



NEWS

Friends of the Hennepin County Library
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401

October 13, 2016

CONTACT: Kristi Pearson, Executive Director, 612-543-8105

Generous Donor Invests \$1 Million in Hennepin County Library Literacy Programs

Friends of the Hennepin County Library, the Library's fundraising partner, has received a major investment of \$1 million from an individual donor to ensure, enrich, and expand Hennepin County Library's Homework Help and Summer Learning initiatives over the next decade.

This generous grant will help give children across Hennepin County the confidence, motivation, and concrete academic skills they need to succeed in school and life.

Homework Help is a free drop-in, after-school tutoring program that offers K-12 students safe and welcoming library spaces to work with adult tutors to master academic concepts and complete homework assignments. **Summer Learning** is a series of popular and innovative library programs that encourage kids and teens to keep reading and learning during the critical summer months.

"Literacy gives youth the freedom to explore the world, the creativity to imagine the lives they want to lead, and the power to transform those visions into reality. We welcome this donor as a major partner in our effort to help close the literacy divide in our community," said Lois Langer Thompson, Hennepin County Library Director.

"This strategic investment represents the best of our community – a partnership between the public and private sectors to expand the Library's incredible impact to more people across Hennepin County," said Kristi Pearson, Executive Director of Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

"It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with Friends of the Hennepin County Library and an honor to make this gift. The Library is a great cause," said the donor, who has asked to remain anonymous.

During the 2015-16 school year, Hennepin County Library held 12,000 Homework Help tutoring sessions with K-12 students at 12 libraries. In 2016, Summer Learning programs served more than 16,700 kids and teens at 41 libraries.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY:

Friends of the Hennepin County Library is the fundraising partner of Hennepin County Library (HCL) and builds awareness, appreciation, and support for our world-class library system.

Together, we envision a Library that ensures every person has the opportunity and resources to read, graduate, engage, work, and learn. Learn more about Friends of HCL at supportHCLIB.org.

Learn more about the Library at www.hclib.org.