



Leadership. Advocacy. Communication

## How Florida Libraries Transform Lives

***Citizens vote and participate in government*** – Libraries provide voter registration and serve as voting and early voting sites.

***Life-long learners pursue their interests and passion*** – A librarian showed a 67 year old woman how to play DVD's on her laptop computer so she could use the library's opera DVD's. Now she has the ability to use the new technology and Caruso and Pavarotti serenade her whenever she likes.

***Toddlers and pre-schoolers learn to read and prepare for success in school*** – Brain research and common sense demonstrate that children's learning begins in infancy. Libraries help young children learn to read and help parents and caregivers learn to be their children's first teachers.

***Children and parents actively engage in children's learning*** – Whether individually or with their parents, children use homework assistance programs, tutoring, support for homeschoolers, and casual library experience to learn. Often, when exposed to libraries at an early age, children develop a love of reading that stays with them all of their lives.

***Teens grow and thrive in a safe place to learn, socialize, and have fun*** – Teens are at a particularly vulnerable stage and libraries keep them safe and help them grow and develop by providing them with a safe environment for reading, computers, games and a place to socialize with adult supervision.

***Floridians get essential government services otherwise unavailable to them*** – Using library Internet computers, library staff help residents conduct their *E-Government* business with local, state, and federal agencies like the Department of Children and Families, the citizenship and immigration service, and the IRS just to name a few. Agencies are closing offices and forcing people to do business through websites, leaving libraries to provide help from a real live human. Job seekers and applicants are heavy users of library computers.

***Floridians of all ages use technology and join in the technological revolution that changes all of our lives*** – To fully participate in our modern world and enjoy the benefits of the modern economy individuals require a computer and computer training. For many Floridians, the library is where they get computers, Internet access, help from staff.

***Floridians find, connect with, and participate in their communities through their libraries*** – People want and need to interact with others. Libraries provide a public place, a "third place," in addition to home and work, where people connect with their neighbors and with folks who share common interests, through library programs, meeting rooms, and public spaces.

***Help Florida libraries change lives!***

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