Libraries:
A Learning Haven After School

Young people have opportunities to learn throughout their day – at school, at home and in the community. An average student in middle and high school today has 1,900 hours of out-of-school critical time each year that can be filled with activities of their choice. For some, this time is spent reading, exploring and pursuing passions that will lead to a fulfilling life and career. For others without easy access to technology, books, or positive role models, learning opportunities are less available and the path to success can be filled with roadblocks.

Your Support Bridges the Gap for Those Who Need it Most

With your vital support, our public library plays an important role for young people during out-of-school time so they can grow, build knowledge and thrive. With investment from Friends, like you, Hennepin County Library is meeting the educational and personal aspirations of today’s youth. Libraries in Hennepin County are more than the quiet reading rooms of our childhoods; they are also dynamic workshop spaces for creative multimedia learning and producing.

While Hennepin County Library buildings and programs are open to all youth, the Library is strategically focused on strengthening services in communities where learning opportunities are scarce and a high percentage of young people are identified as at risk of not graduating. Hennepin County Library requested $450,000 from Friends of HCL this year to help fund innovative educational programs for at-risk students in our community.

Will You Join Us?

We invite you to consider an additional gift – over and above your membership – to open new doors of opportunity for hardworking at-risk youth in our community.

Your donation will:

- Support safe, welcoming environments for hands-on learning
- Foster technology creators versus consumers
- Build employment and leadership skills to succeed in tomorrow’s workforce
- Help narrow the achievement gap of academic success
Best Buy Teen Tech Center
You’re Fostering Technology
Creators Versus Consumers

Opened in 2013 inside Minneapolis Central Library, Best Buy Teen Tech Center (BBTTC) is an interactive place where teens are using a “learn by design” approach. The space is designed for teens to collaborate and experiment with technology. Gadgets once thought of as science fiction – 3D printers, advanced video and audio software, and robotics – are now at the fingertips of BBTTC members. Working with professional volunteer mentors representing a wide range of expertise, teens are encouraged to follow their passions and interests through creative work.

With a rapidly growing membership of more than 300 registered learners and makers, BBTTC will mark its 2nd anniversary in February 2015.

“As a member of BBTTC, Ridwa has helped develop the Hennepin Theatre Trust exhibit MADE HERE, an artist series that displays public artwork in empty downtown Minneapolis store fronts.”

Thank you to our major funders for supporting our after-school youth initiatives

Best Buy Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
Intel Computer Clubhouse Network
Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation
The Wallin Foundation
Fredrikson & Byron Foundation
Bromelkamp Foundation
S. F. Perkins Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation

…and Friends, like you!

“Hennepin County Library provides access to a variety of learning programs, spaces and tools to strengthen young people’s ability to learn and thrive.”

– Lois Langer Thompson, Library Director

“Research has found that higher income children benefit more from access to technology than lower income children [who] are less likely to have strong parental guidance in modeling the use of the computer...”

– Forum for Youth Investment
With your support this year, the Library will be able to create more safe havens for learning, exploration and growth for our community’s teens.

Thank you!

**Teen Tech Squad**
**You’re Building Employment and Leadership Skills to Succeed**

To help youth succeed, gain leadership skills and prepare for future careers, the Library is providing paid job opportunities for a growing number of teens each year through the Teen Tech Squad (TTS) program. TTS is a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) employment program that trains youth ages 16 to 18 in paid positions as peer mentors and workshop facilitators at Brooklyn Park, Franklin and Minneapolis Central libraries. These youth staff build employment and leadership skills through designing, piloting, and delivering project-based technology workshops in areas like music production, Lego robotics and computer coding to nearly 150 of their peers each year.

TTS provides training, supervision, opportunity and responsibility (not to mention income!) for youth with a passion for teaching and technology to gain new skills and work with the latest devices. It also connects participants with caring adults at the Library, helping them develop important relationships and social connections to other community members and reducing exposure to crime and violence.

With your support this year, the Library will expand this highly successful program to four additional libraries: Brookdale, Eden Prairie, Hosmer and North Regional. This investment bring the total library communities served to seven and double the number of students reached.

**Because of You...** The Library will expand the highly-successful Teen Tech Squad program to help the youth of today build employment and leadership skills to succeed in tomorrow’s workforce.

“I LOVE IT HERE. I recently built a 6-page website for a fictional business, Cottage Cove. I am currently learning Python [a programming language] and I would really like to build an app for the Minnesota State Fair.”

– Amanda, Teen Tech Squad member
Homework Help
You’re Helping to Narrow the Academic Achievement Gap

Homework Help is a comprehensive drop-in program at the Library that supports academic achievement for thousands of K-12 students. Recognizing the important role that the public library plays in each community as a natural gathering spot for youth, Homework Help mentors young people in our city’s disadvantaged neighborhoods, supporting broad community efforts to help youth become educated and engaged citizens.

Because nearly 70% of students participating in Homework Help come from homes where English is not the first language spoken, our diverse staff and tutors speak 12 different languages, including Spanish, Chinese, American Sign Language, Portuguese, Somali, and Hmong. Last year, 298 volunteers and 11 paid staff provided 12,327 tutoring sessions to students throughout Hennepin County.

Because of You... Free Homework Help tutoring is offered at twelve libraries, including Augsburg Park, Brookdale, Brooklyn Park, East Lake, Franklin, Hopkins, Hosmer, Nokomis, North Regional, Northeast, Roosevelt and Sumner.

Your Gift Will... Help every child in Hennepin County have the opportunity to learn and succeed.

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  
☐ $500  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $____________

Name: ________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________

Give by mail: Use coupon or enclosed envelope
Friends of HCL, 300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls., MN 55401
Give by phone: 612-543-8108
Give online: supporthclib.org
Pen Pals
A ticketed series benefiting Friends of HCL, Pen Pals offers eclectic and engaging authors who collectively have won many of the world’s most coveted literary honors and is held at Hopkins Center for the Arts. Individual tickets: $40-$50. Friends members receive a discount of $5 per ticket.

Richard Blanco
Thursday, March 12, 7:30 PM
Friday, March 13, 11 AM
In 2013, award-winning poet Richard Blanco became the first Latino immigrant and openly gay writer to serve as the fifth inaugural poet of the United States.

Jodi Picoult
Thursday, April 16, 7:30 PM
Friday, April 17, 11 AM
With sales of more than 46 million books in 34 languages in 35 countries, Jodi Picoult is #1 New York Times bestselling author of Leaving Time and My Sister’s Keeper.

Chip Kidd
Thursday, May 7, 7:30 PM
Friday, May 8, 11 AM
According to USA Today, book designer Chip Kidd is “the closest thing to a rock star” in the world of graphic design.

Book Sales
This spring Friends groups throughout the County are hosting book sales to raise funds for local library programs. Visit supporthclib.org/book-sales for an up-to-date list of sales, hours and locations.