

## Library Basic Facts 2010

- Library has experienced record levels of usage. Compared to 1998, prior to the building program:
  - Number of items borrowed has increased by 60% to estimated 6 million items in 2009
  - Number of annual visitors to library facilities has increased by 77% (3.2 million)
  - Attendance at library programs/meetings has more than doubled (325,000 in 2008)
- Library fulfilled promise of building program with 16 new buildings in past decade.
- Twice recognized nationally in 2009 as a Five Star Library (*Library Journal*), and also as a Top Ten Library (Hennen American Public Library Rankings).
- Library provides:
  - Access to over 10 million items as part of the SearchOhio library consortium
  - Pre-school programs as part of the community-wide effort to increase children's readiness for kindergarten
  - Recreational and informational programs for teens and adults of all ages
  - Free Internet access to thousands of Akron and Summit County residents who otherwise lack this key component of modern life.
  - Help for job-seekers, computer training, and consumer health information
  - Meeting spaces that serve as centers of community activity
- Library has become a collaborative partner with variety of community groups and institutions working to improve the quality of life in Akron and Summit County.
- Library has had a property tax levy for operating expenses since 1984; current levy expires in 2010.
- State funding has been reduced by 25% (\$3.6 million annually) compared to 2008.
- 1.4 mill levy currently provides approximately 50% of total annual operating revenue (\$12 million).
- Five year, 1.4 mill replacement levy will be used to maintain current operations.
- Cost of replacement levy for owner of a \$100,000 home is estimated to be \$49.00 per year, or \$4.08 per month (\$42.88 per year, or \$3.57 per month after rollback/reduction).