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Annual Report December, 2014

In 2014, the Encino-Tarzana Branch staff continued our commitment to provide service to our local communities as part of the Los Angeles Public Library system. As in past years, we were one of the busiest of the 73 branches in circulation and usage of the Library's many valuable and diverse resources. As in past years, the staff worked very hard to ensure that our patrons are getting the materials, information and programs that they want and enjoy. Some program highlights from 2014 include a very successful Summer Reading Program for children and teens, our popular Feel Good Yoga with Nicole for adults, and our monthly Persian film screening. As usual, we presented several other well-attended programs for children and teens during the holidays, which always ends the year nicely.

In 2014, the Library continued to fulfill Measure L commitments by restoring more Library hours. We hired new librarians and clerks and are hoping to hire new messenger clerks early in 2015. And we have seen our City approved budget grow, which means more materials on the shelves. Though these changes might seem imperceptible to some, when viewed as one part of the whole system, more staff and more materials and more hours of Library availability is a big thing.

This year brought some very visible changes to the appearance of the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library. Unfortunately we had to remove a large tree in the front plaza area because it was causing damage to the area, but it was replaced with a beautiful young olive tree that will provide shade and greenery in the years to come. The large windows that are such a defining feature of the branch's architecture were thoroughly washed and new graffiti guards were applied. And most of the exterior and parking lot lights and bulbs were repaired or replaced. These improvements over the past few months have really made the branch shine and seem almost brand new again.

And for another year, hundreds of Encino and Tarzana citizens have donated thousands of books. Some books the librarians keep to supplement our Library collection; the rest go directly to the Friends of the Library volunteer group for sale at the on-site Bookstore and at the quarterly book sales. The profits from these book sales enable us to hire performers for Library programs, purchase supplemental materials (such as books, DVDs and music CDs), and pay for Library supplies, to name a few of the ways that this community benefits from the generosity of your neighbors. None of this would be possible without the hard work, dedication, and generosity of the Friends volunteers, who work in the Bookstore and also sort books twice a week for several hours at a time in our community room. Additionally, the Friends of the Library Board members work hard to guide the group and ensure that all their hard work goes to supporting and enriching the Encino-Tarzana Library.

My hope for 2015 is that the Library will continue to strengthen and grow and evolve to serve the changing needs of the diverse communities we serve; and that the Encino-Tarzana Branch continues to be as busy and active and engaging as it has been these past four and a half years that I have been here.