

The best thing about my library is the wonderful sense of community that I experience whenever I visit. I have been coming to the library ever since I was a small child, entranced by the bright picture books and large and fluffy stuffed animals. I fondly remember storytime, when I could lie on the rug of the Children's Section and let my mind travel to the tower where the dragon imprisoned the princess, or to the world of a bat who thought she was a bird. As I grew older, the library had more and more to offer. Once I graduated from Nancy Drew up to the teen section, I was awestruck by how many more options I had. There were so many books, and so little time! My mom and I made frequent trips to the library to keep up with my voracious appetite for books. I had always loved the library, but it wasn't until I started to come to Teen Events at the La Mesa Library that I really started to have fun. The first time that I attended a Teen Advisory Council, I was a little nervous. I wasn't sure how the meeting would go, or if the other teens would like me. However, from the first few minutes of TAC, I knew that I was going to fit in just fine. I liked having a voice in what happened in the Teen Section of the library as well as having the ability to request items that the library didn't already have. I also made a lot of friends. Now, three years later, I enjoy coming three Thursdays a month to discuss the latest book club book, do a craft, and plan the posters and displays of the Teen Room. This summer, I was fortunate enough to be able to volunteer as well. I helped with shelving and organizing the children's programs, and I got to know the librarians. I felt privileged to work beside them. I enjoyed giving back to the place that had given me so many hours of fun and education. The library is truly an essential part of our community. It is a place where people can gather together and work or have fun, and can read anything from current magazines to the classics. I love being able to go to the library as a regular, to smile and wave at the librarians and help out when I can. A sense of community is important for all people, and I know that I will always feel that sense strongly at my local library.