

### A VIBRANT LIBRARY FOR A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

**The Mountain View Neighborhood Library** opened with a community celebration on September 25, 2010. The widely-anticipated grand opening drew Governor Parnell, Senator Begich, Mayor Sullivan, the President of the Public Library Association, as well as donors, local elected officials and community members. During the first two weeks of operation, staff issued over 200 new library cards at a rate of one card issued every 16.5 minutes that the library was open. Since opening, the library gets close to 6,000 visits each month, circulates 5,000 items and averages 1,000 computer sessions a month.

*"The last six months that we've been open have been some of the most rewarding and exciting of my life. Almost on a daily basis someone comes to the library for the first time. For many of them it is their first time ever in a library, or their first time in a library since immigrating to the United States. I love telling people it's all free. Free to get a card, free to use the computer, free to check out a movie, all free."*  
—Elizabeth Moreau, Library Manager

The library reflects the diversity of the surrounding community, which is home to people from across the world. More than 45 languages are spoken in the neighborhood, including Hmong, Samoan, Filipino, Sudanese, and Bhutanese. Art in the building incorporates many of the languages and promotes a theme of exploration. The Library's English as a Second Language collection is one of its most popular sections.

*"The new Mountain View Library is not only comprehensive, but hosts a variety of multi-ethnic events. Ukulele concerts, Polynesian culture and a new DVD collection are just a few of the attractions in the latest addition to the Anchorage Public Library (not to mention new computers and Internet access!)." —John Mueller, March 10, 2011*

A building highlight is the Gottstein Family Children's Learning Center. The nautically-themed space encourages exploration and imagination. Wave-shaped glass borders the area and sails hang from the ceiling to look like ships at sea. The sails contain words and images from Tagalog, Yup'ik, Spanish, Hmong, English and Samoan languages. Children can play with an interactive M for Mountain View sculpture, or peruse books written in different languages.



**The ribbon cutting (left to right): Governor Parnell, Don Crandall (Mt. View Community Council), Karen Keller (Library Director), Sen. Wielechowski, John Mingé (BP), Sen. Begich, Carolyn Heyman-Layne (Atwood Foundation), David Gottstein, Assemblyman Patrick Flynn, Diane Kaplan (Rasmuson Foundation), Rep. Gruenberg and Mayor Sullivan.**



**As one of the first LEED Gold certified buildings in Alaska, the Mountain View Library is a leader in green building design. The Library is featured in the American Library Association's 2011 Design Showcase.**

The building includes a large community room, which is used on Saturday afternoons for family story time. During the week, it has become a popular draw for teens. Before Ma’o Tosi’s Mt. View Pride Club outgrew the space and had to move to a new location this spring, the program drew an average of 55 teens a day to learn dance and music performance, work on leadership training, and have positive interactions with adult mentors.

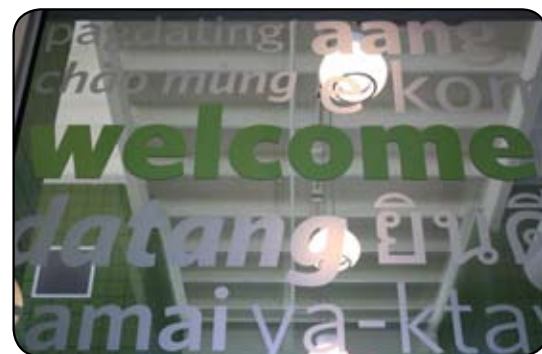
The Library has now launched it’s own afterschool program, which drew 53 teens to the first session and 78 teens to the following week’s session. The Library is currently in the planning stages to enlist additional staff support to expand this program next fall.

The library is excited to work with neighboring organizations, such as Anchorage Literacy Project, Credit Union One, Child Care Connection, Clark Middle School and the Natural History Museum to develop shared programs and services. Programs include citizenship classes, family movie nights, personal finance classes and cultural celebrations.

The new library marks the completion of phase one of the Anchorage Library Renewal Initiative. The \$14M Initiative to rejuvenate the libraries has resulted in four new neighborhood libraries from Girdwood to Eagle River. All are dynamic examples of how libraries can bring a community together. The second phase of the Initiative includes the creation of *Teen Underground* at Loussac and a generational renewal of the Z.J. Loussac Library.

*“I love my new Mountain View Library!!! I want to thank you for making this happen! Finally I can WALK to the library—no more taking 2 buses just to get to a library. The people who work here are: kind, professional and courteous. Keep up the good work!”*  
 —R.W. Koenig, March 3, 2011

*“A woman just came in and told me that before the library opened, she had been saving up to buy an e-reader. Now that we’re here, she’s been checking out our books and can use her savings for another purpose.”* —Teresa Churchel, Library Staff



A graphic art installation above the front door greets visitors in over 25 languages.



The computer lab is a popular feature of the new library: patrons log about 1,000 computer sessions each month.

## CONTACT

Elizabeth Moreau, Manger, Mountain View Neighborhood Library, [moreauel@muni.org](mailto:moreauel@muni.org), 343-2907

Anchorage Public Library is supported by the Anchorage Library Foundation and Friends of the Library. The two nonprofits work together to seek private support to compliment government funding of library capital projects.



[www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org)

[www.FriendsAPL.org](http://www.FriendsAPL.org)



THE  
GOTTSTEIN  
FAMILY



Major support provided by: