



FRIENDS
of the HENNEPIN
COUNTY LIBRARY

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Cover photo: Author Tayari Jones greets fans at Talk of the Stacks.

Photo right: Friends staff.

Dear Friends,

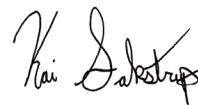
With your support, Hennepin County Library is delivering every day on its promise to be a welcoming home for all. Our vibrant, buzzing 41 library locations are the great democratic equalizer...serving people of every age, education level, income level, ethnicity, and physical ability.

With a core mission to build awareness, appreciation, and support for this beloved institution, we are thrilled to present our 2018 Annual Report.

Your generosity fuels the transformational power of our Library. By creating pop-up libraries in neighborhood parks, providing job opportunities to teens, and ensuring every member of our community has the opportunity to read, engage, and learn, our Library is a gateway to limitless opportunities.

Thank you for supporting this vital work!

Kai Sakstrup
Board President



Kristi Pearson
Executive Director



2018: Our Library in Action



18.3M

items checked out
in 2018

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.



5.5M

library visits to all 41 libraries
across Hennepin County



1.7M

computer sessions
for Library patrons



1M

questions answered by
knowledgeable and
expert staff



3.1M

downloads of music, movies,
and books through the online
collection



35K

meetings and events
at 41 Library locations



12K

inspiring and engaging
programs



“

I just love the vibe and aura you get from being somewhere with so much knowledge packed into one place!

~ Carneisha, Minneapolis Central Library patron

Financial Statement

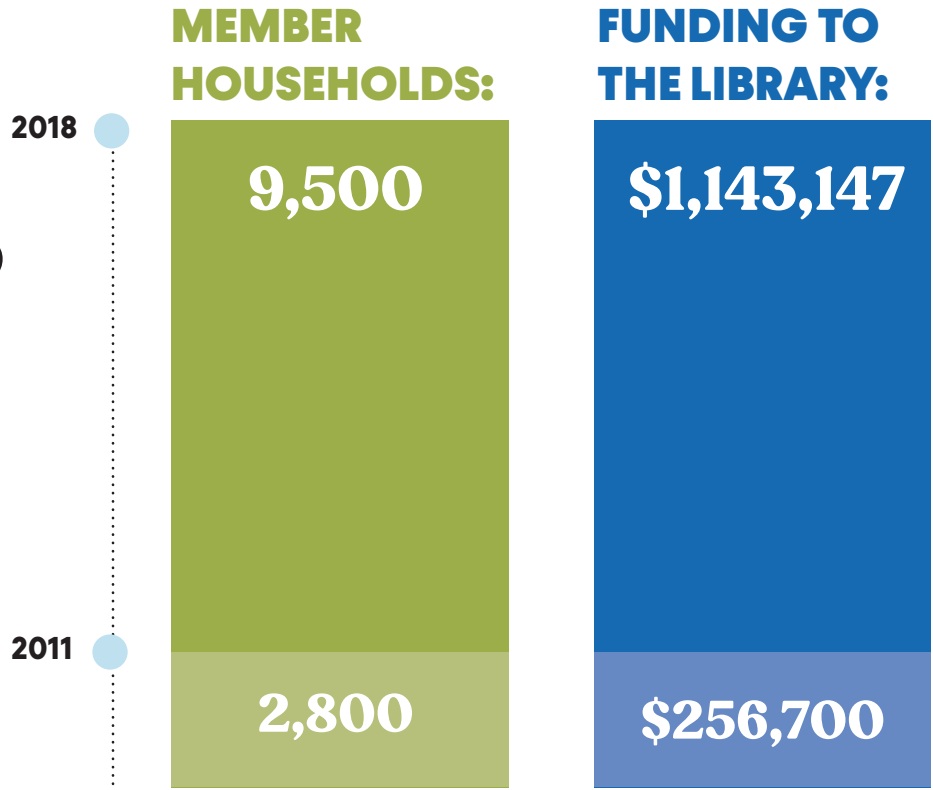
Statement of Operational
Activities for the Year Ending
December 31, 2018

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Corporate, Foundation, and Government Grants	644,313	222,920	867,233
Contribution, In-Kind	80,213	-	80,213
Memberships, Individual Gifts, and Memorials	1,259,013	261,032	1,520,045
Program Revenue	261,924	-	261,924
Investment Income	(83,073)	(44,594)	(127,667)
Sub-Total Support and Revenue	2,162,390	439,358	2,601,748
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	268,217	(268,217)	-
Total Support and Revenue	2,430,607	171,141	2,601,748
EXPENSES			
Program Services	1,885,173	-	1,885,173
General and Administrative	98,626	-	98,626
Fundraising	560,077	-	560,077
Total Expenses	2,543,876	-	2,543,876
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(113,269)	171,141	57,872
Net Assets: Beginning of the Year	1,769,145	1,653,383	3,422,528
NET ASSETS: END OF YEAR	1,655,876	1,824,524	3,480,400

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 email lmerritt@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.

Your Friends Membership Ensures Growing Library Support



YOUTH: SCHOOL READINESS/STEM LEARNING

\$356,710

Homework Help; summer learning; early literacy; teen tech centers; and more

YOUTH: PATHWAYS TO CAREERS

\$139,000

Teen Tech Squads

LOCAL LIBRARIES

\$184,044

Local Library Equity Fund; local programming enrichment; and more

INNOVATION

\$158,403

MnSpin; donor designated projects; and more

COLLECTIONS

\$53,500

High demand titles; collections at homeless shelters; Special Collections digitization and preservation; and more

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICE

\$251,490

Library services to seniors, correctional facilities, and patrons experiencing homelessness; Community Embedded Library Service; Franklin Learning Center; and more

Your Support Makes a Crucial Impact

“

I love the library. Thank you for making me feel valued and welcomed!

~ Jo, Westonka Library patron



Stories of Impact:

Your Support in Action

Empowering the next generation

TEEN TECH SQUAD

Twice a month, the Library's eight Teen Tech Squads offer hands-on, creative workshops that bring hundreds of diverse youth into libraries, inspiring young people to see themselves in ambitious STEM careers. Teen Leaders gain invaluable work experience while collaborating to design and facilitate activities like:

- Building remote-controlled robot hands;
- Exploring chemistry by mixing slime from different formulas;
- Creating LED valentines; and
- Using forensics to solve an "escape-room" style mystery.

This ongoing program offers 34 Hennepin County teens 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, self-directed learning, and "hard" technology skills in fields like coding and robotics.

BEST BUY 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! In 2018, an average of 25 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.

What drives this program isn't just the cutting-edge technology, but the community that is created and nurtured by library staff, volunteer mentors, and hundreds of youth who engage with the center. Last year, nearly 600 individual teens visited and utilized the teen tech center more than 5,200 times.

HOMEWORK HELP

When the school day ends, 14 Hennepin County libraries become collaborative, lively spaces where children and teens study with adult tutors, work independently on school projects, and help one another with English translation and reading comprehension. A volunteer-driven, afterschool tutoring program, Homework Help served 1,200 young people through more than 16,000 tutoring sessions last year. Nearly 70% of participants attended at least once a week.

In 2018, 8 in 10 Homework Help families were first- or second- generation immigrants still learning to navigate

Helping learners of all ages achieve their dreams

new cultures and unfamiliar school systems. The 15 lead tutors and 325 volunteers offered rigorous tutoring in core academic subjects while also building relationships of trust to help students and parents overcome barriers and fully participate in their new communities.

FRANKLIN LEARNING CENTER

From Norwegians and Swedes one hundred years ago, to East Africans and Central Americans today, Franklin Library has always been dedicated to helping immigrants adapt and succeed in their new country. Established in 1988 with 40 volunteers helping adult learners prepare for the GED, the Franklin Learning Center has expanded to 200+ volunteers offering services like computer literacy, English Language Learning, and preparation for citizenship tests.

In 2018, over 650 adults devoted more than 20,000 hours to studying in the Franklin Learning Center with 74 becoming U.S. citizens.

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AT YOUTH SHELTERS

When young people lose their home, they struggle to stay connected to the people and programs they need more than ever. In 2018, Hennepin County Library shelter collections ignited and fueled a love of reading and provided youth access to vital information needed to navigate their challenging world. With support from Friends, the Library curated timely, relevant collections at nine youth shelters across Hennepin County.

More than 6,000 youth shelter residents checked out books and other reading material from these collections. “They are furthering their own education, and they are asking me for pretty heavy stuff,” says Librarian Lisa Howes. “The fact that these materials are available for them to take as they need makes a big difference.”



Children’s programs, especially at the Plymouth location, have helped my grandson with autism. Thank you!

~ Peggy, Plymouth Library patron



Fueling children's learning throughout summer

SUMMER LEARNING

Hennepin County Library is a crucial resource for thousands of families seeking to keep their children discovering, engaging, and learning all year long.

In 2018, HCL offered more than 1,000 educational and interactive summer programs at all 41 libraries with more than 18,000 kids participating. Thanks to support of Friends like you, all programs were completely free and open to the public.

Many programs focus on literacy and writing, such as the wide variety of weekly book clubs. Additionally, librarians, volunteers, teen interns, and community experts offered children the opportunities to analyze animal bones, build outdoor survival tools, study Minnesota's bees and other pollinators, observe the behavior of bald eagles, and so much more.

"ALL ARE WELCOME" VAN & POP-UP LIBRARIES

The Library's new, Friends-funded "All Are Welcome" van extended valuable services outside of the library's physical walls and directly into communities. An easy-to-use resource, the van

offered visitors the opportunity to connect with librarians, sign up for library cards, browse portable book shelves, get answers to their questions, and simply relax with a good book. In 2018, hundreds of people connected with the Library at popular destinations such as parks, farmers markets, National Night Out, and open street events.

Connecting to new communities with innovative outreach

COMMUNITY EMBEDDED LIBRARY SERVICES

Historically, library service began when a patron walked through the doors of their neighborhood library. While this approach worked for some, it didn't meet the library's mission of serving everyone.

In response, Hennepin County Library launched Community Embedded Library Service (CELS) in 2018 as an initiative to break down barriers to library access.

This innovative, new program pairs local librarians with local liaisons to extend programs and resources into two underserved areas: the Native American community near Franklin Library in Minneapolis, and the Latinx community near Oxboro Library in Bloomington.

Franklin Library in Minneapolis serves one of the nation's largest and most diverse urban Native American communities. In its engagement with this community, the CELS team learned the library not only needs to strengthen its connection to Native American culture, but also must partner with the community to restore knowledge, customs, and practices that were suppressed over hundreds of years. With this goal, Franklin Library's community liaison and librarians have worked to:

- Dramatically expand the library's American Indian collection;
- Promote library services at farmer's markets, powwows, and other events;
- Offer books in Native languages to students at local schools; and
- Host media workshops for Native youth to explore their culture in formats like graphic novels, magazines, music, and podcasts.

Making our Library more welcoming to all

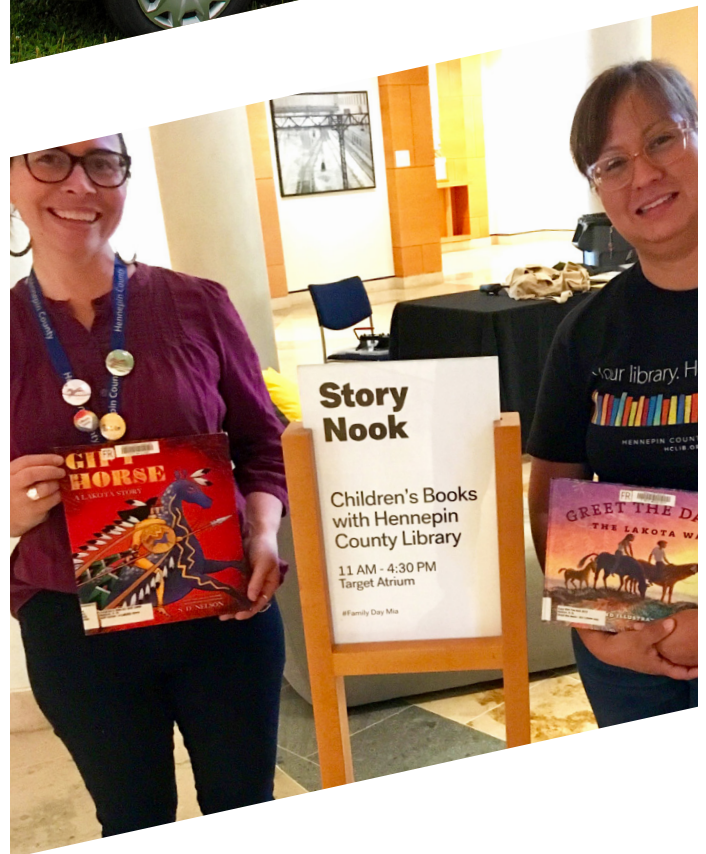
Oxboro Library in Bloomington serves a Latinx community that has increased more than twenty-fold in recent decades. The CELS team learned that many in the community were not using the library because they saw it as an intimidating institution with few resources for a Spanish-speaking community. To transform these perceptions, the Library launched:

- A weekly play group for Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers to encourage reading at home;
- A weekly craft and language program to build English language skills;
- Digital literacy classes to develop technology skills; and
- Cultural celebrations where hundreds of families connected their children with traditions from home.

“There is a shift in the way people are thinking about the library,” says Oxboro Library’s Karina Kelton. “Before, it was a place some community members didn’t see themselves ... Now, there is so much excitement and interest about the library. It’s absolutely incredible!”

“Now, there is so much excitement and so much interest about the library. It’s absolutely incredible!”

KARINA KELTON, OXBORO LIBRARY STAFF



Libraries are a source of good information, which helps me navigate my world, whether dealing with a chronic illness, unemployment, political stresses, or just learning how others solve their difficulties ... both fiction and non-fiction.

~ Margaret, Oxboro Library patron

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 that our Library remains a pillar of our community.

Total tax-deductible giving received between January 1 and December 31, 2018.

Susan Kinder and David Vealitzek
Knox Foundation
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Margaret Zverinova and Jim Steffen

*Friends of the Hennepin County Library donors
who give under \$1,000 number nearly 9,500.
We are truly grateful for their continued and
generous support!*



Staff members are courteous, friendly, and helpful. It is great to see the variety of people who visit the library, for all sorts of reasons. We are so lucky to have such high-quality libraries at our fingertips. Love to you all.

~ Nancy, Northeast Library patron

Organizational Support & Sponsors



Gifts received between January 1
and December 31, 2018.

\$50k+

The Clubhouse Network

\$25k+

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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 the Hennepin County Library. It is named for Gratia Countryman, one of the most important leaders in the history of public library service in Hennepin County.

Gratia Members

Anonymous

Richard Alberta, PsyD and Hanan
Rosenstein, MD

Renner and Martha Anderson

Maryellen and Larry Baumann

Martha Bird

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Leila Brammer

Carol Bridell

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We are deeply grateful for the following Library supporters, now passed, who included Friends of HCL in their estate plans.

Anonymous

Barbara Aman

John V. Anderson

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Marilee Ward

Yukiko (Becky) Yagyu

Eva O. Young

Wilfred J. Zalaznik

“

I love the advocacy information in the south foyer and the community events and communication you foster. It's always a vibrant place to visit!

~ Elizabeth, East Lake Library patron

2018 Highlights

Amor Towles, author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, presents at Pen Pals (left.) Event emcee, Toki Wright and Minnesota country music band, The Federales, perform at MnSpin Live (right.)



Star Tribune writers, Lee Svitak Dean and Rick Nelson, connect with the crowd at Talk of the Stacks: Holiday Cookie Traditions (left.) Friends gather to support the Library's new music streaming service at the first ever MnSpin Live event (right.)



The Sioux Chef's Sean Sherman offers a cooking demonstration for Friends (left.) U.S. Poet Laureate, Tracy K. Smith, receives a proclamation at Talk of the Stacks (right.)



Timothy Egan, author and journalist, gathers with library supporters at Pen Pals (left.) Diane and Alan Page celebrate the grand opening of TESTIFY: Americana Slavery to Today at Minneapolis Central Library (right.)





Min Jin Lee, author of *Pachinko*, greets fans at Pen Pals (above).

In our community of library lovers, we gather at Pen Pals, Talk of the Stacks, and numerous other events to share in the joy and excitement of supporting our world-class Library.

Friends of the Hennepin County Library firmly believes in the Library's mission to nourish minds, transform lives, and build community together. We also affirm and work toward the vision of a Hennepin County where Library services ensure every person has the opportunity and resources to read, graduate, engage, work, and learn.

We can only uphold those values, mission, and vision with the generosity of Friends members like you. Thank you!

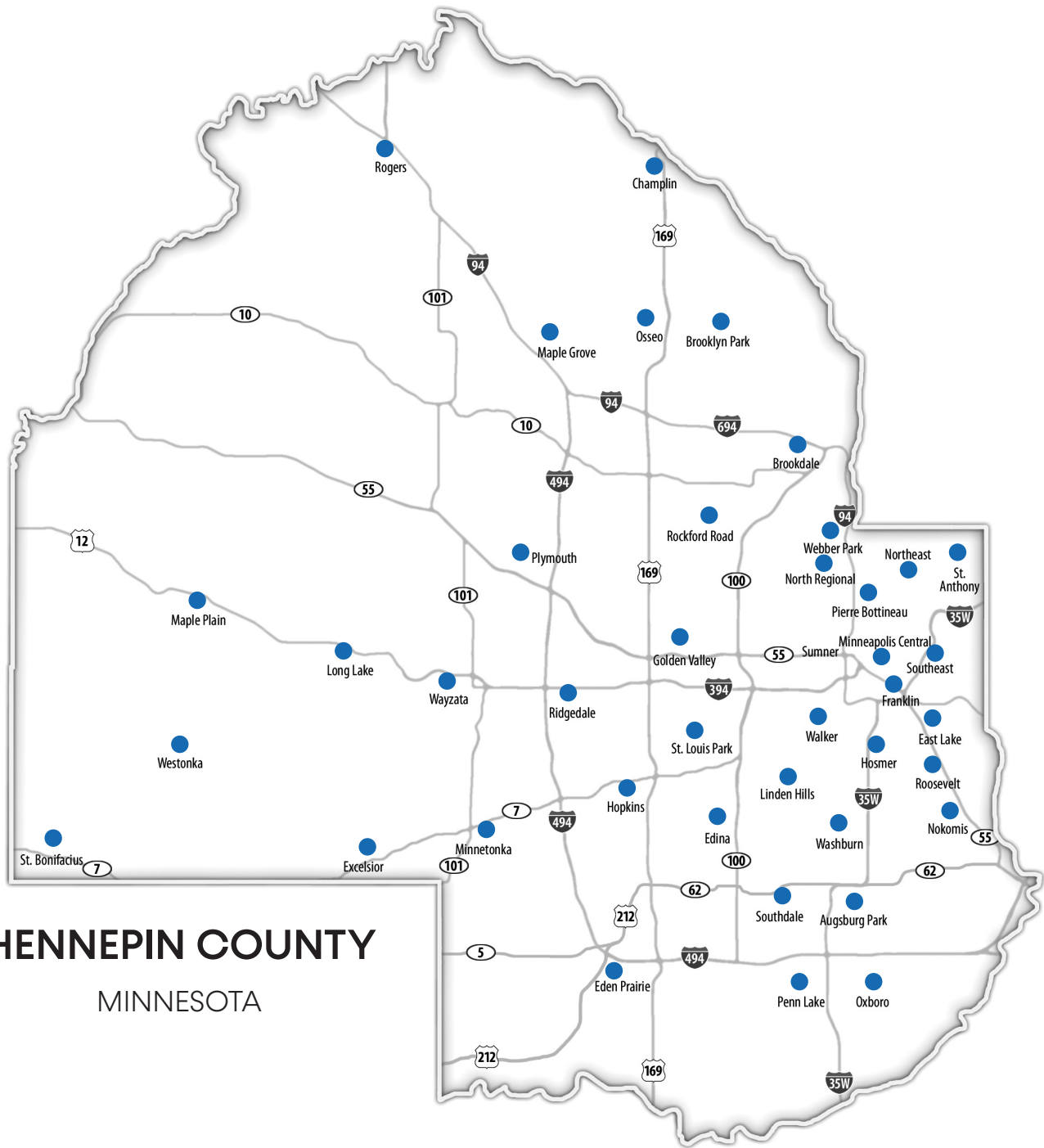
“

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You are always thoughtful, gracious and kind to this older senior when I have questions or requests. I am grateful.

~ George, Southdale Library patron

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