

**Mid Continent Public Library Institute of Museum and Library
Services**

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>> ALICIA MOORE: We moved in 2011. My husband had been transferred from Columbia to the Kansas City VA. Since we homeschool our children, we really needed to find a great library. It's where we come to get a lot of our curriculum, the books that the kids read, and the videos that we watch. It's where we meet our friends for our book club. It's the social place for our kids. It's a really important part for our home school.

There's just a great assortment of things to go to at the library. We're 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 several programs. I've signed up for 35 programs. We love the reading centers they do in the summer, and that's been really nice because I have a hesitant reader. It really encouraged him.

It always goes back to the librarians. It doesn't matter where you go, what branch you go to. You can walk up to them and they'll stop what they're doing and help you. And you don't feel like you're bothering them. You really help our family make that transition from story time where you're 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 that my kids learn to appreciate libraries and the great resources they have here, 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 is more than just books here. There's a lot more than just books. Libraries are so relevant, especially for today. I

feel like it's this peaceful island, this quiet calm where you can kind of recharge and get inspired. There's so much to offer here that you can connect in a meaningful way.