

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
Report of the Executive Director – February
Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees
March 26, 2026

Barkman Library

There was so much happening this month and it is near impossible to get it all in this report.

February Program Highlights:

Storytimes are always busy. Our highest attendance has been 42 amazing attendees and during the week of the 27th we ran out of craft kits and had to emergency make more! The kids especially like the “after” Storytime visiting because that is when our storytellers bring out the Legos and blocks. Sometimes the kids really enjoy playing together in a more social setting than they do working with the crafts. Due to a large amount of illnesses among the staff, several of the Storytimes were covered by a different Barkman Team member who was not aware of the routine. Our staunch supporter of all things blocks, Henry, was sure to tell the substitute programmer the “correct” way to finish the program. Two different parents said they enjoyed Storytime because of the activities!



Storytime participants writing LOVE in paint.



Student protestors against I.C.E walking by Barkman

Our Maker Space continues to be used by many. The Nintendo Switch is in consistent demand. We have many teens and families often utilizing the chess set and it was the scene this month for a new program: Board Game Academy: Learn to play and then come back to practice with others. Wingspan was our first board game of the program.



Marcus Bower teaching 3 people how to play Wingspan.



Estella teaching a group of 4 boys how to play with the Nintendo Switch.

Barkman hosted a local author, Emiliano Trujillo who recently published a new book, “El Vaquero.” Participants were treated to a partial reading from the new book and were able to speak with the author about future projects.

Our “Valentine’s Day Treats” program was hugely successful as we discovered an excellent way to keep the chocolate melted for easy access and use. Everyone went home on a sugar high.



Teen girl making funny faces at the camera while decorating cookies for Valentine’s Day.

New Signs and holes in the wall? February saw the addition of signs added to the outside of the building in three places. The front, the side facing Jerry Murphy Rd and a special backlit sign facing Bonforte Blvd. The front and sign facing the Jerry Murphy were easily placed, but the one facing Bonforte Blvd, was a bit of a logistical challenge for both Houston, their contractors, and the Barkman Team.



Front of the library building featuring new sign "Barkman Library."



Side of the building for new sign being prepared by workman.



Hole in wall with electric cords hanging out.



Sign needing backlight on side of building needing wall work in children's room.



Patrick the starfish picture of wood nailed to head left by workmen.

Finally, our Barkie Basket winner was Samantha Muniz!
She got to take home a themed “Self-Care” basket.

Giodone Library

Outreach – Lorena conducted a weekly story and craft at Avondale Elementary with an average of 16 students. Lorena presented Storytimes to Thatcher Preschool – 18 students.

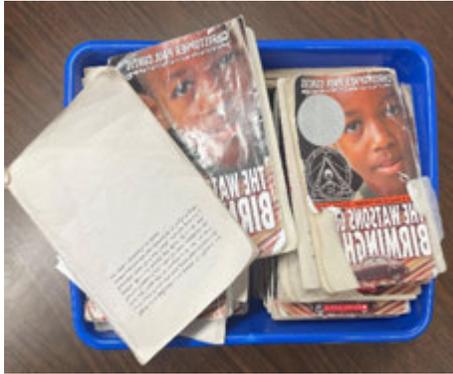
Program Highlights –

The weekly Tai Chi class is seeing higher attendance (averaging 20 students per week). The weekly Tween/Teen hangout has been seeing increasing numbers and averaged 16 per program. Crochet Club logged a record 22 attendees one week, with a monthly average of 17 members. The Junior Book Club celebrated the theme and conclusion of their first book by inviting therapy dogs and their people, for an engaging opportunity with time for Q and A.

Community Partnership-

South Mesa Elementary’s Library Technician requested a replacement classroom set of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, which Technical Services supplied. See her response when they arrived:

Thank you so much for replacing our beloved classroom set of "Watsons go to Birmingham"! The students literally cheered when I brought them into the room!



The school's set (Before)



Students happily reading (After)

Library IQ

The non-fiction reading preferences of Giodone patrons last year were: Technology (907 items), The Arts, fine and decorative arts (625 items), and Natural Sciences and Mathematics (561), in 2025.

Subject	Dewey	Circulation Last 12 Months	% Total Circulation	Current Items	% Total Collection	% No Circ in 3 Years	Weeding List
Technology	600	907	25.65	283	20.47	0	0
The arts, fine & decorative arts	700	625	17.68	212	15.34	0.47	1
Natural sciences & mathematics	500	561	15.86	255	18.45	0	0
Social sciences	300	440	12.44	204	14.76	0	0
History & geography	900	298	8.42	139	10.05	0	0
Philosophy & psychology	100	229	6.47	82	5.93	0	0
Religion	200	125	3.53	42	3.03	0	0
Language	400	124	3.50	47	3.40	23.40	11
Computer science, information & general works	0	113	3.19	44	3.18	0	0

Summary

In total we had 476 in program attendance, 38 public meeting room reservations, and 36 study room reservations.

Greenhorn Valley Library

Program Highlights:

Special Events

It was Greenhorn Valley's turn to host our **Past Present Paint!** Workshop with SOAR where library patrons got to create their own tiny canvases to become part of a

community mural while the featured artist talked to them about what the area meant to them. In order to inspire the above amazing artwork. Currently we have it on display in our branch but it will be part of the art show at Rawlings in June-July!



Youth/Family:



This month we hosted our weekly story time programs, themed Family Fridays including a Valentine's theme AND some anti-Valentines theme crafts, and our kids' D&D sessions resumed where they have now embarked on The Odyssey and got to enjoy sacking Troy.

Teen/Adult:

We had a very busy February for our teen and up crowd with Sip N' Stroke, a special earring making program, two incidents of a pop-up program for miniature painting, D&D After Dark, our regular 3 times a week yoga programs, the daytime book club discussing The Invisible Life of Addie Larue, Book Club After Dark's reading of The

Irresistible Urge to Fall for Your Enemy. Our Tech Help program has also picked up popularity and we were able to help multiple patrons make e-mail accounts, optimize their computers, learn internet basics, and some even made career website profiles and applied for jobs.



Outreach:

Ashley continued to do outreach at our local community center as well as the high school and middle school, bringing crafts, books, marketing, and a system to make library cards or help place holds. She and Karaline are also beginning preparations for an after-school program they will be starting at the elementary school where they'll be providing different STEM activities and educational materials.

Displays:

For February we made sure to honor Black History Month with informational nonfiction books, an assortment of black history and culture focused movies, and a special highlight of our materials relating to Martin Luther King Jr. In order to recognize current events, we had a special highlight on Buddhism for the Walk for Peace that was taking place and had a Catherine O'Hara memorial display. We also had some fun with Valentine's Day for kids, anti-valentine's movies for adults, and a silly love triangle trope romance genre display!



Lucero Library

Tina

Highlight: Jam packed day of events on February 20th

Description: On February 20th we had two incredible events available for patrons: a puppet show and our first after hours event. Dave and Noah from Puppet Tales came to hold our first puppet show, highlighting Winnie the Pooh's 100th birthday! The crowd laughed, clapped and celebrated Pooh as well as a little boy (Gabriel) who was also

celebrating a birthday that day. It was so special for him! Later in the evening, we held our first after hours program (in the new library) with the first installation of "Stories on Stage" a performance concept in collaboration with the NAACP, Rocky Mountain Creative Experience and the Arts Alliance for Health out of CSU Boulder. The event was titled, "We Speak: A Celebration of Black Storytelling", where three speakers performed personal works as well as published works honoring aspects of the Black experience. We had a great turnout with both adults and children in attendance. The performers held a Q&A during the last 15 minutes which led to a fascinating discussion about literacy, developing poems, creative writing, historical values and moments that led to this production. It was well worth the work it took to plan and coordinate it all!



Jessica

Highlight Adult Program: Savory Spice Blends: DIY Bacon & Ranch Dips

Description: On February 12, I hosted a hands-on culinary workshop titled "Savory Spice Blends: DIY Bacon & Ranch Dips." The goal of the session was to teach patrons how to move away from pre-packaged seasoning packets by blending their own high-quality herb and spice mixes from scratch. Patrons particularly enjoyed the sensory experience of using a mortar and pestle to crush bouillon cubes. Everyone was excited to experiment with the new blends with the recipes provided.

Chris

Highlight Youth Program: Valentines Box

Description: I had the kids put together a Valentine Box that they could decorate and add a bow to. They were able to place a 3D heart or a magnetic heart inside the box with a mini stuffed animal and some Hershey's kisses. They were very creative and were making them for their grandmas, teachers, moms, and for themselves. We also made chocolate covered strawberries and marshmallows. We had our monthly bingo game where I let the kids pull the numbers and call out. The Ping Pong ball challenge was fun. The kids had to see how many balls they could make inside of the cups. For my comedy program I have the kids write some jokes and pick a funny movie or cartoon to watch. Mystery boxes will test their memory skills by placing items in the correct spot after revealing where they go. They can win prizes depending on how many items they can remember.

Branch Highlight:

Highlight Program: Risley Tours Continue & BALC Report

Description: Morning tours with Risley International Academy of Innovation continue to build strong momentum. More than 210 students visited the library this month, with many already checking out materials during their tour. This partnership is fostering early library engagement and deepening meaningful community connections.

In addition, Books A la Cart has provided more than 1,700 books to the community over the past two months. This service has been a strong collaboration between Tech Services and our courier team, ensuring materials are efficiently delivered and accessible to those who need them most.

Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library

Program Highlights

- Adult Programming

February's programming celebrated both Black History Month and Valentine's Day through creative, hands-on activities. Participants explored the work of Black artists Simone Leigh and Augusta Savage, which sparked thoughtful discussions about representation and body image before inspiring attendees to create their own expressive sculptures. Additional activities included making heart-shaped seed paper that can be planted to grow flowers, practicing Japanese stab binding with decorative music papers in a celebration of the love of music, and studying African batik patterns before designing and creating batik-inspired cloth. These programs blended cultural learning with artistic exploration and were warmly received by participants.



- Teen/Tween Programming

Teen/Tween Night Spotlight - Button Up Art: The best button makers that you ever did see! We dove into some National Geographic magazines, button style this month, and kids couldn't have created more unique wearables!



- Children's Programming

Youth programming this month focused on themes of friendship and love, explored through the fascinating world of slimy creatures such as snails, slugs, frogs, and earthworms. Children enjoyed stories, songs, and hands-on activities that introduced these animals in fun and engaging ways. The highlight for many was a special water table session featuring frogs and floating lily pads.

YMCA:

- Children's Programming

Storytimes at the YMCA included winter themes such as penguins and polar bears, Valentines Day, and Library Lovers Month.

- Adult Programming

Adult YMCA programs included the Creative Workshops where patrons handmade Valentines Day cards and the Book Club at the Y, with this month's book being "Winter Counts" by David Heska Wanbli Weiden.

Outreach Highlights

Our second outreach visit to Pueblo Diversified Industries (PDI) was a great success. This month participants tried needle felting, enjoying the chance to choose their own wool colors and shapes as they created their projects. The activity sparked creativity and conversation, and everyone had a wonderful time exploring this new fiber art together.

Promotions

Lamb promoted Library Lover's month by encouraging checkouts with a drawing for several Library themed tote bags designed by staff! Patrons were engaged all month long at both the Lamb and Library at the Y locations.



Pueblo West Library

Community Display Cases

Pueblo West Women's League Winter Fundraising Display
Winter of Reading Display

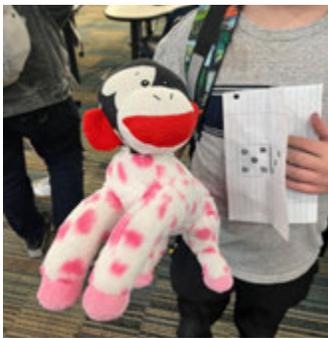
Art Exhibits, Estimated Attendance 523

Paintings by Bradley Bowman

Pueblo West Library held a total of 114 programs, outreaches, club meetings, technology training, and Kits2Go with a total attendance of 2638.

2/10/26 Tween Hangout: Anti-Valentine's Day

The tweens enjoyed creating monstrous creations by cutting stuffed animals and sewing them into franken monsters! The youth were surprised at first that they were able to cut off the heads of the stuffies but got into it after a while and had a great time creating their monstrosities! They were super happy to be able to take their creations home with them!



2/18/26 Foreign Film: Amal

Showed the movie *Amal*, which was in Arabic and French and was about a teacher going against the grain with her teaching methods. One of the attendees brought popcorn and candy to share and two people said it was a wonderful movie.

2/19/26 Cozy Sensory Story Time: Colors!

Sensory storytime has regulars! The kids who attend look forward to a cozy and fun story time. During this story time we read books about colors including *Dogs Colorful Day!* The kids were excited to be able to add the spots to the dog on the felt board as he collected them throughout the book. The kids used play doh to create colorful animals on play doh play mats.

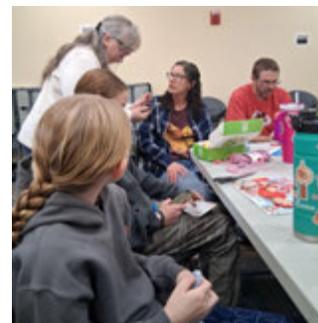
2/13/26 Valentine's Day Party

Patrons enjoyed a variety of Valentine's Day crafts and activities. They painted, decorated cookies, created magnets and used a variety of materials to create Valentine's Day cards. The patrons were grateful to the library for providing a fun program.



2/14/26 Yarn Hoarders Crochet Club

Highest attendance to date (12 returning members). Members prepared for the March crochet exhibit at PW Library. Crochet magazine resources were shared and members mentored one another on their projects. Projects ranged from beginner to advanced: Bunny, octopus, sweater vest, scarf, cowl, dog sweater, hat, fidgets. Crochet club is a collaborative, intergenerational, skill-building environment.



2/26/26 Adult Craft: Basquiat-Inspired Mixed Media Art Creations!

The Adult crafters created multimedia art pieces using paint, magazines, pastels and more. Each patron created a unique and awesome art piece or two! They expressed how much fun they had creating the art. They were thankful for the craft and asked to have more art projects like it in the future.



2/26/26 Capella Assisted Living Outreach

Residents completed a multi-step shamrock wreath craft that required focus and fine motor skills. Though more challenging than usual, all participants persevered and finished their wreaths. Several shared that it was “really fun.” Outreach continues to provide enriching library experiences to those unable to visit the building.



Tech Services

DIRECTOR:

- Jill Kleven and Danielle Cowles gave a presentation on Staff Development Day on Digital Resources and return on investment.
- Jill helped Jerry Vigil with his outreaches at Lucero. They met with over 400 students.
- Jill attended the Special Districts Association Leadership Academy’s first meeting on February 25th. There will be four additional follow up meetings throughout the year.
- Jill is continuing to work with UMS and Bywater on launching Message Bee.

- Thomas DeFrates, Jill, and IT staff met with Bibliotheca to discuss the ongoing issues with customer support and inaccurate data.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:

- February had the highest number of digital circulations ever for the district.
- PCCLD's secondary print vendor announced they would not be able to fulfill orders in 2026 which leaves one vendor Ingram. Jill, Elizabeth Flores, and Peggy Bilger will be meeting with smaller print vendors to help supplement orders.

ILS/DEVICES:

- Theia Bravo and Jill worked on the Chromebook RFP. That will be launching in March.
- Theia has been working to clean up Koha in order to run accurate reports for Finance and PLAR.

Local History & Genealogy

PROGRAMS

HRC

Bilingual Storytime: 13

Beginner English Class: 3

Intermediate English Class: 12

Advanced English Class: 2

Beginner Spanish Class: 33

Citizenship Class: 9

Archives Programs:

Jewish History Scanning Day: 1

LHG staff welcomed the public to digitize materials special to them. One participant digitized material from a local Jewish temple.

Total Attendance (in person): 73

SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Conducted interviews for the Archivist: Exhibitions & Education and invited two finalists to present in March as a form of second/final interview.

Conducted site-visits with Digital Archivist and Local History & Genealogy Librarian finalists

Installed the Pueblo Brain Injury Group art show, 2/27

Genealogy Projects

- Genealogy consultations: 1 on 2/12/26 with Bev Kinahan
- Finalist for the Local History & Genealogy Librarian

Physical Archives Projects

Joy

- Completed inventory list of PUE & PUC maps
- Completed shelf read of PUE & PUC maps
- Printed out PUE & PUC map list for archives reference desk
- Completed labeling filing cabinets in vault
- Refiled Myron Wood photos on cart into filing cabinets
- Began cross-references of Myron Wood photos to Photo File Index
- Organized Oversize books by call number
- Shelved newspapers in miscellaneous boxes in the processing area to their home locations

Tabitha

- Completed labeling Business Building files through volume 74.
- Online obituaries entered through Johanson.

Archival Reference Sessions:

- Vault Visits: 27

HRC Projects

Katalina

- Planned for a cross-department collaboration for Day of the Child and Book

Feedback from Patrons:

Tabitha:

Thank you, Tabitha. I really appreciate your help on this. Have a great day Richard Kottenstette.

Hello, Thank you so very much. This really means a lot to us. Thank you for your time, Brandi Solis.

Thank you for your timely reply. Mr. Dubin was a favorite teacher of mine at South High School in the 70's. He and I stayed in touch for a few years, but life, as usual, got in the way. Not being in Colorado when he passed away, I was unable to attend the celebration of his life. He was a Good man, an excellent educator and a fine mentor. Thank you again Ms. Davis, for taking the time to aid my search. - Chuck Cochran. Thank you so much for your help and in keeping history just an email away. - Andrea Shirley

Tabitha. Thank you very much for the notice. Jerry Jones

Thank you so much for your due diligence in this matter. Your work is appreciated. I truly appreciate this!

Sincerely, Jacqueline Sedberry, *Communications & Training Expert*

Experiential Learning

Makerspace Services

February Programs in the Makerspace

This month, we brought back sewing, which had an incredible turn out! Over 20 people came to learn to sew bags and pot holders. We try to not turn away people but this was nearly too many for Catie and our volunteer Missy to handle.

Our regular programs continue to increase in attendance as well- we now have a regular attendance of 8 folks for our craft along audiobook club, as well as a dedicated following for our tabletop gaming group, still working on learning the new mechanics for a brand-new version of a D20 dice roleplaying game- as well as Magic the Gathering. Along with the Society for Creative Anachronism meeting with us once a month, our Wednesday nights are hopping!

3D Printing is also taking off in a big way. We were able to get 3 printers this month: 2 brand-new from the Adelante grant and 1 used, and with the help of our contract employee and a volunteer they are now all up and running! We have figured out the cost per print and will be able to accept community print jobs again. Our 3d print classes continue to be extremely popular and Jeremy from Thinker's Alchemy is a wonderful and patient teacher, happily taking the discussion wherever the group wants to go. Our attendance regularly tops 20 for those classes as well.

Finally, our 3-month Fiber Arts series is still going strong- Mel, our presenter, has taken the group through making their own drop spindles, learning to spin the yarn, making a Lazy Kate to remove the yarn from the spindles, and making a niddy noddy to put the yarn on. Next up? Plying. Those classes are always full, with a 15-20 person wait list. Yes, there is a theme here- we are very busy and popular in the makerspace. We definitely each could use another set of hands!

Holocaust Exhibit

The Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit officially opened on February 4th. During the month of February, 12 docents showed 826 patrons through the exhibit, which aims to answer the questions: What did Americans know? And: What more could have been done?

We also hosted 3 Speaker Series events: on the 8th, 15th, and 22nd. They covered topics on Anti- Semitism, featured speakers who were second-generation Holocaust survivors, and discussed the history and architecture of Temple Emmanuel and Binai Hebrew Cemetery. All told, 90 people attended.

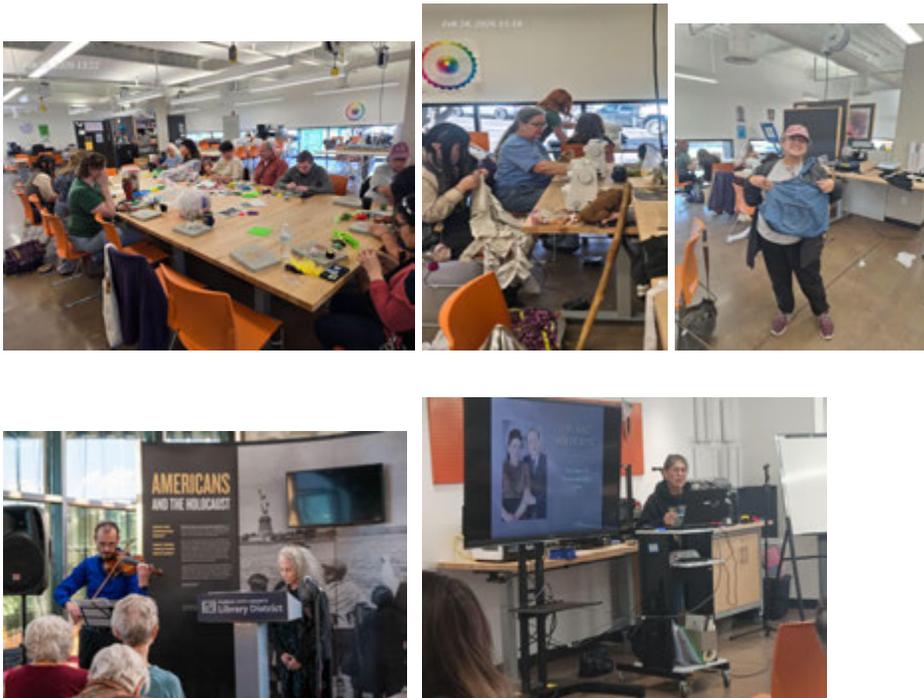
Our reception for the exhibit was beautiful and meaningful, with a rabbi and violinist coming from Denver to perform a remembrance and blessing of the exhibit. Many were moved to tears. WE are so grateful that we were chosen to host this work.

We also have begun our season at the library and we started big with a tour from Nettie Fried- 70 8th graders who came not only to visit the entire library but to also learn about the Holocaust, media, and how the American people could have done more to help out. We also hosted CSU-Pueblo students from 4 different history classes for tours and discussion of the exhibit.

Circulation Services

February is a short month, but not a slow one! We still saw over 200 groups using our meeting rooms for everything from the tours to the girl scouts ramping up for their annual cookie drives to Toastmasters working on their speeches, to CSU-Extension giving gardening classes to homeschool groups. The first floor of Rawlings is always a busy, noisy, and thriving place, and we try our best to be library ambassadors of the first quality to everyone who walks into our spaces.

Pictures!



User Services

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Big Events:

The teens celebrated Anti-Valentine's Day with crafts, snacks, and a visit from the local news!



On the left four teens are busy making Anti-Valentine's Day buttons, and on the right teens are making buttons while being filmed for the news.

The teen Blind Date with a Book display was featured on Pueblo School District 60's Facebook page, which also highlighted the Anti-Valentine's Day program.



Library staff members Tiffany Pettigrew and Nick Potter are shown holding Blind Date with a Book books behind the display in the teen area.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Technology Support and Services

This month Tea and Tech was continued with 27 total number of tech related interactions. Saw 19 1 to1 appointments within February. Began outreach with Lamb Library to be hosting an open tech lab there once a month.

Reference Services



In February we celebrated Library Lovers Month by having a Library Lovers Pop-up every Monday afternoon on the 2nd floor at Rawlings. Our Reference Librarian signed patrons up for library cards, answered questions, helped find books, and much more!

Library to You and Aging Adult Programming

From a 93-year-old e-audiobook user in the Library To You Homebound Program: "my eyes don't work so well, but I can listen...this is a wonderful service"



On the left are large watercolor flowers in purple, orange, yellow, red, and blue. On the right are small watercolor flowers in blue, yellow, pink, and orange. Painted at the Learn Along Watercolor program in the Rawlings Makerspace on February 17.

Facilities

Work Order Statistics

- 348 Work Orders Completed

Barkman

- Removed old Barkman sign and move shelving for new signs.

Pueblo West

- Replaced men's restroom door.
- Repaired leaks under computer floor.

Rawlings

- Replaced Makerspace sink.
- Installed window on book drop.
- Cleaned out flower beds.
- Replaced building relief fan motor.
- Fixed generator and tested.

Other projects/duties – District

- Setup ADA furniture and distributed it across the district.

Volunteer Hours

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of February .

ADULTS	402.25 HOURS
TEENS	26.25 HOURS
BOOKS AGAIN	1139.41 HOURS

BOD TRUSTEES 20.00 HOURS

TOTAL HOURS 1587.91 HOURS

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS \$55,243.39

Thank You Messages

Rawlings Library

I have been to the library in the last 6 months and would like Pueblo City-County Library District to recognize Carlos. I am disabled/blind and on AVP and he helped me tremendously. He helped me to print, copy & paste legal documents that I needed for Fitzsimmons Hospital. Kudo to Carlos

-Kerry Gallegos, Patron

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Baca
Executive Director

