with over 35 attendees, with Alva gathering valuable feedback from residents about the programs and services they'd like to see in the future.



Patrons having a blast at the Minnequa Pop-Up Library!



Pueblo West Library

Community Display Cases

Pueblo West Women's League Membership Drive Display
Local Job Training & Employment Opportunities Display

Art Exhibits, Estimated Attendance TBD

Mary Wright art and photography exhibit

Pueblo West Library held a total of 122 programs, outreaches, club meetings, technology training, and Kits2Go with a total attendance of 2465.

Program Highlights

Sparkle & Smiles at the Diamond Painting Marathon! 9/23/25

Pueblo West Library hosted a heartwarming Diamond Painting Marathon at Pueblo West Gardens Assisted Living. We turned a rainy Tuesday into a cozy, creative celebration! The library provided new diamond painting kits and residents also brought projects they have already been working on. Thirty-two participants joined in throughout the day to craft, chat, and unwind. Some gathered in the activity room, while others popped in and out from their rooms to snack, ask questions, and soak up the cheerful atmosphere. When the afternoon rain rolled in, the cafeteria surprised everyone with hot cocoa, adding a perfect touch of comfort to a crafting-filled day. One lucky resident who stayed from beginning to end won a brand-new diamond painting kit! Participants will be finishing up their pieces throughout this month and we will be framing everyone's finished artwork during our next visit on October 21. We can't wait to see the dazzling results. All of this wonderfulness was made possible by a generous grant from our Friends of the Library!

UFOs - The Physics and History Behind the Phenomenon 9/24/25

A wildly popular presentation on UFOs was held on September 24. CSU professor Lei Marquez presented on the history and physics behind the phenomena. This led to a lengthy and exuberant discussion afterwards amongst the attendees. With 34 patrons in attendance, it was the most well-attended adult program of the year thus far, and was funded by a Friends of the Library lifelong learning grant.



Minecraft Mania! 9/23/25

45 kids attended our Minecraft Mania party! The kids enjoyed Minecraft-themed crafts, The Minecraft movie, and a ton of popcorn! The kids raved about how fun the party was.



Prairie Winds Resource Fair

Ray Packard attended the Prairie Winds Elementary resource fair. She got to tell students and parents about the awesome programs at the library! The kids were excited to receive a free book and a prize from the treasure chest.



Prairie Winds Elementary B&GC:

Ray Packard brought a fun stained "glass" craft to the kids at the Boys & Girls Club. The kids enjoyed the craft and used their creativity to make beautiful stained "glass".



Adult Craft: DIY Earrings

The Adults enjoyed making earrings using a variety of materials. Shrinky Dinks, Beads, and puzzle pieces!



Dungeons & Dragons 9/20/25

Our party of adventurers made a daring escape out of the dangerous under dark, but lost a party member along the way. Fun was had by all.



Tech Services

DIRECTOR:

- Jill Kleven attended OCLC Day in Denver on September 16th. It was a gathering of Colorado OCLC libraries and different products were discussed. The library will be moving to a hosted EZ Proxy solution that will also have Analytics as part of it.
- Jill and Thomas DeFrates continued to work with Message Bee, the new phone and email patron notification system through UMS. Marketing emails will be a part of it and hopefully there will be a rollout by the end of 2025.
- Jill met with Katherine McLeod and Alva Claussen to discuss material delivery to schools in their area.
- Jill and Jerry Vigil met with the Risley principal to discuss opportunities for partnering with Lucero. School visits, promoting Connect Ed, and database trainings are all being discussed.
- The security gates at Barkman and Lucero are finally operational and are producing the gate count.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:

- Elizabeth Flores, Theia Bravo, and Jill met to put together their Staff Day presentation of Tech Services Trivia.
- Danielle Cowles and Jill met with Jeff Clark from Hoopla to discuss usage over the past year and different ways to reduce cost.
- All of the final Opening Day Collection has been sent to Lucero.

DIGITAL RESOURCES:

- Danielle has been working on cancelling more underused and expensive databases. Chiltons and Data Axle are both being cancelled.
- Danielle has also been working on her Staff Day presentation on Digital Resources.

CATALOGING:

- Peggy Bilger and Jill met with Susan Gusteverson, our OCLC cataloging rep to discuss how the project went overall and how the process is working. There are a few workflow issues that still need to be addressed.

DEVICES:

- Theia sent out the adult hotspots that have low level filtering on them. The CIPA committee met to discuss the juvenile filtering and those should be sent out for circulation in the next few weeks.

Local History & Genealogy

PROGRAMS

HRC

Bilingual Storytime: 32

Beginner English Class: 36

English Conversation Class: 29

Beginner Spanish Class: 27

Language Hangout: 3

Citizenship Class: 9

Intermediate English Class: 7

Latino Book Festival: 130

Día de los Abuelos: 50

Tea and Makes with Kathy: 20

The Latino Book Festival was held on Saturday, September 27th. The event was publicized through PCCLD social media and print marketing throughout the District. The event was also placed on the Colorado Public Radio events calendar, leading to the event being announced over the radio. Local authors Juan Morales, Lulu Buck, and Mariella Saavedra Carquin presented in the Ryals room on their work and processes of writing. Lunch was provided in the Ryals room, with musical entertainment provided by Bob Martinez on guitar.

Along with our authors, we offered Bookbinding and Screen printing on Latino themes in the Makerspace. A zine workshop was held in the Thurston room, and an open mic poetry reading was held in the Ryals room in the afternoon where local authors and the general public performed their own works.

An exciting addition to the lineup this year was the local author book bazaar, set up on the 4th floor. Deborah Martinez Martinez, Antonio Farias, Karen D. Gonzales, Myriam Lozano, Rita Moreno Prince, Audrey Santos, Belinda Garcia, and Amaurente Montez all attended and had tables set up where they sold their works. This feature of the event encouraged networking among the authors, a feature that several commented on positively.

Department

Tabitha worked IdeaCon 2025 on September 10, 2025.

Archives

Digital Memory Lab Open Hours: 1

GEN programs:

- House Histories (For Southeastern Colorado Gen. Society @ Pueblo West, 9/13 - 7
- Ask A Genealogist - 9/23 - 1

Total Attendance (in person): 352

OUTREACH

PCCLD tabling event @ Pueblo Community College - 9/27 - 130

Aaron tabled the Fiesta de la Pantera event on the campus of Pueblo Community College. Aaron spoke to 130 attendees on things like accessing/using the Library's app and accessing electronic resources, upcoming programs and events, and research topics.

D60 Teacher Training @ Pueblo West High School - 9/26 - 25

Aaron led a training session for D60 middle school and high school teachers (social studies/history). Aaron went over archival and non-archival materials held at PCCLD and online through PCCLD, as well as non-PCCLD resources available online. Aaron included information on primary sources literacy instruction and history research and

methods. The focus of this session was to make instructors aware of resources that they could incorporate into their classrooms.

Blake Hatton met virtually with Maria Tucker and Katy Gross from the Santa Fe Public Library to discuss the needs of an institution implementing a Digital Memory Lab.

INREACH

Aaron worked with Alyssa Vargas Lopez, Terri Daly, and Sherri Baca to draft and publish the Communication Survey, which opened at the end of the month. The survey would close on 10/03.

SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Shared Memories

- An additional training at the Trinidad Public Library was scheduled for early November.
- Installation and training on a static memory lab was scheduled for early November at Pueblo West.
- Work continued on the Shared Memories Project website.

Genealogy Projects

- Put up display on yearbooks
- Customer consultation, 9/3
- Shelved new books and returned bindery books from Peggy
- Exchanged over 30 emails with customer new to Hispanic and New Mexico research
- Worked on lesson plan for scout genealogy badge
- Researched privacy rights of the deceased - relevant to the T.G. McCarthy mortuary ledgers
- Shifting genealogy reference collection to incorporate census indexes and lineage society books

Digital Archives

- Metadata for the Glen Canyon rock art donation completed. Approximately 280 images, now published and globally accessible on ContentDM.

Physical Archives

- John Korber Business Buildings binders scanned through volume 73.
- Have obituary pdf files added to the database through the G's.
- Have completed 1961 Birth Index and am over halfway through 1962 Birth Index.

Archival Reference Sessions: 12

Experiential Learning

Makerspace Services

Artist in Residence

Rain had some days with lower attendance, but much of their programs and open studio times saw people who were quite excited and told me that they're art and classes were just wonderful! Rain taught people not only how to work with Posca markers, but also some basic drawing techniques for getting your drawings to come out more the way you envision them. Even when their classes only had a few people, I saw those few eagerly asking questions and utilizing their expansive knowledge of art and drawing to further their own craft. I have even had some patrons emailing me questions about drawing and various mediums that have kept the conversation going beyond the class! Rain truly captured the imagination of several of their students, and the end of their residency was bittersweet. We will have to bring them back for some more classes here and there come next year!

IdeaCon

In the early moments of the event, we were a bit worried about attendance numbers, but fortunately they picked up in the afternoon. It was loads of fun, the variety of events we had on offer meant there was something for everyone and lots of people went out of their way to let me know that the event was super awesome! We had some of the vendors report really good sales, and Sydney reported that over a thousand buttons were made at her station, with the button making and pin trading being quite popular! The community partners we were able to bring in for the event really enjoyed it, and I saw lots of them have deep conversations with passersby. Over all, I received a lot of positive feedback from various folks that were a part of or just attending the event. I did get some suggesting that we offer it in November so that it would be easier for our folks from the farms to participate since their work is pretty done for the year at that point and they can focus on costumes and fun a lot easier then. One conversation I had with a local teen was especially notable. This teen in particular always comes to the library and this year was her first year entering the cosplay competition. She was so excited to tell me about her outfit and show me other art that she likes to create. She was very inspired by the event. There were many other teens who I saw having the time of their life in the library and this was especially touching considering this was who the event was originally intended for when I worked on this event when I was a teen. The vendors were also equally as appreciative of our efforts for putting this on and Sharon and I received a kind, heartfelt letter following the event.

3D Printing Classes

These went really well. The first one had a lot of attendance, and while figuring out how best to help everyone learn has been a bit of a learning curve, Jeremy from Thinker's Alchemy has been doing an amazing job and patrons have been talking about his class all month saying that they really learned a whole lot from him!

Museum Services

Programs:

9/6/25 Dia de los Abuelos (Tortilla Demonstration): With the Tortilla Making Kit based out of Museum Services, I provided demonstrations of traditional tortilla making to include a brief history of traditional cooking tools. In addition to the demonstration, participants were able to take home a baggie full of ingredients to make their own at home. This was a great multigenerational activity and allowed grandparents, parents, and children to bond and share their own stories of tortilla making.

9/18/25 Ristra Making: This fan favorite class filled up immediately and nearly everyone showed up for this event. In the planning of this event, I was very fortunate to meet Rocky Musso from Musso farms, who kindly gave us a significant discount on the supplies for this program. The participants were so happy to take home this year's ristra made with Pueblo chiles and even learned a new method compared to the method used last year.

9/20/25 Leather Basics with Sonya: Sonya has consistently filled up her leather basics class. Every participant has left not only with a new pouch or card holder, but with skills using heavy duty hole punchers for grommets and hammers. Participants have appreciated the opportunity to make something new.

9/25/25 Latino/a/x Book Festival (Zine Making): While many participants were locked in with the amazing author talks on the 4th floor, my part of the program was intimate and fun. One patron, who was at the library for a whole other reason, came in as she felt drawn to my presence and activity. She sat and we talked, as we talked I learned that she was a part of a coalition in Colorado dedicated to encouraging youth to go outdoors.

Exhibits

SRDA Art Show

Artist Alley

Banned...Why?

Expressions of a Native Son

Outreach

9/2/25 American Numismatic Association: I met with this local museum to discuss how we could connect our resources. They informed me of the digital exhibits they have online and expressed that they would be open to creating non-object focused exhibits. I was also introduced to the librarian at this time and he informed me about all that his library had to offer.

9/3/25 US Olympic & Paralympic Museum: I met with this local museum to explore what they had to offer at their site and see how we could collaborate.

9/3/25 Pueblo County Historical Society: I traveled down the street to meet with the new director at the museum. We shared some contacts that supported upcoming events and plan to continue to work with one another for the 150/250 celebration.

9/25/25 Temple Emanuel: I met with Temple Emanuel to discuss our plans for Americans and the Holocaust. We plan to continue to meet as things progress to include our Jewish community throughout the process of planning programs around this exhibit.

Circulation Services

September was a busy month for circulation as we supported IdeaCon, the Latinx book festival, COHS Graduation, and the wanderers coming in from the Chile and Frijole festival! We are promoting Hispanic Heritage month with book and wall displays throughout September and into October. As always, the Call Center and meeting rooms were very busy, and I have finished visiting all branch locations to train on library card making best practices and updated Call Center procedures. Whew!



User Services

YOUTH PROGRAMS: ***Family Program***



Our first ever Dia de los Abuelos program received positive feedback from the 58 in attendance. They were able to have their picture taken to add to a special booklet for grandparents.

Tween/ Teen



The September Centralized Tween Program was "Minecraft Mania," drawing an attendance of 35 participants. *Picture Above shows tweens working on special Minecraft themed activities while they watch the movie.*



A special family storytime time was done in honor of National Family Day. It included a special visit from the famous sisters, Bluey & Bingo, and drew a crowd of 275!

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Library to You and Aging Adult Programming



A hand drawn dark blue floral geometric image on a white background. The Tea & Makes program celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by making a Talavera tile poster. Participants of all ages also enjoyed conchas, horchata, and te de Jamaica

Adult Literacy Program



Graduates stand in blue caps and gowns in a line facing a group of applauding friends, family, and dignitaries. This year's COHS graduation was a resounding success, and we're so proud of our graduates!!

Technology Support and Services - Vacant Position

Open Lab continues to be attended by community members who need digital literacy support. The lab is staffed by one Adult Services staff person and the Digital Navigator Juliann.

Reference Services:

The Author Talk "Grannies with Gusto!" featuring local author, Carol Fortino, who shared poetry she has written about her experience with aging, womanhood, and more!



Picture above: Six people sitting in a row, with one person standing in front of them. The third person sitting is reading aloud from a book while everyone is following along.

OUTREACH:

CSU-Pueblo Pop-Up Reference Librarian outreach—34 people came up to the Reference Librarian to ask about PCCLD programs, services, and other reference questions. In particular, Students asked about library programs happening District-wide (APR), and a couple of random questions about how to cite sources in a paper, and finding textbooks online for free.

Facilities

Work Order Statistics

- 493 Work Orders Completed

Barkman

- Worked on getting HVAC unit repaired.

Giodone

- Planted donated trees.

Greenhorn

- Wasp removal.
- Installed new refrigerator.
- Installed new lights.

Lucero

- Installed new refrigerator.
- Stand up Lucero.
- Installed several televisions.
- Installed bike and skateboard racks.
- Installed evacuation maps.
- Moved furniture and supplies to location.
- Moved statue to location.

- Installed shelves in the AMH room.
- Moved exhibit walls.

Pueblo West

- Completed roof project.

Rawlings

- Serviced generator.
- Replaced café water filter.
- Serviced ice machine.

Other projects/duties – District

- Closed up El Centro location.
- Supported Corporate Cup.
- Repaired courier van.
- Supported Idea Con

Volunteer Hours

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of September

ADULTS	192.00 HOURS
TEENS	7.50 HOURS
BOOKS AGAIN	1169.36 HOURS
BOD TRUSTEES	20.00 HOURS
TOTAL HOURS	1388.86 HOURS
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS	\$48,318.44

Thank You Messages

Rawlings Library

“Katalina did an amazing job at the Latino authors event. She put a unique spin! Very enjoyable.

-Theresa Kosak – Pueblo, CO

“Great Place. Great Stuff.

-Anonymous

“There is such a wonderful buzz coming from the Youth Section of the library! A baby read-a-loud, children playing with stuffies and learning toys, children selecting book. Was an enjoyable sight. You have a beautiful and inviting children’s library.

-Michelle Rodriguez – Denver, CO

Tabitha Davis “Thank you so much for finding the obituary announcements for me. I really appreciate it! Thank you, again.”

-Lynn Gratiot

Tabitha Davis “Thank you so much. Until today I didn’t know that I had two aunts in Yugoslavia! Sadly, they have probably passed.”

-Daniel Slak

Tabitha Davis “Wow! This is wonderful! Thank you for going above and beyond and finding these other notices. I appreciate it.”

Irene Winterburn

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Baca
Executive Director

