

Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!



2014 Achievement Awards



2014 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 2, 2014

Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2014.**

Program Information

Locality _____

Program Title _____

Program Category _____

Contact Information

Name _____

Title _____

Department _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

Telephone # _____ Fax # _____

E-mail _____

Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Call for Entries

You Belong @ Your Library

NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB



To ensure that all members of the community have an equal opportunity to participate, the Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL) has developed a continuum of programs that promotes literacy and social connections for children, teens and adults with intellectual disabilities (ID), sensory integration challenges (SIC) autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and physical disabilities.

Open Door Sensory Storytime, Gamers' Union and the **Next Chapter Book Club** have enabled the Loudoun County Public Library to grow and join with the community in ways not dreamed possible. The strength of these programs has been realized through trusted partnerships with parents, caregivers and advocates and foundation support. Loudoun County Public Library has embraced these opportunities to connect with the entire community. **You Belong @ Your Library.**

Loudoun County Public Library has developed a continuum of programs that promotes literacy and social connections for children, teens and adults with intellectual disabilities, sensory integration challenges, autism spectrum disorder and physical disabilities.



OPEN DOOR SENSORY STORYTIME



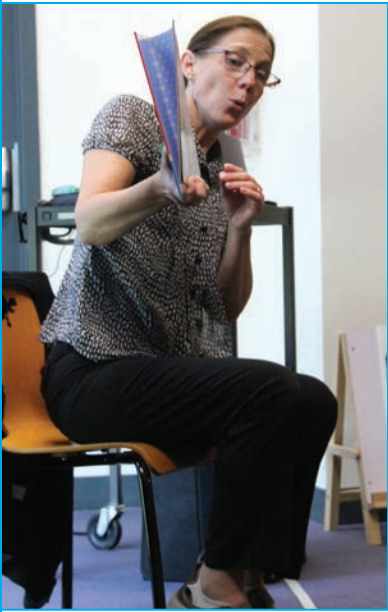
GAMERS' UNION



LOUDOUN COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Nurturing Minds

OPEN DOOR SENSORY STORYTIME

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1 IN 68 CHILDREN IS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

Recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control state that 1 in 68 children is diagnosed with ASD. Research also shows that parents who have special needs children shy away from visiting the public library due to apprehensiveness of other parents' lack of understanding of their child's behavior. When the mother of a young child with ASD asked library staff if Loudoun County Public Library could offer programs that she and her daughter could attend, this simple request propelled the library to develop the Open Door Sensory Storytime. A challenge to facilitating this request was that the library staff lacked specific expertise or training in the areas of program facilitation for this population.



You Belong @ Your Library

OPEN DOOR SENSORY STORYTIME

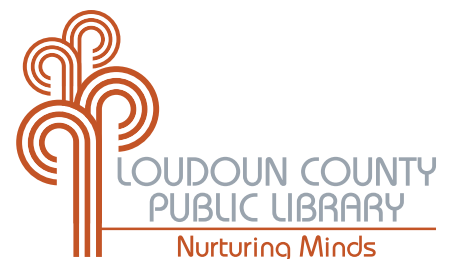


A partnership was created with the Special Education Department of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) to provide guidance and training. Local therapists who work with children on the spectrum suggested environment modifications, techniques, materials, types of stories and activities. In addition to this, relevant information and advice was given by ASD families in the community. To promote the programming the library worked with parent groups, activists and an independent school that provides a learning environment for children with ASD.

The format of these programs requires a wide variety of tactile interactive instructional items: balance beams, fidget toys and tag blankets. The presentations require sensitivity to delayed motor skill development and deliberate sensory input. The program is interactive and features books, songs and therapeutic activities. Loudoun County Public Library received a \$5,000 grant for the Open Door Sensory Storytime from 100WomenStrong, a donor advised foundation that was formed by a group of women who are committed to improving the quality of life for citizens of Loudoun County, Virginia.



THE PRESENTATIONS REQUIRE SENSITIVITY TO DELAYED MOTOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND DELIBERATE SENSORY INPUT.



You Belong @ Your Library

OPEN DOOR SENSORY STORYTIME

*The Loudoun County Public Library's Open Door Sensory Storytime programs were spotlighted at the Virginia State Library Conference and Conversation Sparks, a large-scale virtual conversation with librarians around the country. In 2013, Loudoun County Public Library staff was invited to present the Open Door Sensory Storytime at the Chinese Library Conference in Dongguan, China. **The Open Door Special Needs Storytime has received outstanding reception in the community;** the presentations provide families with a storytime where they can relax with others who are familiar with autistic behaviors in an enriching environment. The Sensory Storytimes give the Loudoun County Public Library the opportunity to show parents and their children **"You Belong @ Your Library."***



**100
WOMEN
STRONG**



LOUDOUN COUNTY
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You Belong @ Your Library



GAMERS' UNION

From the success of the Open Door Sensory Storytime, Loudoun County Public Library has looked to other avenues of participation for community members with ASD, AD/HD and ID. Loudoun County Public Library believed it had developed a comprehensive program of services for teens; however found it lacked a plan to reach youth with Asperger's Syndrome. From this challenge, the Gamers' Union was developed by library staff aided by a psychologist who observed that **teens with Asperger's Syndrome would enjoy and benefit from using the library's video games in the Teen Centers**, but might not be comfortable entering the game socially.

While the teens play games, the parents meet informally with a special educator who volunteers her time to facilitate interaction among teens and among parents. The promotion of this program was aided by Loudoun County Public Schools and advocates in the community. Families touched by autism are isolated socially, so the program serves two purposes—the teens have the opportunity to get to know each other over a shared activity and the parents are able to share their knowledge and discuss resources they have found helpful.

GAMERS' UNION For Social Skills

RUST LIBRARY

Sundays, March 9 & April 13

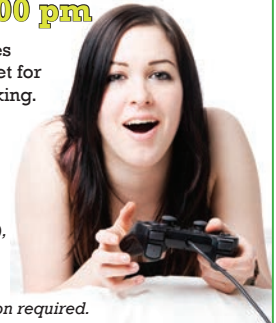
1:00 pm

Teens play video games while their parents meet for friendship and networking.

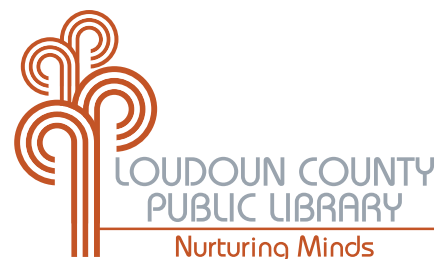
Facilitated by a special educator.

Suggested for teens with mild autism spectrum disorders (ASD), anxiety disorders, AD/HD or similar.

For ages 12-18. Registration required.



For more information call 703-777-0323 (option #6) or visit library.loudoun.gov. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, please call 703-777-0368. Three days notice is requested.



You Belong @ Your Library

GAMERS' UNION

The library staff has gained confidence by working directly with the young people who participate in the Gamers' Union programs as well as building strong rapport with the families.

Camaraderie between library staff and these young men and women has encouraged the youth to attend other presentations within the library system. Most significantly teens with ID, ASD and physical disabilities participate regularly in the Loudoun County Public Library's After Hours Teens Center. This weekly Friday night program of special activities, gaming, music, and films for youth offers opportunities to have fun, practice social skills, problem-solving and to know **"You Belong @ Your Library."**



THE TEENS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER OVER A SHARED ACTIVITY AND THE PARENTS ARE ABLE TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND DISCUSS RESOURCES THEY HAVE FOUND HELPFUL.



You Belong @ Your Library

NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB



With the success of Open Door Sensory Storytime and the Gamers' Union, Loudoun County Public Library moved forward to develop programming aimed at reaching adult community members with intellectual disabilities. Loudoun County Public Library's Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) is based on the model which was developed by The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and is presented in partnership with The Arc/Paxton Campus. The Paxton Campus provides advocacy services to people with disabilities and their families by promoting all aspects of community life. Loudoun County Public Library and Paxton Campus are working together on helping people improve their quality of life, learn, develop and participate more fully in society.



**100
WOMEN
STRONG**



Paxton Campus



**LOUDOUN COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Nurturing Minds

You Belong @ Your Library

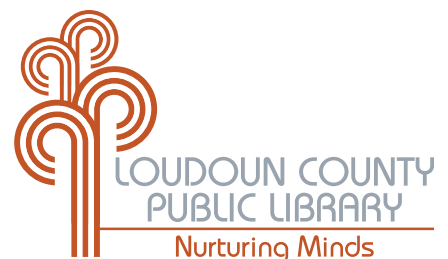
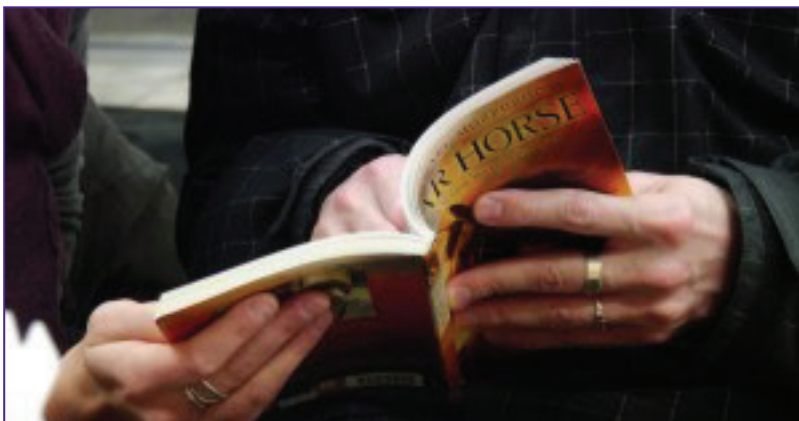
NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB

Through a \$5,000 grant from 100WomenStrong, the Next Chapter Book Club purchased materials and trained the staff for program presentation. **The book club is an idea that supports the resourcefulness of all within the community and assists in the discovery and realization of individual gifts.** It was established after a discussion about how many adults with disabilities are living in, but are not really part of their communities. The program offers bi-weekly opportunities, rather than an occasional outing, for people with intellectual disabilities to read and learn together—regardless of reading ability. They have the chance to be members of a book club, talk about books, and make friends in a relaxed, fun community setting.

The Next Chapter Book Club members determine practically all aspects of the group, what book they will read, how much they want to read and where they will meet. NCBC members are learning and making friends and having a lot of fun doing it. As one of the NCBC members said, “There’s no pressure here, you don’t have to know how to read. Some people just like to listen or be read to, and that’s OK.” Loudoun County Public Library staff participates as book club members giving them the opportunity to develop personal connections. The book club offers real-life examples of community inclusion, socialization, self-determination and self-advocacy. The Next Chapter Book Club says loud and clear to the participants **“You Belong @ Your Library.”**



“THERE’S NO PRESSURE HERE, YOU DON’T HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO READ. SOME PEOPLE JUST LIKE TO LISTEN OR BE READ TO, AND THAT’S OK.”



You Belong @ Your Library