

2014 National Medal Winner: Mid-Continent Public Library
Alicia Moore, Community Member Video

We moved in 2011, my husband had been transferred from Columbia to the Kansas City VA (Veterans Administration). Since we home school our children, we really needed to find a great library. It's where we come to get a lot of curriculum; the books that the kids read and videos that we watch. It's where we meet our friends for a book club, so it's a social place for our kids. It's a real important part for our home school. There are just great assortments of fun things to go to at the library. We are at libraries all the time, they have this access guide they put out—I call it my passport to adventure or passport to learning. And there are so many free programs they provide. I realized that I could sign up for summer programs; I signed us up for 35 programs. We love the reading incentives they do in the summer, and that's been really nice because I've had a hesitant reader, it really encouraged him. It always comes back to the librarians. It does not matter where you go, what branch you go to, you can walk up to them and they stop what they are doing and their ready to help you. And you don't feel like you are bothering them, and they really help our family make that transition from story time—where you are being read to—to reading to learn. And once you have that, you can learn anything, and you can really go anywhere. It's just so important for me that my kids learn to appreciate libraries and the great resources that we have here. And that they are literate, that they are well-read. You have these people here that just encourage that. And I'm so glad that Mid-Continent Public Library has helped me teach my children that this is a way of life; they make it fun! There's more than just books here; there's a lot more than just books. Libraries are so relevant, especially for today. I feel like it is this peaceful island, this quiet calm, where you can come in and recharge, get inspired. There's so much to offer here, that you are going to connect in a real meaningful way.