



Student Success on the Rise at the Library

**STRONG BONDS
BETWEEN TUTORS
AND STUDENTS KEY
TO HOMEWORK HELP**

With a new school year fast approaching, hundreds of tutors are excitedly preparing to support Hennepin County students on their academic journeys. Homework Help is an ongoing program supported by Friends like you that aims to improve access and achievement for students across the county. Homework Help offers free in-person tutoring along with computer and online resources in English and Spanish.

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Leave Your Library Legacy

The Gratia Legacy Circle honors individuals who leave a legacy for our Library through a bequest in a will or other planned gift to Friends of the Hennepin County Library. Common planned gifts include bequests in a will, designation of an organization as a beneficiary of a retirement asset, IRA, or life insurance, or establishment of a charitable remainder trust.

For more information about leaving a legacy for our Library or to notify us of plans already in place, please contact **Phil Edwards**, Donor Relations Officer, at **612-543-8114** or **pedwards@hclib.org**.



What I love most about "library people."

"I enjoy the company of library people. Libraries touch people's lives in countless ways, and hearing about someone's library experience is a lovely way to begin getting to know them."

Phil Edwards
DONOR RELATIONS OFFICER

2019 LIBRARY FUND CAMPAIGN

Support

programs like **Homework Help** this fall with your gift!



YES!

I am investing in our Library with my additional gift to the 2019 Library Campaign!

Levels:

\$35 \$60 \$120 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$ _____

Make checks payable to Friends of HCL or call (612) 543-8108.

Give by mail:

Use envelope enclosed

Give online:

supportHCLIB.org

Contact Info:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____



300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Thank you to the more than 500 Friends members who contributed an additional gift to our 2019 Library Campaign so far! Your inspiring generosity is already making a difference by strengthening HCL resources like:

- **Homework Help**
- **Senior Outreach**
- **Programs for families facing incarceration**
- **Teen Tech Squad**
- **Special Collections ... and MORE!**



Library on the Move

HOW THE NEW MOBILE LIBRARY IS BUILDING AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION

It began as a desire to share the Library with Hennepin County residents in downtown Minneapolis as they work, eat lunch, shop, or take a break from their busy errands. In 2018, Library staff began reaching out with a makeshift Library Bike on Nicollet Mall, following the two-year reconstruction of the downtown corridor. The outreach effort featured a few items and books from the library, a bike, and an umbrella to provide some shade.

Based on the popularity of the original version, and with a generous gift from a Friends donor, the Library hired a local craftsperson to design and build a new, futuristic bike trailer.

“We get a lot of grill-related questions,” Elizabeth Cole, Minneapolis Central Associate Librarian, said laughingly. It’s completely understandable, given the trailer’s flat top resembles a charcoal grill. But it has a practical purpose, serving as a display shelf for the latest and most appetizing

book recommendations. “Right now, it’s the new spectacle to see, but we’re hoping that it will lead to greater engagement with the library.”

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

In the spring and summer months, Library staff rotate their Tuesday and Thursday routes between Nicollet Mall and Hennepin County Government Center. The average outing for the trailer is about two hours, and staff are hoping to use it to inspire patrons beyond the downtown core.

“We’ve been invited to setup along the Midtown Greenway and tell people all about what

the Library can do for them as part of the Greenway Glow art festival,” Elizabeth said. “We’re so incredibly excited to have the trailer here!”

In addition, local residents have been inspired to co-create library services. “We were asked to help start a downtown book club where people could come and talk about what they’re reading on their lunch breaks,” Sarah Connolly, Minneapolis Central Librarian, said. Other ideas include trivia contests for Library patrons and a vinyl listening station as ways to expand upon the services provided by the Library. The possibilities for engagement are endless.

“We’re so incredibly excited to have the trailer here!”

ELIZABETH COLE, MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL LIBRARIAN



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VOLUNTEER-LED AND STUDENT-INSPIRED

Nearly 20 part-time lead tutors and more than 250 volunteers help students build their confidence in subjects like math, English, history, and science. Most of the students who utilize this free service are first- or second-generation immigrants and

speak more than one language at home.

Rebecca Hroback, Lead Tutor at North Regional Library, has seen amazing success stories in her six years with Homework Help. “One middle schooler had finished her regular homework assignments and took it upon herself to see what else she needed to know to get to the next grade level. She wanted help with long division and asked if I knew how to help her. Overjoyed, I said, ‘of course I do!’ She came on the very last day of Homework Help for the year and said, ‘I passed! I’m going to eighth grade!’”

Rebecca said that her team of

eight experienced tutors (some are retired teachers and doctors) at North Regional will serve up to a maximum of 20 students per night and over 200 students in a semester.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

In the last school year, Homework Help was offered a combined 1,020 days for a total of 14,450 individual sessions. More than 1,000 students of all ages received tutoring in subjects ranging from basic reading to calculus. Beyond the numbers, tutors receive an important reward from their work: the satisfaction of instilling a sense of accomplishment and achievement in the next generation.

Student Success

LIBRARY SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

“A number of kids come in a not-so-great mood... their parents had to drag them there. But the moment they understand the material and close their book— it’s like we’re giving them their lives back. Their parents don’t have to be the heavies anymore, and they are so happy,” Rebecca said.

ADAPTING TO CHANGE AND EMPOWERING YOUTH

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 14 percent of Hennepin County residents are recent immigrants to the United States and 17 percent speak a language other than English at

home. Our Library is working to ensure that anyone – no matter what the barriers they face – can find academic success, confidence, and belonging at any of our 41 locations.

Rebecca continues to recruit tutors at every opportunity. “We need more volunteers. We would love to have a Somali translator... My dream team would have a greater range of racial and religious backgrounds—a little more diversity.”

As she leads an agile and responsive team of tutors, Rebecca knows their work is important and ultimately serves as a gateway to greater academic achievement for immigrant families. “We’re a first-responder academic landing pad. Every Homework Help program is different. At North Regional Library, we have a dynamic program based on who shows up; it’s extremely adaptive. The students we’re helping see themselves improving. I do know that a lot of immigrant families are finding places like Kumon or Mathnasium, but they come here first, and we work to supplement those efforts.”

When asked on how they felt after their Homework Help sessions, students were overwhelmingly optimistic. Eighty-nine percent agreed that they were doing better in school, 87 percent felt more confident, and an inspiring 93 percent said they felt welcomed and supported.

“We’re an academic first-responder.”

REBECCA HROBACK, NORTH REGIONAL LIBRARY LEAD TUTOR

SUPPORTING STUDENTS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

The program recently expanded to additional sites thanks to your generosity. For the 2019-2020 school year, 15 locations will offer Homework Help including the following libraries: Augsburg Park, Brookdale, Brooklyn Park, East Lake, Eden Prairie (scheduled reopening late 2019), Franklin, Hosmer, Minneapolis Central, Nokomis, North Regional, Northeast, Roosevelt, Sumner, and Webber Park. Additionally, the program is offered at the Opportunity Center in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood in Minneapolis.

“We have a lot of students who need help to get up to grade level. Depending on students, we can move the dial,” Rebecca said. “It’s a place where you can feel good about doing something for a student that they understand and finish that day. It’s instant gratification.”

THANK YOU

With your generous support, we have made funding commitment of \$149,000 to Homework Help this year. Together, we are helping thousands of hardworking students build a brighter future for themselves and find the confidence they need to succeed. Thank you!

How you can help?

If you are interested in directly supporting this effort financially, please contact Friends of HCL at **612-543-8104** or **friends@hclib.org**.

If you would like to explore becoming a Homework Help tutor, please contact the Library’s Volunteer Department at **612-543-8633**. *Thank you!*

By The Numbers:

Students using Homework Help were asked how they felt after their sessions. Here is what they said ...

89%

of students shared that they were **doing better in school**

14,450

individual tutoring sessions in the 2018-19 school year

93%

of students said they felt **welcomed and supported**

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Katie's Library Adventure



Hi Friends!

This summer I took Friends of HCL's Library Adventure challenge and discovered so many new things, starting with the library's picture files. I also listened to vinyl records in the library's MnSpin Listening Room after getting some recommendations from librarians about new music to check out. My library adventure finished with a visit to James Audubon's *The Birds of America* on display in Special Collections.

I hope you are having a great summer as well and encourage you to use the library adventure sheet below to get out and explore all our library has to offer!

Your fellow Friend,
Katie

Library Adventure

Your Name _____

We challenge you to explore your library!
Follow the guide below and track your progress.



Track your progress by writing in the blank space above.

2019 Library Campaign

This spring we asked you to tell us why you love your library. Your stories were heartwarming and inspiring ... THANK YOU!

**EXPLORE
SHARE ♥ READ
GROW ♥ DREAM
LEARN ♥ THINK
CREATE**

WHY I SUPPORT MY LIBRARY...

The library helped me a ton when I was launching my business. Now I want to pay it back.

F **T** **I**

MY NAME *Jay L*

JAY L.

“The library helped me a ton when I was launching my business. Now I want to pay it back.”

**EXPLORE
SHARE ♥ READ
GROW ♥ DREAM
LEARN ♥ THINK
CREATE**

WHY I SUPPORT MY LIBRARY...

I've long considered the public library the people's university. Now, more than ever, our library offers everyone opportunities to learn, grow, be entertained, and inspired. Hennepin County Library is a shining example of a library system reaching out in innovative ways to an ever-changing community.

F **T** **I**

MY NAME *Linda V*

LINDA V.

“I've long considered the public library the people's university. Now, more than ever, our Library offers everyone opportunities to learn, grow, be entertained, and inspired. Hennepin County Library is a shining example of a library system reaching out in innovative ways to an ever-changing community.”

**EXPLORE
SHARE ♥ READ
GROW ♥ DREAM
LEARN ♥ THINK
CREATE**

WHY I SUPPORT MY LIBRARY...

Books keep your mind open and help you see the world through other people's eyes —

F **T** **I**

MY NAME *George N*

GEORGE N.

“Books keep your mind open and help you see the world through other people's eyes.”

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL

Talk of the Stacks

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Pohlad Hall
Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
support@HCLIB.org/talk-stacks

Carmen Maria Machado

Monday, Nov. 18, 2019
7 p.m.

Carmen Maria Machado is the author of the new memoir *In the Dream House*, published by Graywolf Press of Minneapolis. Her debut short story collection, *Her Body and Other Parties*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her essays, fiction, and criticism have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and many other publications. She is currently the Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania and lives in Philadelphia with her wife.



Dan Buettner

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019
7 p.m.

Minnesota's own Dan Buettner is an explorer, National Geographic Fellow, award-winning journalist, producer, and *New York Times*-bestselling author. His bestselling books include, *The Blue Zones*, *Thrive*, *The Blue Zones Solution*, and *The Blue Zones of Happiness*. His first cookbook, *The Blue Zones Kitchen: 100 Recipes to Live to 100*, will release in December 2019.



Doors open at 6:15 p.m. for general admission seating.

Accessibility: Friends of the Hennepin County Library strives to make our performances and facilities accessible to all our patrons.

ASL interpreting is available upon request. Please email friends@hclib.org at least one week prior to the event. Assistive Listening Devices, as well as wheelchair accessible and companion seating, are available at all Talk of the Stacks events.

If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to request special accommodations not listed above, please contact friends@hclib.org.

Talk of the Stacks

Presented by:



Additional support
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