



We Think  
**Outside**  
The Book!

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

# GROWING OUR GARDEN

Growing Community Partnerships

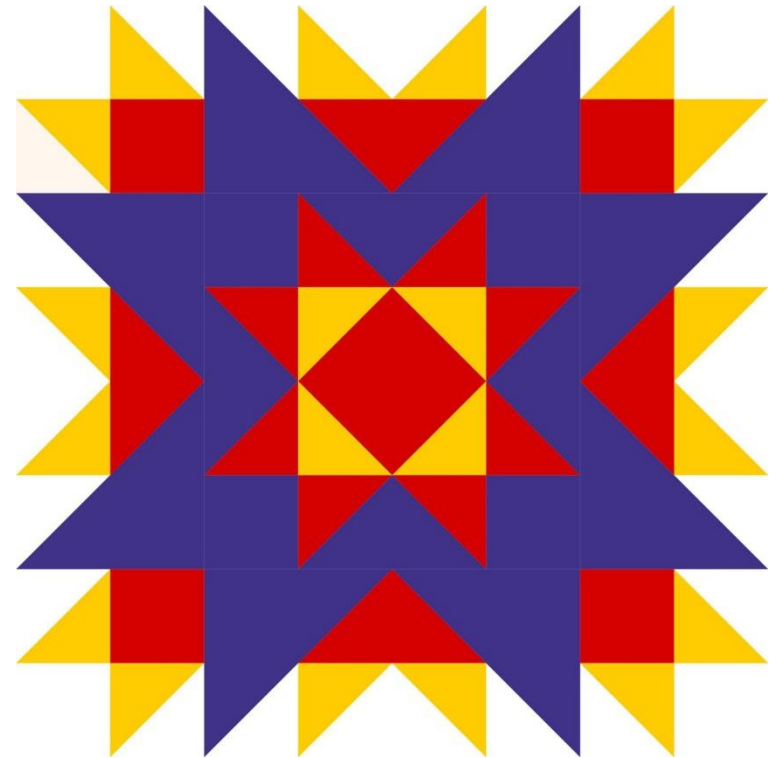


# Marion County Public Library

Jama Watts, Reference & Genealogy Librarian

# Two Projects Became One (Kinda)

- Reading Garden + Barn Quilt = Publicity!



# Marion County Public Library

Project started in 2014, partially due to the lawsuits that libraries in Kentucky were facing. Also, because the library is currently land-locked – no room to expand.



# Reading Garden Envy

Boyle County Public Library



Round Rock Independent Schools



We have space in front of the library where we could put a reading garden to expand usable space during the summer months for both lounging and programming.

# Planning (and Zoning)

## City Inspector

- Got the specs for line of sight, fence vs. structure, if we would need a variance, etc. Was also told that, as a government building, many of the ordinances did not apply to us.

## Materials List

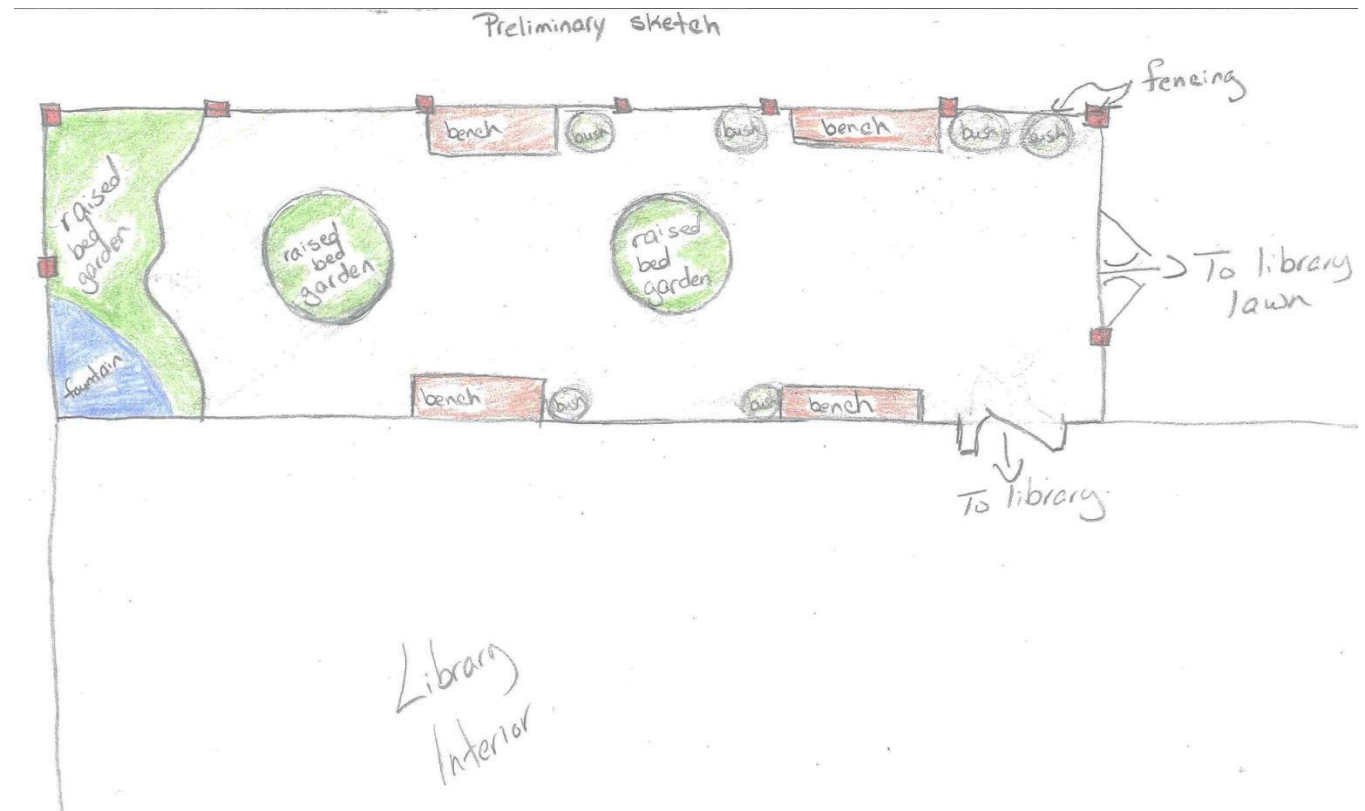
- Priced items online at Lowes and checked local stores.

## Other Meetings

- Spoke with FFA sponsor to get support regarding planting and new programs.
- Discussed partnering with Extension Office for cooking programs using items from the garden.

# Went to the Library Board...

With a rough sketch, P&Z data, and preliminary materials pricing, I went to the Board in May of 2014. I was given the go ahead... as long as I could find funding for the project.



The top of the slide features a decorative header with a solid orange rectangle on the left and a solid blue rectangle extending to the right. The text "At the same time..." is written in white on the blue background.

At the same time...

I had another idea.

(when will I learn?)



# Actual Bookshelf Quilts

Inspiration for the barn quilt design came from actual quilts I had seen on the internet.



# Asked the FOL about a Barn Quilt

- Our community is already on the barn quilt trail
- Only one quilt in downtown Lebanon, the others are out in the county
- Got permission from the Library Board to place the barn quilt on the side of the library
- Asked the Friends of the Library if they would purchase the materials for painting a barn quilt
- One Friends member asked if we could sell sponsorships on the book spines as a fundraiser
- FOL approved the project contingent on getting approval from the Library Board about names on the barn quilt
- Received approval from the Board for spine sales

# Barn Quilt Brochure

Sent out brochures to all FOL members, wrote articles in the newspaper, etc.

## *Growing Minds*

*If you have visited the Marion County Public Library recently, then you know the library is bursting at the seams. Despite this, building a new addition or new facility is still a dream at this point in time.*

*However, the library is planning to add a reading garden to the front lawn of the library. This garden will be accessible to patrons during library hours, weather permitting. In addition to seating, the garden will include raised bed gardens to be planted by staff and patrons. These gardens will provide additional educational opportunities for our patrons, including planting, growing, and harvesting fruits, vegetables, and flowers.*



## FUNDING THE PROJECT

*In order for the library to complete this project, the Friends of the Library are spear-heading a fundraising project in the form of a barn quilt. Barn quilts have sprouted up across the U.S., with Marion County touting its very own quilt trail.*

*The library quilt will be composed of book spines, resulting in a finished piece that will resemble a stocked bookshelf. Each spine is up for grabs, which is where YOU come in! The Friends are asking individuals, families, businesses and organization to sponsor spines in various sizes and prices. Book spines can be personalized with your name, name of your business or organization, or even the title of your favorite book.*

*Spines are available in the following sizes and prices:*

*2"Wx11"H—\$25.00*

*3"Wx10"H—\$50.00*

*3"Wx12"H—\$60.00*

*4"Wx12"H—\$75.00*

*4"Wx15"H—\$100.00*

*The image to the right is an example of an actual bookshelf quilt. The one at MCPL will be similar, attached to*

*the side of the library facing Harrison Street. The quilt will be painted by MCPL patrons, at a Painting Party.*



## SPONSOR A BOOK!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

CASH  CHECK

BOOK SIZE	PRICE	QTY.
2" W X 11" H	\$25	_____
3" W X 10" H	\$50	_____
3" W X 12" H	\$60	_____
4" W X 12" H	\$75	_____
4" W X 15" H	\$100	_____

TEXT FOR SPINE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO (OR DROP OFF AT):

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY FRIENDS OF  
THE LIBRARY

201 East Main Street  
Lebanon, KY 40033  
Phone: 270.692.4698  
Fax: 270.692.9555  
E-mail: mcplfriends@gmail.com



# Green Tree Plastics

We found out about the bench for caps program from a coworker's daughter who had been collecting caps for her church. The company is located in Evansville, IN – close enough to drop off and pick up. We could get the community involved and bring awareness to the reading garden project at the same time!



## ABC - A Bench for Caps

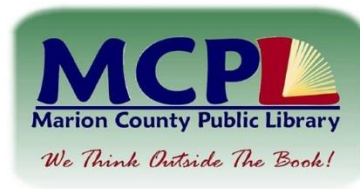
Help the Marion County Library collect plastic caps from an array of containers! The library can trade in 400 pounds of caps (and \$200) for a bright, colorful bench for our new reading garden!

### Acceptable caps:

- plastic drink bottle caps (including the separated ring)
- lids from food containers like coffee cans, peanut butter jars, and butter tubs
- tops from spray cans like spray paint, hairspray, etc.
- caps from liquid laundry detergent and milk jugs (including the separated ring)

**NOT acceptable:** any metal, pumps, fast food cup lids

Bring in your caps to the library in one gallon Ziploc bags and even get \$1.00 off of your fines!



# One Simple Facebook Post...

July 18, 2014

- I made a simple Facebook post using the image on the previous slide, talking about the reading garden and cap project. One young patron wrote a letter to her principal and asked if the school would collect caps on our behalf!

## Amira Bowman, Rocker of Socks



Marion County Public Library

Published by Jama Watts [?] · December 2, 2014 ·

Starting this month, MCPL will be honoring patrons who knock our socks off. This month, it's Miss Amira Bowman, daughter of Jeremy Bowman and Mikki Jo Leathers Bowman. Amira has not only collected caps for our reading garden benches, but she has also gone to her school and church, bringing in bags and bags of caps of our project. Amira, you rock!



Amira Bowman

For all of her hard work helping the library collect bottle caps for our "A Bench for Caps" program!

You rock!

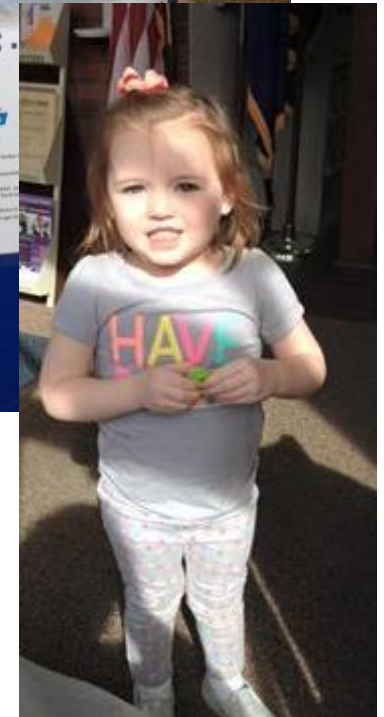
# Volunteers...

Gabbie Morgeson, Caleb Brown, Amber Perkins, Evelyn Murphy, and Madison Wise helped sort caps from time to time... (Some kids used the time as service hours for Junior Beta.)



# Of all ages!

As did  
Hannah  
Gaither,  
Salem  
Bowman, Zach  
Wise, and  
Lucy Bland.  
(Caleb Brown  
really got  
INTO the  
project.)





## Leadership Lebanon / Marion County

Leadership took the reading garden on as the focus of their 2014-2015 fundraising project after reading about the project in the newspaper.





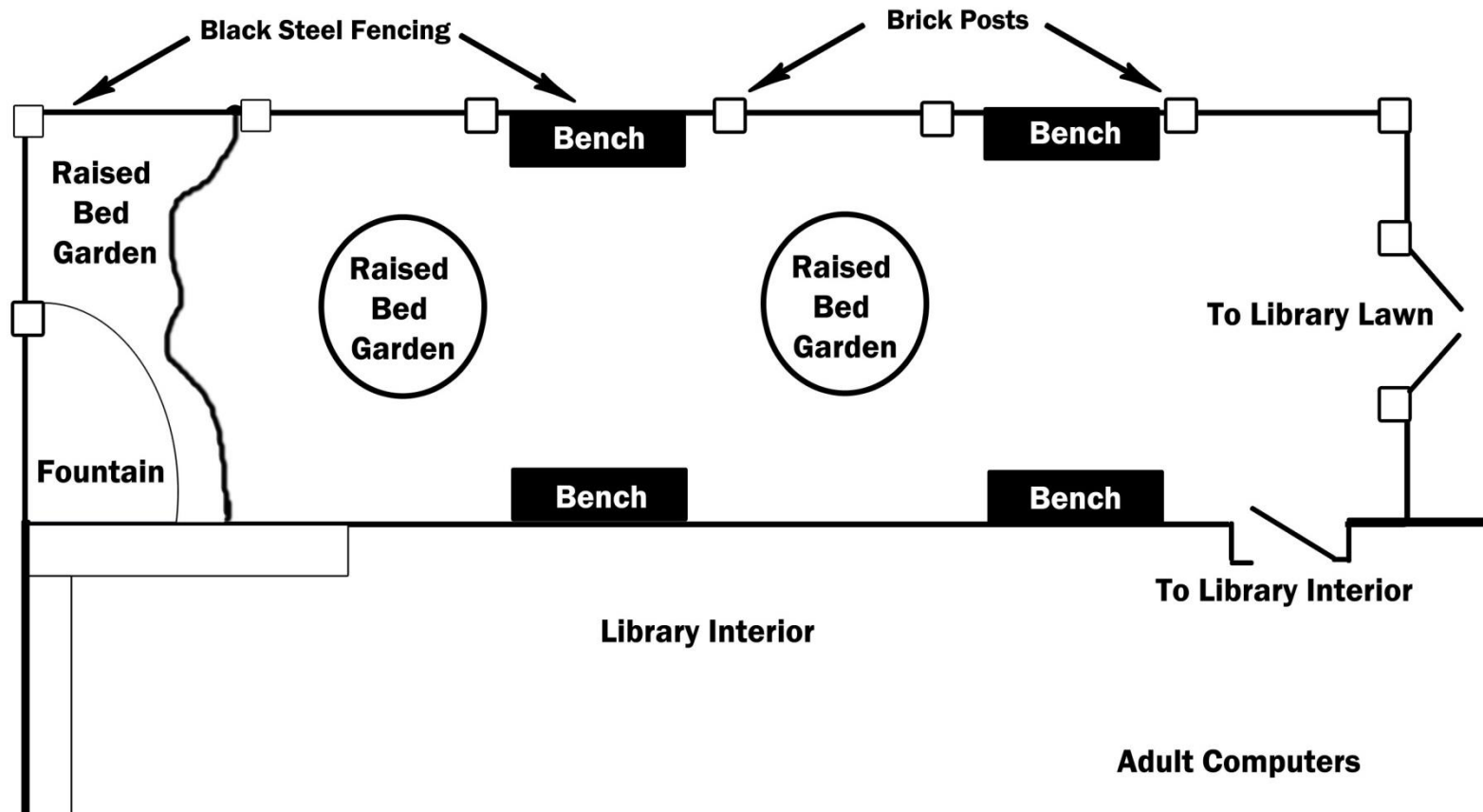
## Marion County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber donated \$250 to sponsor a bench after hearing about the project.



## Our first benches

Daryl McMasters, Stephen Lega, and Jeremy Bowman helped unload the benches while Amira and Salem Bowman pose with our yellow bench. Both benches were paid for with donations – the aforementioned Chamber of Commerce donation and one from the 4 Winds Foundation.



## More PR

We kept PR going with a guest column in the local newspaper in August 2015 about the reading garden with an updated sketch, along with more information about the bench for caps program and book spine sales. Of course, we also used it as a time to promote events and other activities going on at the library.



**Marion County Public Library**  
Published by Amy Morgeson [?]  
Like This Page · April 23 · Edited ·

Earth Day doesn't have to be just one day. Do your part every day! We're still collecting plastic caps for our bench for caps project. We've already built two benches which take 400 lbs of plastic each! Ms. Jama is now having to sort, bag and store caps weekly because our big bin stays so full! Imagine, those are just plastic caps! Think of all the other recyclable items that go into our dumps and landfills! Do your part and recycle what you can!

Tag Photo Add Location Edit

Like Comment Share

12

Write a comment..

## Caps, Caps, and More Caps

Our bin overfloweth... Facebook and Twitter posts helped promote the project. I also make sure I sort caps out in the open... while sitting on one of the benches!



**Jama Watts**  
June 23, 2015 · Edited · 11

As I sort caps for our bench project at work, I often make up stories about who donated. For example, one bag was full of caps from baby wipes, detergent, coffee and coffee creamer. These are the caps of a family with a newborn who aren't getting a lot of sleep. — at Marion County Public Library

Tag Photo Edit

Like Comment Share

Corinne Sullivan, Mary Parrott and 18 others

**Amy Corder Bland Wait** · Baby wipes? I didn't know I could use those too!  
Unlike Reply · 1 · June 25, 2015 at 11:50am

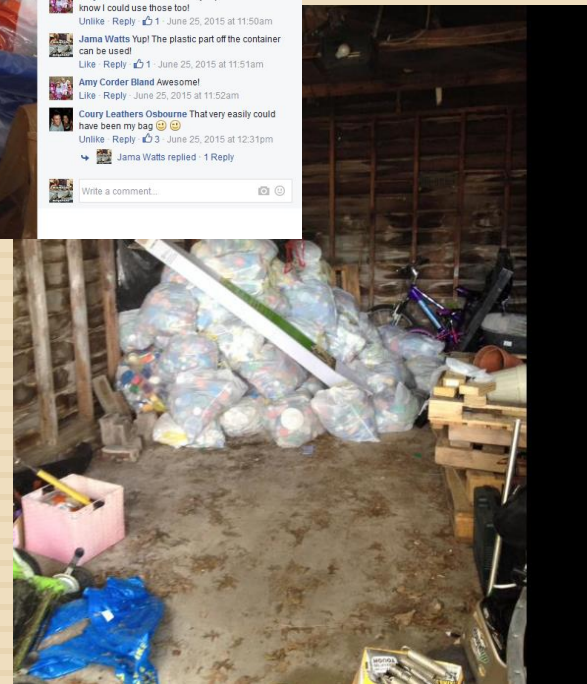
**Jama Watts** Yup! The plastic part of the container can be used!  
Like Reply · 1 · June 25, 2015 at 11:51am

**Amy Corder Bland Awesome!**  
Like Reply · June 25, 2015 at 11:52am

**Coory Leathers Osborne** That very easily could have been my bag!  
Unlike Reply · 3 · June 25, 2015 at 12:31pm

**Jama Watts** replied · 1 Reply

Write a comment...



**Jama Watts**  
August 16 · 11

Filled up THREE of the giant boxes from the recycling center plus two 45 gallon garbage cans and I STILL have caps in my garage. Two more benches to pick up tomorrow, then collecting for a picnic table. Amazing what recycling can do! — at Marion County Public Library

Tag Photo Edit

Like Comment Share

Mary Parrott, Katherine N Kirzinger and 23 others

Write a comment...

Sponsored Create Ad

**Promise Freshness**  
amazon.com  
The FoodSaver brand keeps food fresh, eliminates waste & saves money.

# More Facebook Posts!

Many times I post pictures of my garage (where the caps are stored) or what I'm doing with the caps on my personal FB page, but I tag the library in the post.



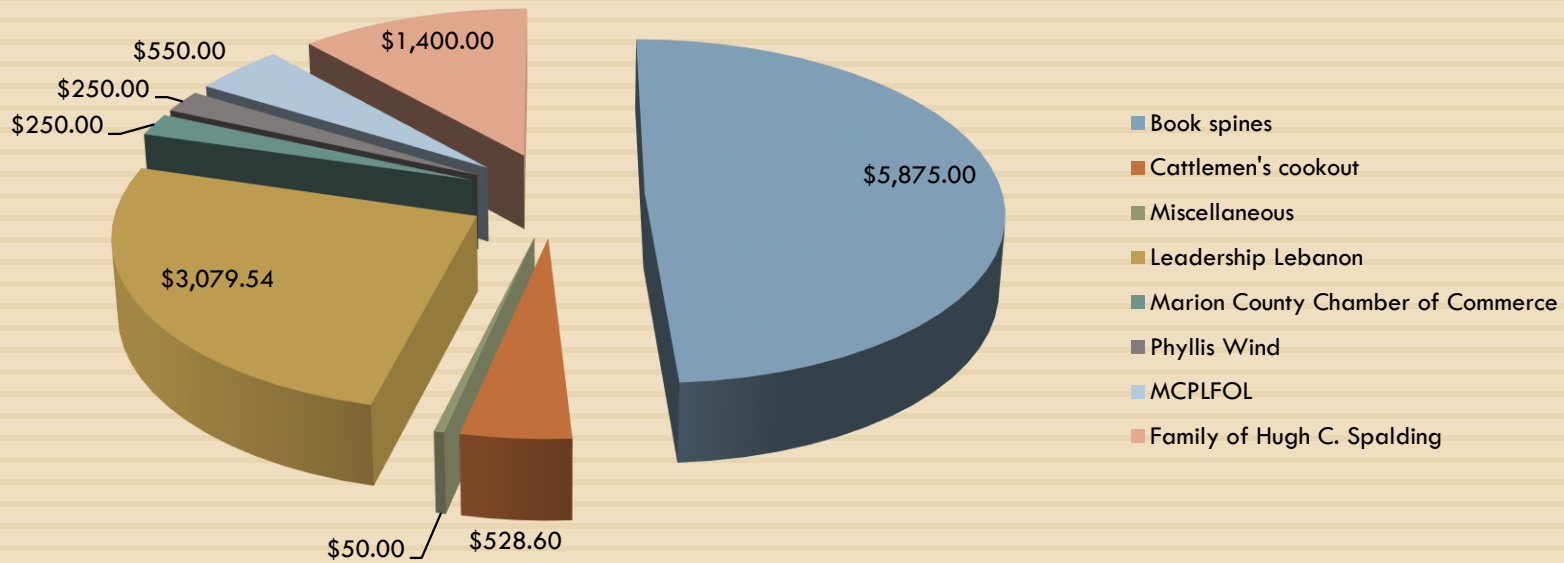
## Family of Hugh C. Spalding

A short while after getting the first two benches, the family of Hugh C. Spalding gave the FOL \$1500 for the reading garden project.



## Cattlemen's Association

The local Cattlemen's Association will host cookouts to raise money for local organizations. They do the cooking for free & members of the FOL do the sales. The FOL donated a portion of the proceeds back to the Association for their scholarship fund. The one day fundraiser brought in \$528.60.



Total raised - \$11,983.14

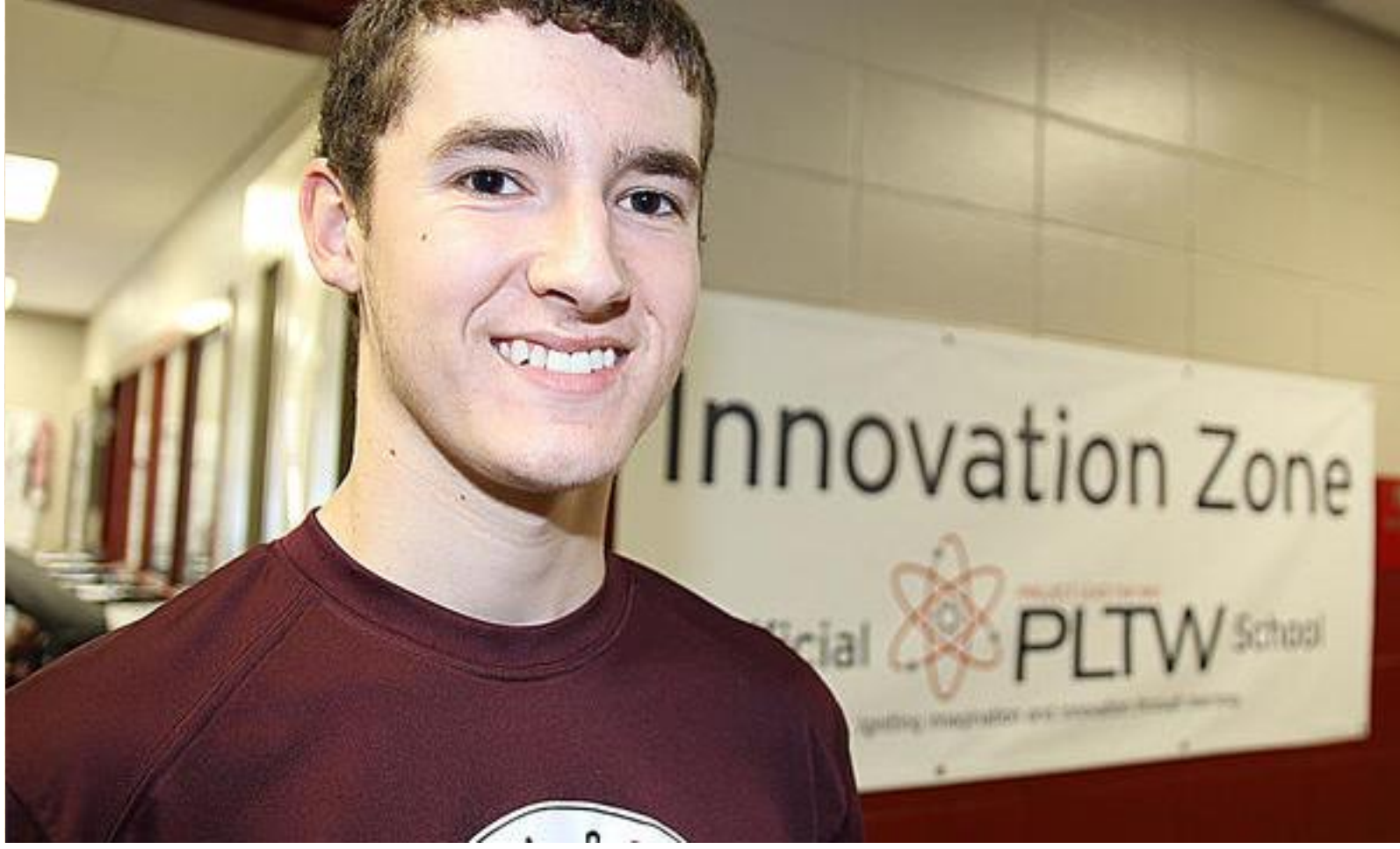
Supplies at this point total \$1,612.94 – postage, vinyl, paint, boards, sealant, 4 benches.





## Project Lead the Way

With money raised, we visited the Area Technical Center and met with Principal Brandon Bardin about the project. We knew ATC students had previously designed projects for the community.



Cody Browning

Several months later, after dropping off my rough sketch with Mr. Bardin, we met with Project Lead the Way sponsor Greg Conley and student Cody Browning.



## Cody's Design

Cody had taken our design and run with it. Mr. Conley wanted to make it a full ATC project with the FOL providing the funds for supplies and the students designing and building the garden. The project was featured in the local newspaper in March of 2016.



And then...

During this time, the lawsuits over library tax rates were won, and we found out that the grant money was in the budget for library building projects. The Board voted to move forward with seeking the grant money, meaning building the garden would be put on hold. **HOWEVER...**



# Voilà!

On June 28, 2016, we had an unveiling for the barn quilt. After the unveiling, we sold another \$1000 in spines in less than a week. By the end of August, we had sold the remaining spines!



## Two more benches!

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, the next two benches were put outside under the barn quilt. We've since added a Little Free Library near the benches, as well. The FOL decided to continue to collect caps for a picnic table and two trash receptacles. We stopped collecting caps on December 31, 2016, but two schools have taken up the project.



## An Opportunity to Promote!

Kids from St. Augustine School visited just after the next two benches were delivered. We used this as an opportunity to take photos for promotion on FB.

# Cerkl


Terry Brockman also used the images of the kids, some caps, and myself to put together an article for our online newsletter, which goes out via email, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Marion County Public Library Cerkl

W f t + 2

## Your old caps are a thing of beauty!

Terry Brockman  
Aug 19



**They might just look like old caps to you but they are art to us!**


Since we began collecting caps in the summer of 2014, the response from the community has been phenomna! Thanks to your recycling efforts we now have FOUR heavy duty indoor/outdoor benches made from old caps! These benches will be incorporated into a future

outdoor reading garden project!



Marion County Public Library Cerkl

## Thinking Outside The Book!



SAV DO!

THE BOOKS ARE HERE! DON'T LET THEM GO! NO MORE SHAME!



# They keep coming in!

This was the scene just this past Friday. A nun in Nelson County has been collecting caps and sending them to us through our director's husband. We got tween volunteers in on Saturday to help sort caps. My trunk AND back seat were loaded down!



**Marion County Public Library**  
Published by Jama Watts [?]  
Like This Page · September 16 ·

Got caps? We do! Did you know that we have to sort through every cap donation? We sort out the plastic we can't use (i.e. flimsy fast food lids), metal, box top donations, etc., and rebag them before they go home to Miss Jama's garage (that is, until they get recycled!).

Tag Photo

Like

Ellen Rober

Write a

Sponsored



Someone Nees  
amazon.com  
Kleenex: Send



# We wait... and wait some more...

Until we find out about the grant money after the appeals process later this year, we're stuck waiting. The reading garden WILL happen, but we just don't know when we'll be able to move forward.



This webinar was made possible in part by the



# Thank you!

[KDLA.Certification@ky.gov](mailto:KDLA.Certification@ky.gov)

[CE Events Calendar](#)

[Archived Webinars](#)



[@KDLALibDev](https://twitter.com/KDLALibDev)



[facebook.com/KDLACE](https://facebook.com/KDLACE)

Jama Watts

Reference & Genealogy Librarian

Marion County Public Library

[Jama.Watts@marioncopublic.org](mailto:Jama.Watts@marioncopublic.org)

270-692-4698