

# Libraries Build Our Community . . .

December, 2007

Public libraries today are deeply involved with people, technology and quality of life. Every day, our libraries make important contributions to strengthening the very fabric of the community.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) System provides services in 37 locations and through the Internet. We offer collections and programs that connect our diverse community and enrich, enlighten and entertain our residents.

Beyond the traditional services most of us associate with libraries, the B&ECPL has become a dynamic part of our community's learning infrastructure. Our Library System supports local economic growth and community building through numerous early literacy, workforce readiness and small business development initiatives that:

Offer youngsters a wide variety of programs to give them the skills to read, to understand and to become informed, dependable employees and productive citizens (e.g., **More than 81,000 youngsters aged 4 through 17 participated in B&ECPL educational activities in 2006.**);

Help job-seekers of all ages by providing access to technology, free computer instruction, employment information resources, and more (e.g., **Computer use in the Library System has increased nearly 25% in the past year, with the City of Buffalo's branch libraries' use up nearly 63%.**); and

Assist entrepreneurs by giving them fast, guided access to market data, incorporation guidelines, legal resources, and more (e.g., **The B&ECPL has nearly tripled its in-depth business programming and quadrupled the number of institutions in its partners network in the past two years.**).

You can help us build our community, too, by supporting the library with a gift of \$25, \$50 or more!

Contributing to our Public Library System, in whatever dollar amount, assists in generating additional tax dollars, raises property values, creates new jobs and improves lives. Additionally, it helps expand Erie County residents' technology competencies, reduces barriers to employment, facilitates connections between potential workers and employers and builds a stronger, more viable community for us all.

In these times of tight budgets, the B&ECPL can no longer rely on the government to provide all the money needed to fulfill the information needs of our community. **We need your help!**

If you treasure your Library, please give generously ... and feel proud of the difference you'll make in the lives of your friends and neighbors, as well as the health of our entire community.

Sincerely,

  
Michael C. Mahaney, Director  
Stanton H. Hudson, Jr., Deputy Director  
Chief Development & Communications Officer  
www.buffalo.org

**P.S. Please use the enclosed bookmark to keep in touch with your library.**

The B&ECPL is a 501 (c) (3) organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

## The Difference You Can Make

*"I am a stay-at-home mom with a 3-year-old son. I cannot afford to send my son to a pre-school at this time. The story time hour at the library is the only opportunity my son has to interact with other children his own age."*

- Deanna from West Seneca

*"Before my current job, I was under-employed and relied on the library for resume books, precious computer time, as well as low-cost printing. I don't think I could have secured the job I currently hold without all the wonderful services the library has to offer."*

- Dawn from Buffalo

*"I started my own consulting business 15 months ago. I go to the library on a regular basis to obtain resource materials on different trends in business and technology."*

- William from East Amherst

**These are just three of the many success stories unfolding at the Library, and, with your help, there will be countless others!**



**Yes, I want to help my community by investing in the library.**

**Please accept my tax-deductible gift:**

\$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Charge my :  MC  Visa  Discover  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a monthly donor.  
Please send me materials.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_