



FY '11 Annual Report • November 2011

The Noyes Library for Young Children in Kensington, MD is the Washington area's oldest public library, a nationally recognized model for children's services, and one of only three public libraries just for children in the US. Nevertheless, in March of 2010, Montgomery County announced a decision to close the Noyes Library due to county budget shortfalls. The Noyes Children's Library Foundation, originally established in 1991 during a similar budget crisis, responded to the public outcry at this announcement by offering to raise the needed operating costs and keep Noyes open. The County agreed, and a model public-private partnership was renewed.

In one short year, the Foundation has accumulated a mountain of accomplishments and far surpassed the objectives set by the Montgomery County Council, the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries, and Foundation leadership. As we begin our second year of our "second incarnation," we are excited to be part of a movement that is preserving AND enhancing a treasure of literacy and history.

- In FY 2011, **the Noyes Children's Library Foundation ... Kept Noyes Library open** by paying a significant portion of its operating budget.
 - The Foundation raised the \$50,000 the County required for operating the Library for FY 2011, as well as a significant portion of the operating costs for FY 2012.
 - The Foundation will soon complete the Library's funding for FY 2012 and is launching an energetic campaign to support comprehensive enhancements to Noyes.
 - The Foundation has enabled thousands of young children and their families to enjoy the many benefits of Noyes by keeping the Library open from July 1, 2010 to the present, while also enabling Noyes Librarians to continue their early literacy outreach to children in need.
 - The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors that includes experts in early literacy, education, community planning, business and communications, as well as Noyes patrons. The Foundation created a website that is maintained by a tech-savvy high school volunteer. Another high school volunteer designed the colorful Foundation graphic at the top of this page. Montgomery County Schools approved the Foundation to use student volunteers through its service program; these students helped make the "Make Some Noyes" dance parties a success, and performed Penny Theater programs in preschools.
- In FY 2011, **the Noyes Children's Library Foundation ... Raised the needed funds** through donations, sponsorships, grants, and special events such as last year's "Some Enchanted Evening Gala."
 - The Foundation has worked to harness the public energy created by the possible closing of Noyes, collecting donations from families throughout Montgomery County and the D.C. region..
 - Several generous foundations made gifts toward the Library's operating costs: the Francis P. Chiamonte Foundation, the Fowler Foundation, the Aronson Foundation, the Hekemian Foundation, the Alice Shaver Foundation, the GEICO Foundation, and others.

- The Foundation obtained the sponsorship support of many regionally and locally renowned companies. These include Ridgewell's, Gary and Diana Ditto Realtors, SunTrust Bank, Café 1894, Target, Anthony Wilder Design & Build, Sandy Spring Bank, Itsy Bitsy Bakery, Alison Oppenheim Gardening and *Bethesda Magazine*.
- Our fabulous "Some Enchanted Evening Gala" held in November 2010 netted \$25,000 and gave attendees a lovely night at the famous Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, where delicious food and big band tunes from the Radio King Orchestra set an elegant tone.
- In addition to raising these significant funds, the Foundation has greatly enhanced awareness of the Noyes Library, the Foundation, and its partnership with the County through local and regional media, family websites, and community list-serves. Noyes events have been featured in the *Montgomery Gazette*, *Bethesda Magazine*, the Maryland Municipal League tribute in *Maryland Magazine*, and on parenting blogs such as the popular "A Parent in Silver Spring." WJLA Channel 7's Alison Starling also featured Noyes and Head Librarian Susan Modak on her series "Working Woman."
- **In FY 2011, the Noyes Children's Library Foundation ... Held numerous fun and enriching events** - including the "Make Some Noyes Dance Parties" - to promote Noyes, early literacy and family togetherness ...
 - Beginning in June 2010 with a charming Storybook Parade at the Warner Mansion, adjacent to Noyes in Kensington, the Foundation has filled the local calendar with events for families.
 - The Foundation held four "Make Some Noyes" Dance Parties, at which hundreds of children, parents and grandparents followed the lead of professional dance instructors for afternoons of fun and fitness.
 - The Foundation sponsored two Illustration Workshops by local children's illustrator Michael Crawford, who entertained and instructed children at Noyes in the art of illustration.
 - The Foundation's offerings for FY 2012 started with a bang on the weekend of September 10-11, as the Capitol City Trackers fill the Kensington Armory with their O-gauge model train display. The event benefitted both the Foundation and the Kensington Historic Society, and was sponsored by Gary and Diane Ditto Realtors and the Town of Kensington.
- **In FY 2011, the Noyes Children's Library Foundation ... Partnered with the County to plan enhancements** that will make Noyes more accessible, more complete in its early literacy programming, and even more unique.
 - Montgomery County Public Libraries and the Foundation are determining the feasibility of a range of proposed enhancements to Noyes. These enhancements include making the library accessible for those with disabilities, further developing Noyes' early literacy environment, and the possibility of increasing the space available for programming. The factors that will determine what enhancements are feasible include cost, approval of the Historic Preservation Commission, and the unique characteristics of the interior and exterior settings. ALL of the enhancement options will maintain Noyes' circulating collection, its appeal to young children and their families, and its sense of history. ALL of the options are exciting for those who love Noyes.
 - The Foundation obtained a \$50,000 matching grant from the State of Maryland to be used for Library enhancements. The Foundation must match the State funds 1:1 in order to receive the money.

The Noyes Children's Library Foundation is hard at work on behalf of young library patrons, their families, and the taxpayers of Montgomery County, through a dynamic public-private partnership that has picked up services where the county budget left off.

But we need help! **PLEASE JOIN US** in making Noyes the best it can be.
 Visit our website to learn more & to add your name to our efforts.

www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org