

Annual Report 2017



"The Library is one of the most impactful, far-reaching institutions in our community."

–Amy, Friends Member





Dear Friends,

Because of you, Hennepin County Library is making a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals every day.

Our 41 library locations, each a beloved local treasure, are welcoming hubs for the exchange of information, ideas, and opinions... a daily source of imagination and inspiration for thousands... and the place to grow, discover, reflect, and respond.

In recognition of your vital support, we are delighted to share Friends of the Hennepin County Library's 2017 Annual Report, highlighting the life-changing programs, services, and resources Friends members are making possible.

From creating pop-up libraries in under-served neighborhoods, to providing job opportunities to teens, to ensuring every member of our community has the opportunity to read, engage, and learn through our outreach services initiatives, our Library is a gateway to limitless opportunities for all.

Thank you for extending the transformational power of our Library to every corner of our county and beyond.


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Kristi Pearson
Executive Director



Friends of HCL staff

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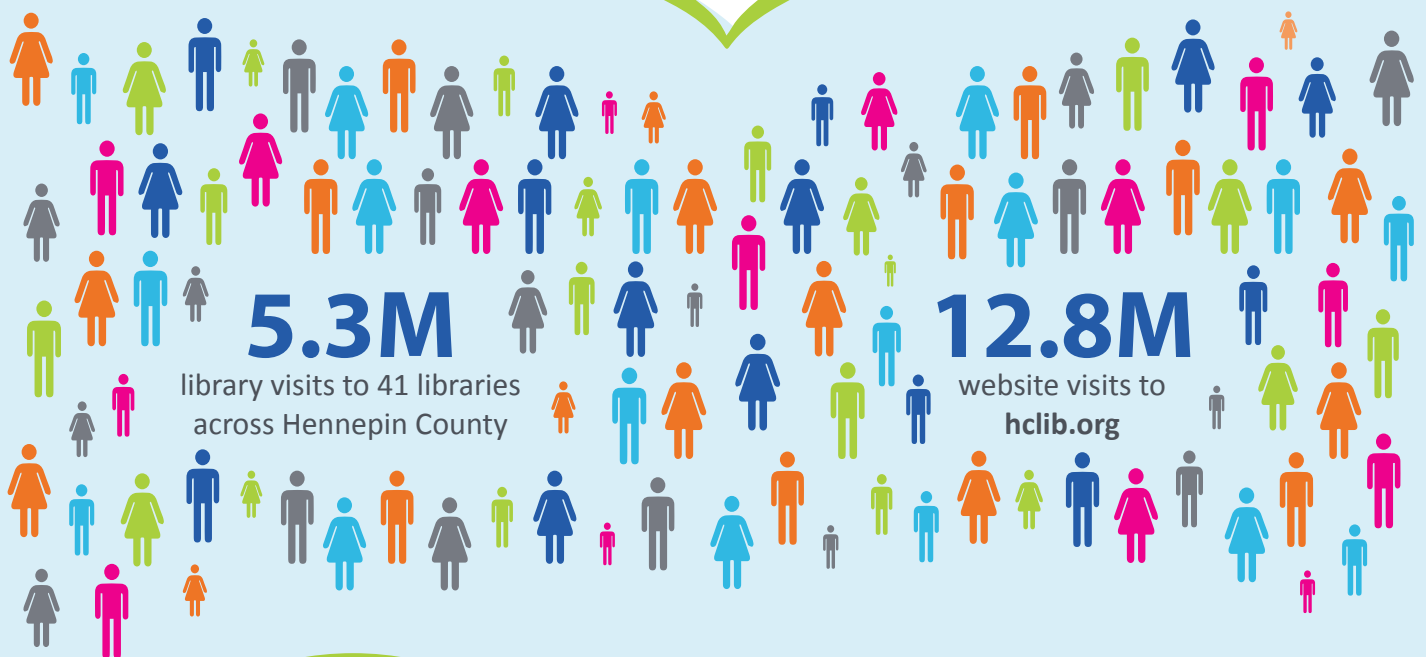
Linda Merritt
- Finance Director

Kristi Pearson
- Executive Director

Pride in our Library . . .

As Hennepin County Library's non-profit fundraising partner, Friends of the Hennepin County Library builds awareness, appreciation, and financial support for our world-class library.

. . . inspires our mission



855,000 library cardholders

15.1M items borrowed



2.4M downloads of books, movies, and music





Financial Statement

Statement of Operational Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Corporate, Foundation and Government Grants	\$576,662	\$94,040	-	\$670,702
Contributions, In-Kind	75,315	-	-	75,315
Memberships, Individual Gifts and Memorials	1,144,793	1,617	2,105	1,148,515
Program Revenue	291,162	-	-	291,162
Investment Income	170,486	86,928	-	257,414
Sub-Total Support and Revenue	2,258,418	182,585	2,105	2,443,108
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	284,516	(284,516)	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	2,542,934	(101,931)	2,105	2,443,108
EXPENSES				
Program Services	1,908,537	-	-	1,908,537
General and Administrative	100,331	-	-	100,331
Fundraising	389,186	-	-	389,186
Total Expenses	2,398,054	-	-	2,398,054
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	144,880	(101,931)	2,105	45,054
Net Assets – Beginning of the Year	1,624,265	1,201,610	551,599	3,377,474
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$1,769,145	\$1,099,679	\$553,704	\$3,422,528

A full audit conducted by Akins Henke & Company is available on our website at www.supportHCLIB.org.

Please contact Linda Merritt, Finance Director, at 612-543-8103 or lkerritt@hclib.org to request a paper copy of the audit.

In 2013, Friends of HCL moved to a guaranteed funding model, meaning the total funding given annually to the Library is now decided prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. Specific amounts are designated to each of HCL's priority funding areas. See the graph to the right for 2017's priority funding areas and amounts.

Growing Membership Means Growing Library Support



Member Households



Funding to the library



Your Support Makes a Profound Impact



Youth: School Readiness/Technology
\$287,592

Homework Help, Early Learning, Summer Learning, Best Buy Teen Tech Center, and more

Innovation
\$324,580

MnSpin, ConnectED, Library Welcome Van, Donor Designated Projects, and more

Youth: Pathways to Careers
\$223,600

Teen Tech Squad and Teen Specialist Program

Collections
\$103,000

High demand titles, Special Collections, and more

Local Libraries
\$205,942

Local programming enrichment

Community Based Service
\$130,705

Library services to seniors, correctional facilities, Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center, Franklin Learning Center, and more



Stories of Impact: Your support in action



Fueling Curious Minds through Summer Learning

Summer has always been a time for play, laughter, curiosity, and exploration. But it can also be a time when children lose academic gains achieved during the school year. Summer Learning combines the joys of summer fun with educational experiences that keep children discovering, engaging, and learning.



In 2017, our 41 libraries hosted more than 850 summer programs, many with a STEM, art, or literacy focus, attracting more than 12,000 youth participants.

At Sumner Library, for example, HCL partnered with the Minneapolis Institute of Art to

offer an artist-in-residence program. Participants in “Stitched Together Stories” collaborated with North Minneapolis artist Keegan Xavi to create drawings, collages, and mosaics that were pieced together into paper quilts displayed throughout Sumner Library’s main floor. One student, Amina, was inspired to make an image of a dinosaur with colorful flowers on one side and monochrome patterns on the other. She explained that this was a visual representation of how different people can be on the outside and the inside.

Building Student Confidence and Academic Success

Homework Help is a drop-in tutoring program offering youth a free, safe, and welcoming space to work with adult volunteers, master academic concepts, improve reading comprehension, and complete homework assignments. Last year, **260 volunteer tutors devoted more than 7,000 hours, serving 1,100 unique youth representing all grade levels.**

Homework Help offers rigorous academic support in multiple subjects like English, math, and science. Nearly **70% of youth participants attend Homework Help at least once a week.** Many of our students are first or second generation immigrants who confront cultural and linguistic barriers when trying to complete their assignments. “I don't get the homework when my teacher talks about it,” one Homework Help participant explained, “but when the helpers help me, I get it.”

Last year, Homework Help was more popular than ever, experiencing a 25% increase in attendance, totaling more than 16,000 individual tutoring sessions. **85% of participants say they are doing better in school because of Homework Help,** and many others indicate that the program is crucial to helping them maintain good grades.

Transforming How Homebound Patrons Access our Library

At Home Services provides nearly 1,000 homebound people the opportunity to access our library's expansive collection, engage with compassionate volunteers, stay connected with the wider world, and let their imaginations soar beyond their physical limitations.

“*The service is one of the strongest threads keeping me peaceful and with a great sense of joy and mental activity during my chronic times.*

– At Home Services Patron

Researchers have linked social isolation with depression, heart disease, stroke, and many other ills. It is no wonder many At Home patrons call the program a “lifeline,” and not just because of the personal contact with our library staff and volunteers. Brain imaging has revealed that books really do have the power to “transport” readers. In fact, reading a novel engages many of the same processes as real-world experiences!

In 2017, your support helped fund specially-trained librarians who answered questions, connected patrons with services and information, and fulfilled requests for books and other resources.

“This service is one of the strongest threads keeping me peaceful and with a great sense of joy and mental activity during my chronic times,” one patron says. “Quite often, those delightful blue bags packed with laughter, liberating knowledge, and entertainment are the only mail I receive.”



Empowering Teens through STEM-Based Learning

Teen Tech Center

Inside Minneapolis Central Library is a state-of-the-art creative space built exclusively for teens. The Best Buy Teen Tech Center is equipped with powerful computers loaded with software like Photoshop, a green screen for video productions, and even a fully-equipped music recording studio!

“Since coming here, I've learned sewing is my passion and want to further it, keep learning, and start my own clothing-line business. If you have a passion, go for it!”
– Tierni, Teen Center Student

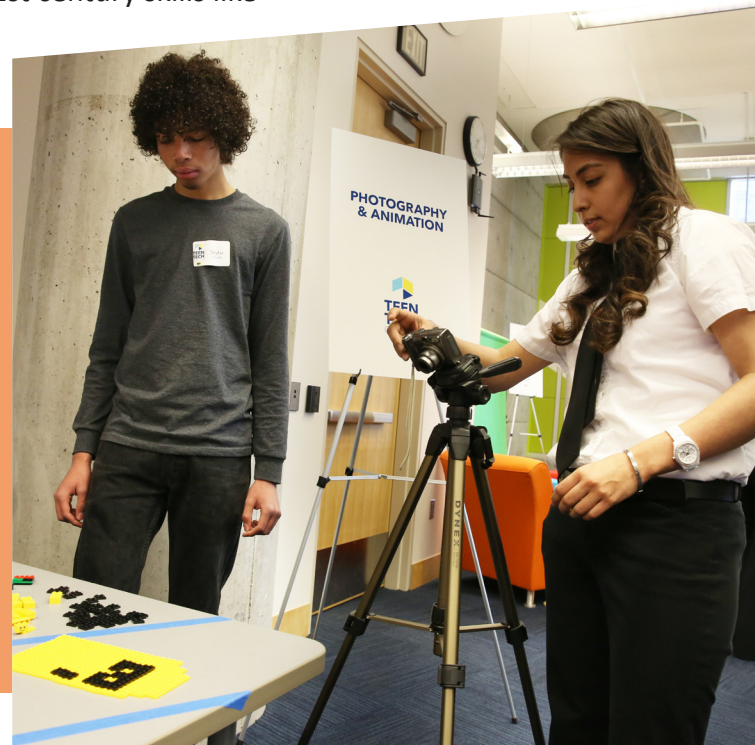
Because of your support in 2017, an average of 30 teens per day came to record music, build robots, create digital videos, engineer and print 3-D objects, develop video games, write computer programs, design and sew their own clothes, build customized computers, and much more.

Tierni, a student who initially came to the Center because it was a safe place to go after school,

says, “Before I came here, I never knew what my passion was. Since coming, I’ve learned sewing is my passion and want to further it, keep learning, and start my own clothing-line business. If you have a passion, go for it!”

Teen Tech Squad

Teen Tech Squad is a year-round youth employment program that gives 34 teenagers the opportunity to share their interest in STEM subjects and facilitate engaging, hands-on workshops that bring hundreds of diverse youth into local libraries. The program offers workforce opportunities that are rarely available to teens: not only a strong wage of \$15/hour, but work experiences and responsibilities that build vital 21st century skills like



collaboration, communication, and self-directed learning, and “hard” technology skills in fields like coding and robotics.

Offering twice-monthly workshops to their younger peers at seven Hennepin County libraries and the new Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center, teen leaders created

welcoming environments where youth from different backgrounds assist, collaborate, encourage, and laugh with one another. The majority of TTS's hundreds of youth participants receive free or reduced-price lunch at school. More than 80% are youth of color, and almost half speak another language.

Your support is making a measurable impact! By offering hands-on, creative activities, with opportunity for fun and teamwork, Teen Tech Squad is changing young peoples' ideas about science and technology, building their confidence in challenging academic subjects, and inspiring them to envision themselves in ambitious STEM careers. 95% of participants say they feel part of a supportive community while participating in their Teen Tech Squad. 93% feel more confident solving tough science, tech, engineering, art, or math problems because of TTS workshops, and 93% say they are more interested in STEM subjects due to their participation in TTS.

Transforming Access to Local Minnesota Music

In recent years, librarians began noticing that the shift to MP3 and streaming services was making it much harder to track down CDs produced by local musicians. With the support of Friends of the Hennepin County Library, a new online music streaming and downloading platform - MnSpin - was launched.

MnSpin features more than 50 local artists representing Minnesota's incredible range of musical talent, from hip-hop, jazz, and underground rock, to mariachi, reggae, country, and more!

“We have such a rich and diverse local music scene, and any music lover can find something new and exciting through MnSpin.”

– HCL Director Lois Langer Thompson



In an effort to support local artists financially, MnSpin pays musicians for the rights to share each album, funding that would not have been possible without your support.

Through MnSpin, HCL is helping artists gain greater exposure, and music lovers delve deeper into the local music scene by exploring new hometown sounds. Anyone can stream the music by some of Minnesota's most talented musicians, and library patrons can download the music to carry with them wherever they go.

Individual Donors



Thank You Minerva Leadership Circle Members

The Minerva Leadership Circle recognizes those who support our Library at an exceptional level, \$1,000 or more annually. Named in honor of the Roman goddess of wisdom and protector of libraries, Minerva members ensure Hennepin County Library remains a pillar of our community.

Tax-deductible gifts received between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

\$25,000+

Anonymous

\$10,000+ (Champions)

Anonymous

Anonymous in honor of Special Olympics MN

Julie Allinson and Paul Erickson

The Estate of Linda Brandt

The Estate of Mary Michael Connolly

Estate of Melanie J. Haddox

Darby and Geri Nelson

Mary and Thomas Racciatti

The Estate of Robert and Joan Rohlf

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Advised Fund of the Minnesota

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I love the Library because it's a great place for kids of all ages to spend their time and use the vast resources to build a future for themselves and others.

– Mike, Friend Member



\$1,000 - \$2,499 cont. (Patrons)

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Margaret Zverinova

Friends of the Hennepin County Library is truly grateful to our 8,500 donors who made tax-deductible gifts of up to \$1,000 in 2017.



Organizational Support & Sponsors

Gifts received between January 1 and December 31, 2017

\$50,000+

The Clubhouse Network
Minnesota Department of Education

\$25,000+

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Best Buy Foundation
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\$10,000+

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Friends of the Westonka Library
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Honorariums & Memorials

In 2017, hundreds of generous individuals made tribute and memorial gifts in support of the Library. For a full acknowledgement of these gifts, please visit supportHCLIB.org/tribute-2017

Bob Rolf, a lifelong champion of libraries, passed away in June 2017. His dynamic career began in 1955 when he became project manager for the planning of the then new Minneapolis Central Library. In 1965, he was recruited to the Library of Congress to oversee the proposed James Madison Memorial Library in Washington D.C. Two years later, he was promoted to Director of Administration for the Library of Congress. In 1969, Bob returned to Minnesota and was hired as the Director of Hennepin County Library, a post he held for the next 25 years. During his tenure, Bob oversaw the expansion of 14 new regional libraries, contributing greatly to Hennepin County Library's standing as one of the top library systems in the country. The Library Journal named him one of the "Ten Outstanding Library Directors in the Country". We are truly grateful for Bob's lifetime of service and countless contributions to our beloved Library.



Bob Rolf, 1928-2017

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Gratia Legacy Circle Members

The Gratia Legacy Circle honors individuals who have made a bequest in a will or other planned gift to Friends of HCL. It is named for Gratia Countryman, one of the most important leaders in the history of public library service in Hennepin County.

Anonymous
Richard Alberta, PsyD and Hanan
Rosenstein, MD
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Maryellen and Larry Baumann
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We are deeply grateful for the following Library supporters, now passed, who included Friends of HCL in their estate plans.

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Barbara Aman
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Library supporters meet famed actor and author Alan Alda at Pen Pals.

Connecting Friends with Great Storytellers and Creating Meaningful Experiences

We believe in Hennepin County Library's central role of nurturing, amplifying and sharing unique voices from our community, nation and world. With this in mind, Friends of HCL produces two event series showcasing today's most thought-provoking literary talent. In our increasingly sold out Pen Pals series, we present an eclectic mix of authors at the top of your reading list, including bestsellers, award winners and book club favorites. In our free Talk of the Stacks series, we delve deeper into topical issues and share voices shaping the here and now. Whether our Friends join us for the first time or the fiftieth, our events aim to celebrate writers, the power of the written word, and the Library's core commitment to both.

Legendary news reporter and Pen Pals guest author Dan Rather mingles with FHCL Board President Kai Sakstrup, FHCL Executive Director Kristi Pearson, and Library Director Lois Langer Thompson.



Library champions enjoy panoramic views of downtown Minneapolis while supporting our world-class Library.

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, FHCL Executive Director Kristi Pearson, and Library supporters David Doty and Sam and Sylvia Kaplan.



J.D. Steele leads an unforgettable performance at a special event celebrating our Library's nationally acclaimed music collection.



Andrew McCarthy, 80s movie icon turned writer, signs copies of his debut novel, *Just Fly Away*, at Talk of the Stacks with long time fans.





Share your Library love using #myhcl!



Top 5 Ways to Connect with Friends!

1. Have an extraordinary literary experience with us at a **Talk of the Stacks** or **Pen Pals** event! Visit supportHCLIB.org for event information.
2. Follow Friends of the Hennepin County Library on **Facebook** to connect with fellow library supporters and reading enthusiasts.
3. Sign up for our **e-newsletter** to stay up-to-date on author events, book sales, and library news. *Subscribe at supportHCLIB.org.*
4. Join your **local library Friends chapter** to learn more about volunteer opportunities and other ways to support your neighborhood library!
5. **Exchange business cards** with us! We're always looking for organizational partners and sponsors who share our enthusiasm for the Library. *Email friends@hclib.org to schedule a time to connect.*



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