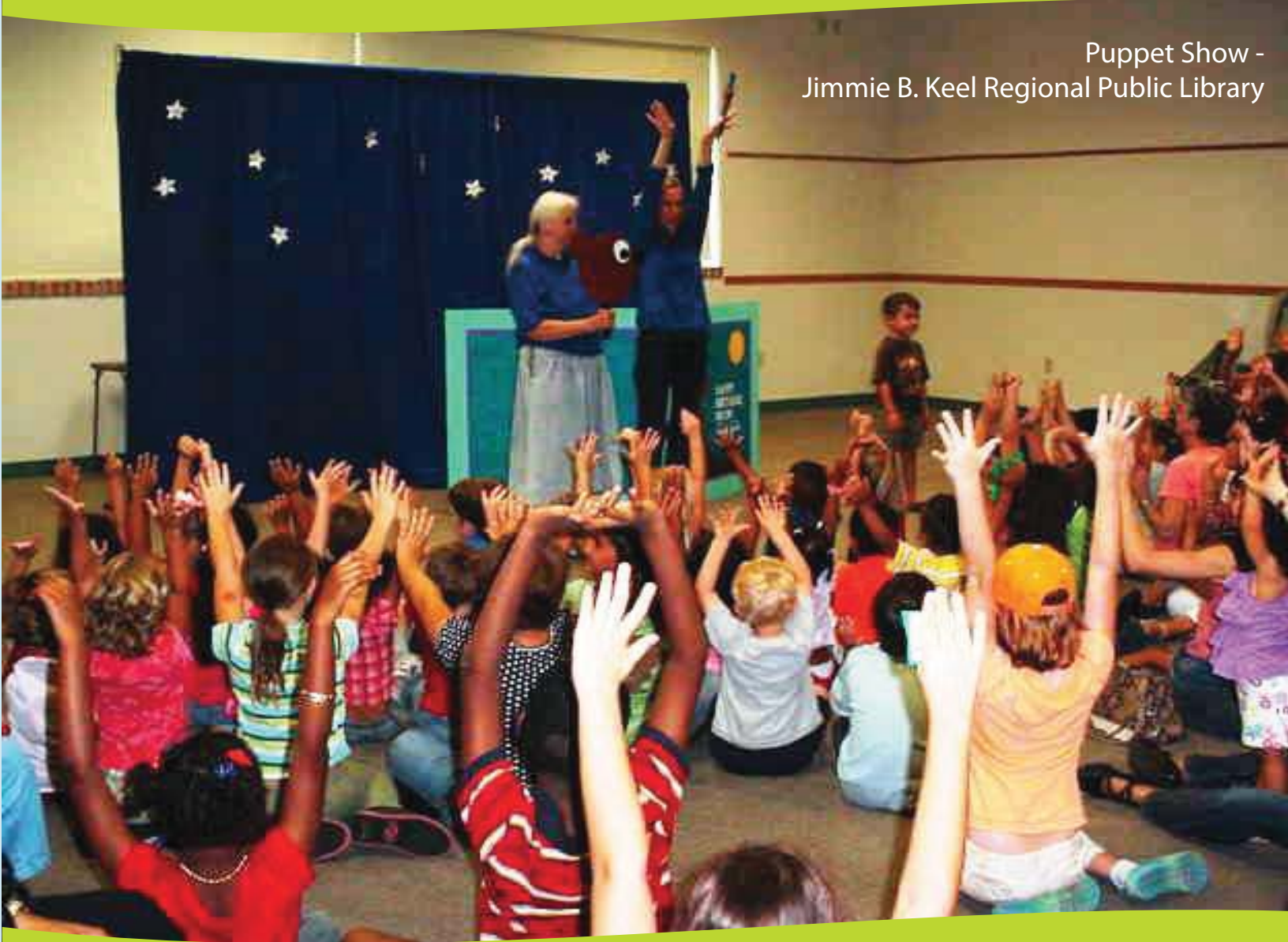




Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries

Annual Report

Puppet Show -
Jimmie B. Keel Regional Public Library



October 2007 - September 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Joe R. Stines

Hillsborough County's public libraries continue to be well received by residents with 8.8 million items loaned in FY2008. 2008 saw the opening of the new Town 'N Country and Seffner-Mango libraries. These buildings were replacements for much used, much loved libraries; and with these additions, we look forward to improved service to users. Demand for and variety of services continues to grow. These included, among others, 1.2 million computer sign-ins, 2.5 million reference questions answered, approximately 60,000 new or renewed library cards issued and more than 8,000 programs offered.

Services to the children of our community continue to blossom, and our focus on early literacy remains undiminished. More than 9,000 children, ages birth to 5, now enjoy receiving one free book a month through our Imagination Library Program. This year Library Services reached out

to teenagers through many technology and literature programs. Crowds of teens enjoyed the Harry Potter Rock Extravaganza, a musical concert featuring works based on the tremendously popular books.

Library adult programming continued its support of the arts and cultural enrichment. Fortunate to have received a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts for the Big Read, the library united the community in a collaborative reading of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. A partnership with the Florida Holocaust Museum brought "Kaddish in Wood" to the John F. Germany Public Library. This display of wood carvings created a moving experience for library visitors as they viewed this memorial to children lost to the Holocaust.

A tighter 2008 public library budget necessitated exploring

new ways of providing core services to residents.

Libraries exchanged the slower 9-10 a.m. open service hour for a closed, staff-focused work hour for re-shelving, weeding and shelf reading in order to reduce part-time personnel costs by more than \$500,000.

Through the hard work and dedication of staff, Library Services enjoyed continued positive results in the annual Hillsborough County telephone as well as the point of service surveys which drew a 96 percent customer satisfaction rating. Our goal is to serve residents through quality public library services. Please visit us often, in person and through our web page, hcplc.org

Sincerely,
Joe R. Stines
Director of Libraries

MISSION

The Hillsborough County Public Library promotes lifelong learning, an informed citizenry, individual intellectual freedom, an enhanced quality of life and broadened horizons for all residents of Hillsborough County through a network of free libraries with open access, a community focus, welcoming environments, a broad range of relevant materials in a variety of formats and highly trained, qualified, customer-focused employees.

LIBRARY BOARD

District 1	James Martin, Jr., Chair Laura Vickers Christopher P. Rosbough
District 2	Robert "Bob" Argus, Vice Chairman Kay O'Rourke William H. Scheuerle, Ph.D.
District 3	Margaret Fisher, Ph.D. Alma Hires, Ph.D. Catherine D. Cottle
District 4	James J. Harkins James B. Johnson, Jr. Patrick DeMarco

TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

• THPL (Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries)

FACILITIES AND STAFFING

In February 2008, construction began on the new Seffner-Mango Branch Library. The new 15,000-square-foot facility replaces a 6,000-square-foot storefront and houses space for meeting rooms, a children's area, study rooms and a science room for students of all ages. The library opened in January 2009.



FACILITIES:

John F. Germany Public Library (Main):	1
Regional Libraries:	8
Community and Neighborhood Branches:	16
Electronic Libraries:	49
Mobile Units:	2
Technical Services Center:	1
Total:	77

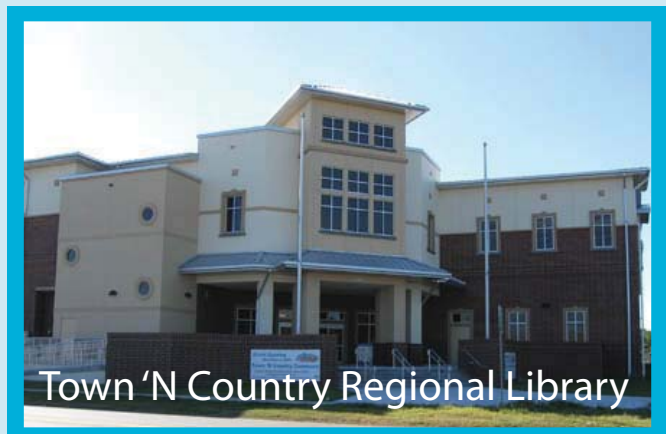
STAFFING:

Full-time Staff Members:	345.93
Volunteer Hours:	43,549

The North Tampa Branch Library closed in April 2008 in preparation for a new facility to be built at the existing location. The new library will include a large community room, teen room, separate children's department and computer lab.



In December 2008, the new 30,000-square-foot Town 'N Country Regional Library opened. Located in the Town 'N Country Commons, the library shares the complex with a Hillsborough County Senior Center and Head Start facility, and is next to a redesigned neighborhood park. A revitalized collection of materials, children's wing, computer lab, teen room and many meeting rooms are just some of the new features citizens can enjoy.

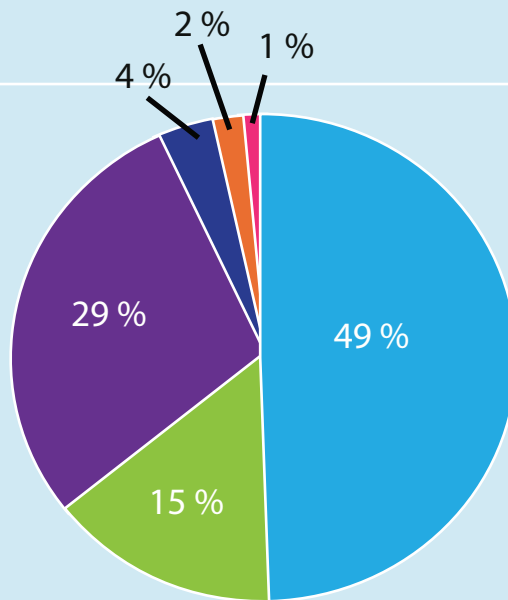


BUDGET

Expenditures:

Personnel:	\$18,995,850
Books and Materials:	5,653,552
Operating Expenses:	11,173,739
Commissions on Tax Collected:	1,331,878
Interlocal Agreements:	712,934
Automation and Support Equipment:	531,357
Total:	\$38,399,310

* Reserves not included in the pie chart: \$13,818,261



Revenues:

Special Library Taxing District:	\$49,831,778
State Funds:	1,446,048
Federal Funds:	15,000
Fines, Fees & Donations:	924,745
Total:	\$52,217,571

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

• Bruton Memorial (Plant City)

• Temple Terrace

• THPL

Our continuing relationship with the members of the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative has allowed us to serve our residents effectively through circulation, information and reference, and programming.

CIRCULATION

Adult Materials:	5,836,295
Children's Materials:	2,954,874
Total:	8,791,169

INFORMATION AND REFERENCE

Customer Contacts:	2,508,395
Reference Questions Answered:	441,575
Library Web Page Hits:	4,019,942
Library Visits:	3,267,212
Registered Borrowers:	896,294
Hillsborough County Residents:	71 %
Public Computers:	1,150
Users of Public Internet Computers:	1,203,369

PROGRAMMING

Attendance at 3,631 Adult Programs:	41,070
Attendance at 4,673 Children's Programs:	153,682
Total:	194,752

The library hosted 8,304 programs this year. That's more than 22 programs a day!



National Library Week -
Thonotosassa Branch Library

Kaddish in Wood Exhibit

Storytelling Festival -
Dovie Thomason

Sandra Cameron

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

October 2007 - The Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. joined with Library Services to present two contests celebrating [Our Hispanic Heritage](#). The children's bookmark contest brought in more than 600 entries and the adult Spanish poetry contest garnered more than 60 submissions.

October 2007 - The Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. cosponsored the library's annual [Teenz Ink](#) short story writing contest. More than 70 students in grades 6-12 composed short stories.

January 2008 - Presidential Preference Primary Election [Early Voting](#) was offered at 10 libraries with 39,192 adult voters participating.

February 2008 - The [Imagination Library of Hillsborough County](#) expanded its reach to allow all children born on or after September 1, 2006 and residing in Hillsborough County to receive an age-appropriate, hard-cover book mailed to their home each month from birth to age 5. The program now has more than 9,000 children registered.

February 2008 - Eight hundred teens and adults took part in the library's first [Teen Tech Week Game Zone Tournament](#) featuring Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution. A grand finale tournament was held at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI).

March 2008 - The Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. and the Tampa Improv Comedy Theater & Restaurant cosponsored the 6th Annual [LitWit Poetry Contest](#). More than 80 patrons penned humorous poems or parodies of a well-known poem.

April 2008 - Library Services hosted the "[Kaddish in Wood](#)" exhibit April 8 - May 4 in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah). The exhibit featured woodcarvings by Dr. Herbert Savel. The three-dimensional reliefs were inspired by Holocaust era photographs of Nazi victims collected by author/historian Serge Klarsfeld.

April 2008 - An audience of more than 2,200 was entertained by award-winning storyteller, recording artist and author Dovie Thomason at the 28th Annual [Storytelling Festival](#). The City of Tampa Parks & Recreation Department; Creative Arts Theater; Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department; Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc.; and the Arts Council of Hillsborough County joined Library Services to present puppet shows, balladeers, book characters and multi-lingual stories.

April 2008 - During [National Library Week](#), 15 libraries hosted open houses, with support from Friends groups, to celebrate the contributions of our libraries, the diversity of services offered and the rich history of libraries in Hillsborough County.

April 2008 - The Library Board dedicated the Boardroom at the John F. Germany Public Library in honor of [Sandra Raulerson Cameron](#), who served on the Library Board for 27 years. During that time, she held various offices, including serving twice as chairman.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED):

April 2008 - More than 530 children and adults participated in the celebration of **El Día de Los Niños/El Día de Los Libros** (Day of the Child/Day of the Book) with family programs featuring Spanish and English bilingual stories, games and music.

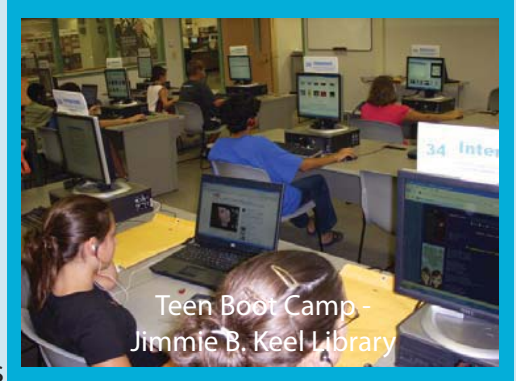
July 2008 - Library Services held its first **Teen BootCamp** for teens to learn Microsoft Office skills. More than 70 teens participated in the teen computer classes, which were held at five regional libraries over a five week period.

July 2008 - More than 180 teens and parents attended a **Harry Potter Rock Extravaganza**, a unique literature-based musical concert featuring rock bands, such as Justin Fitch-Fletcher and The Sugar Quills, The Whomping Willows, Draco and The Malfoys, and The Remus Lupins. Songs performed were based on chapters of the Harry Potter novels.

July 2008 - Library Services joined the Moffitt Cancer Center to present **Knowledge is POWER (KIP)** at the West Tampa Branch Library, which promoted cancer awareness education and wellness tips. Participants enjoyed free vision testing and health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. Guest speakers included NFL Hall of Famer and community leader Lee Roy Selmon.

August 2008 - Ten libraries were Primary Election Early Voting sites for 8,314 adults.

September 2008 - Library Services received a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to present **The Big Read Initiative: Tampa-Hillsborough County Reads**. Residents were encouraged to come together to read and discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Library Services partnered with public television WEDU, the Tampa Museum of Art, Barnes & Noble, Hillsborough Community College and other community organizations to present a variety of programs highlighting this book.



Board of County Commissioners



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Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries are a member of the Tampa Bay Library Consortium and the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative.