



Our Story

After just over three months in a room with only a floor, ceiling and four walls a fully equipped, wireless, Public Computer Center was born at the Port Jervis Free Library. It was named The Hub to recognize the Canal and Railroad Heritage of Port Jervis.



The Hub opened in January of 2011 with 16 public computers and a complete teleconferencing system with large screen TV. Since its opening, broadband has been expanded, iPads have been added, and an early learning computer installed.

When we look back at the impact of The Hub on the library and in the community, we realize that our story is not just Gerald, the former JAG officer returning from the Philippines and opening his Immigration Law Practice using our public computers.

Our story is not just Sylvia who obtained a job because of our networking skills; a job that saved her home from foreclosure. Our story is not just the several other patrons now gainfully employed who with the help of our trainers completed their resumes and job applications on our public computers.

Our story is not just the business owners we have helped to develop inventory control systems and write their business plans. Our story is not just Mike, Thom, Stephen, Gigi, and the many others who seldom if ever used a computer, but now regularly use it for emailing, information gathering plus purchasing and selling.

Our story is not just the three-year old and her grandparent becoming digitally literate together on the early learning computer. Our story is not just the laptops given to several needy individuals with the help of the Rockland PC Club. Our story is not just the four classes of adults who prepared to take their GED test in a course cooperatively presented by SUNY Orange College and the Trainers of The Hub. Our story is not just the adults learning Workplace Essential Skills in another course cooperatively presented by SUNY Orange College and the Trainers of The Hub. Our story is not just the 18 to 20 people (maximum capacity) participating in presentations of Digital Photography, History, and Genealogical Presentations (on site and through teleconferencing).



Our story is all of the above plus the 1,572 unique visitors from the community since the opening in January 2, 2011 (representing close to 10% of the total population of the region); the 1279 visits to The Hub this March alone (up from the 339 during our first month, January 2011- a 378% increase); the 1918 visits to use The Hub and other public computers in the library (up from 798 in January 2011 - a 241% increase); the 173 patrons who attended 26 different presentations and classes this March (compared to 31 at 3 programs in January of 2011); **and most importantly, the 289 visitors who received individual assistance from our trainers this March alone.**



Our Outcome = Community Digital Literacy

In recognition of the impact of The Hub on the digital literacy of our region and its contribution to the further enhancement of the reputation of the Port Jervis Free Library as an anchor institution in the community –

the Board of Trustees has included funding in the budget to continue The Hub @ The Port Jervis free Library

With its full complement of Trainers intact, The Hub will be able to continue to provide the individual assistance for those preparing for the workplace, seeking employment opportunities, or preparing for life in the digital world. While programs are successful, we have found that the individual assistance provided creates the most dramatic and profound changes.

Port Jervis served as The Hub for the Delaware and Hudson Canal in the 19th century; The Hub for the Erie Railroad in the 20th Century; and now in the 21st Century through the efforts of our very qualified Trainers using high-quality broadband and technology access blended with their respective strengths, the Public Computer Center at the Port Jervis Free Library serves as The Hub of digital literacy in the community and digital communication to the world.