



DULUTH
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2018

You help create a love of learning.

Igniting hope · Inspiring minds · Transforming lives

Enter the library and discover a welcoming place that invites all to learn for free. Books, programs, computers, and dedicated library staff are there to help people of all backgrounds improve their lives. The life-changing resources at the library are multiplied by the generosity of individual donors and community partners. Gifts to the Duluth Library Foundation, large and small, help the Duluth Public Library ignite a love of learning, which can open doors of opportunity. Together, we are creating brighter futures.

Your gracious gifts

made these vital programs possible in 2018.



Kaleidoscope

Summer shimmered with laughter and learning at the outdoor stage of the library, where magicians, jugglers, comedians, and scientists delighted children and families every Tuesday in July--a summer favorite funded with your help.

Storytime

Thanks to your support, each branch library now has its own puppets, musical instruments, art supplies, and books needed to create the beloved weekly Storytime programs for the youngest library users and their families.



Teen Scene

Games, movies, crafts, book discussions, and pizza drew teens to the library for this popular monthly program that runs year round, which your support makes possible.



City Sounds

On Thursday evenings in the summer, the library offered free concerts on its outdoor stage, made possible by your gifts. People of all ages and backgrounds gathered together to enjoy jazz and big band music performed by talented local musicians.





Books & Baseball Day

This annual event at Wade Stadium hit it out of the park! All kids received a free book to take home and were invited onto the field before the game to hear Duluth Huskies ball players read to them--encouraging kids to sign up for the library's summer reading program and promoting reading even when school was out. Donor support made it possible.

Teen Anime & Manga Club

This welcoming and popular monthly program attracted teens interested in anime (Japanese animation), manga (Japanese graphic novels), drawing, cosplay, video games, pizza, and more--all

made possible by your support.



Wellness Day

Adults gathered for a free day of learning to improve their health: with chair massages, relaxing games, a

chance to try out the Sunspot bus, healthy snacks, a class on acupuncture, pedometers, stress balls, and more, funded by your gracious gifts.



Spreading the Word

In 2018, the Foundation launched a pilot program and delivered the Library Summer Events Guide to 6,000 low-income households in Duluth. Your support made this important outreach possible.

You made it possible:

Books, materials, and redesigned spaces at the library



Books

The library has offered books to the community

since it began. In 2018, donor support made it possible to add 733 books to the library's collection, as well as books given to children and families as part of Foundation-funded learning programs.



Early learners

Your gifts in 2018 made it possible for all three libraries to refresh the well-loved play areas with new toys, dolls, and puzzles, so that every child in our community can interact with materials that promote brain development, love of learning, and readiness for school.



Redesigned Spaces

Improved design makes the library more welcoming and effective. Thanks to you, in 2018 the library purchased:

- 6 new tables for children and families
- 45 new chairs for children and families
- 2 new preschool benches
- 2 new toddler step stools
- New train table
- 3 new computer chairs at Mt. Royal
- New Storytime rug for West Duluth
- New wooden book display for West Duluth



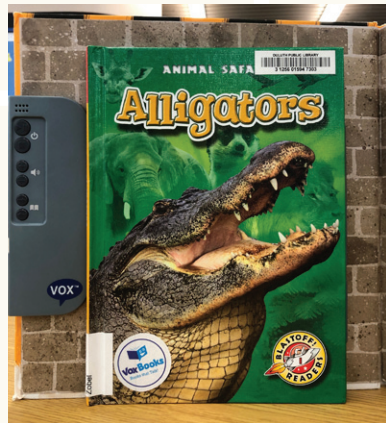
Encountering books

Even before children can read, time at the library allows them to learn how to hold a book, turn its pages, and experience the joy of hearing an adult read to them. For early learners, the library provides board books and picture books, some of which are purchased with your support.



Helping develop readers

Sometimes kids struggle with reading. The library introduced VOX Books in 2018 in order to help. These books “read” to children, allowing them to hear the words they are seeing as they turn the pages. This was made possible by donors.



Expanded horizons

For many children, a traditional book is still a favorite. Your contributions have helped the library add more fiction and nonfiction books for school-age children to its shelves and spinners.



Lifelong learning

From the works of best-selling thriller writers to critically acclaimed nonfiction books, the library's adult collection has been enhanced by contributions from donors.

Parlez vous . . . ?

Adults seeking to learn a foreign language have discovered the ease of mp3 players. The library was able to expand its collection of these popular language tools as a result of donor support.



Thank you. You helped change lives at the library.

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A monthly gift for all those who find wonder in books!

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Ian and Benjamin Gardner

by Margaret Gardner

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by Patra Sevastiades

Anna Hodgens

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Charles House

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by Robert Kohlmeier

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by Patra Sevastiades

Theresia Ludwig

by Kyle and Jennifer Deming

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by Margaret Gardner

My grandsons, Justin and Jacob

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by Kristina Bourne and Tim Valentine

Ted & Cyndi Venberg

by Lowell and Beverly Venberg

Honoring Their Philanthropy

Olga Walker loved the Duluth Public Library.

When Mrs. Walker died in 1964, her will designated the library as her sole beneficiary, and it directed that her \$50,000 bequest be placed in trust for 21 years. After that time, the Library Board could determine how to use the gift. In 1990, they used it as the seed money for an endowment to benefit the library in perpetuity and created the Duluth Library Foundation to manage it.

Mrs. Walker's gift has been increased by donations from like-minded donors who value the library as a public treasure. The endowment helps provide a measure of stability for the library and enhances what it is able to offer.

In 2018, the Foundation hosted its 3rd Annual Olga Walker Memorial Awards, honoring three couples who have generously supported the library through the Duluth Library Foundation: John and Elaine Killen, Robert and Ann Mars, and Walter and Alyce Rauschenfels.

We are grateful for their gracious philanthropy in support of the Duluth Public Library.



John and Elaine Killen



Robert and Ann Mars



Walter and Alyce Rauschenfels

Literary Lions

We recognize those who have given cumulative gifts of \$500 or more in support of the library.

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 Kelly and Mark Vavra
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 Maryann Weidt
 Bill and Wendy Wennberg
 West Duluth American Legion Post
 No. 71
 Ann C. Wilcox and Robert DuFault
 Susan M. Wilmes
 Galen and Margaret Wilson
 Ruth Wittmers
 Shirley Dyer Wuchter
 Tim and Anita Zager

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 Dan and Kristina D'Allaird
 John and Beth Kelly
 Amy Hunt Kuronen
 Thomas and Kristine Rauschenfels
 Patra Sevastiades
 Theresa M. Teich
 Stephen P. Welsh



Learning & Libations at the Library

Every September, our annual fundraising event is held in the downtown library, transformed by candlelight, black tablecloths, and a string quartet. The evening features delicious appetizers, a delectable assortment of wine and beer, and best of all, a chance to learn something new from eight tremendous speakers in the company of interesting people.

In 2018, *New York Times* best-selling author William Kent Krueger (right), spoke on the transformative power of stories.



Tickets for the 8th annual Learning & Libations at the Library go on sale August 1! duluthlibraryfoundation.org

Other topics ranged from Duluth area history to home design, wine tasting, a cooking demonstration, Norwegian trolls, and farming.

We are grateful to those joined us for a unique, glittering literary evening in support of the library. We hope you will join us in 2019!

Your library in 2018

927,330



visits to the library, in person and online: to read, check out materials, attend programs, play, print information, use computers, socialize, warm up, cool down, do puzzles, ask questions, request materials, download, and access databases.



81,685

is the number of times the library's **public computers were used** for research, to look for jobs or housing, to access email, to play games, and much more.



1,921

people were served through **Adult Services outreach** at Lincoln Park community center, Hillside and Lincoln Park farmers markets, and Rainbow, Morgan Park, and Evergreen senior centers.



27,716

people attended 803 **free programs**. From Squad Car Storytime to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities to presentations on local history to the Vegan Cookbook Club, the library offered events for all ages and interests.

491

households received free assistance **securing health insurance** with the help of MNSure Navigators working in the library.



59,579

research questions were answered **by reference librarians** in person, over the phone, by email, and by mail.



375

households had their **taxes prepared for free** at the library, one of three Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites in partnership with UMD.



847,237

items were checked out or downloaded: books, ebooks, DVDs, CDs, language mp3 players, magazines, toys, music, movies, and Book-Club-in-a-Bag sets.

65

deliveries of programs or gently used books were made **to children and their families** at the American Indian Community Housing Organization, Steve O'Neil Apartments, Early Childhood Family Education, preschools, and home-based daycares.



9,569

students from ISD 709 were issued **virtual Port Cards**, granting them free access to library books, online resources, homework help, and more--and no late fees for checked out materials!



529

deliveries were made **to home-bound library users**. The books, materials, and visitors can be a lifeline for those who are unable to get out and about.

4,394



hours were donated by **132 volunteers**, who orchestrated book sales, assisted with library programs, provided materials for people who are home-bound, and delivered books requested by local inmates.

How Do You Love the Library?

Let us count the ways . . .

Frank J. Sklaris (right) was an entrepreneur who moved to Duluth; it was here that he made his mark. He loved books. He was a visionary in the field of advertising. The **Frank J. Sklaris Vision Fund** was established by **Janet Sklaris** in memory of her husband.

"I wanted to give a gift so that Library Manager Carla Powers and her staff would have the freedom to create new and innovative library services, now and in perpetuity," said Janet.

This is the first designated fund—a fund with a specific purpose—that the Foundation has ever received. It has been added to the endowment, which supports the work of the library.



Milissa Brooks-Ojibway is a **sustaining donor** of the Duluth Library Foundation. She expressed what she values most about the library. "I support the library because of books. I applaud everything else they do, but books, provided free to all, is why I give."

Milissa's generous monthly contributions and the steady donations of all of our sustaining donors create stable funding in support of a vibrant library with resources—including books—that are available to all.

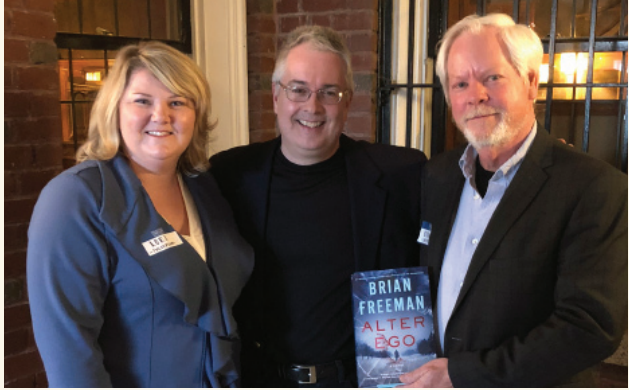
Thank you. Your contributions—sustaining gifts or one-time gifts, grants, designated funds, gifts of stock, bequests, and other planned gifts—help ensure the long-term vitality of the Duluth Public Library.



Stephen Welsh chose to include a gift for the Duluth Library Foundation in his will to help ensure that our library will continue to thrive for generations to come. "My bequest will support the library as a vital area resource. I am pleased to help to perpetuate its many services through my membership in the **Legacy Circle**."

Stephen and all members of the Legacy Circle are leaving lasting support for the library. Their estate gifts, large and small, will change many lives.

A Case of Identity



On April 30, 2018, author Brian Freeman stood at a wooden podium at Glensheen mansion. To his left and right, a man and a woman—victims? villains?—were perched on stools. A crowd of 100 people sat facing the trio. In his hand, the author held a copy of his about-to-be released new book, *Alter Ego*.

The audience waited in suspense.

Seven months earlier, the author had been a featured speaker at a different Duluth landmark, the library, where he was part of the fundraising event "Learning & Libations at the Library." That evening, he allowed the Foundation to auction off the name of a character in his next book.

The auctioneer had stepped forward with Brian at his side. The bidding was fast and furious. Soon, only two bidders were left, Lori Fulkerson and Dean Casperson. They fought it out, raising the stakes, until the moment that Lori made a bid and Dean let it go.

The character was hers.

Then Dean approached Brian. If he donated his highest bid to the Foundation, would the author include his name as the male character in the book? The author agreed.

Now two characters in the book *Alter Ego*, set in Duluth, would be named after two real Duluthians.

Seven months later, at Glensheen, Brian recounted this story to the audience. Then he paused.

After months of waiting, the moment of truth had arrived. Had Brian made Lori and Dean victims, or villains? Good, or evil? Major characters, or bit parts?

Brian opened the book and began to read. The expectant crowd hung on every word. The characters Lori Fulkerson and Dean Casperson came to life, and people gasped in astonishment, then looked at Lori and Dean. They now knew who they were.

Brian closed the book and took questions from the audience. Then he, Lori, and Dean were seated at a long table nearby, pens in hand. Each guest received a copy of *Alter Ego* and stood in line to have their book inscribed by author Brian Freeman—and by the real Lori Fulkerson and Dean Casperson.

President's Message 2019

As midyear approaches, I can confidently report that the Duluth Library Foundation remains vitally engaged in the life of the Duluth Public Library. Thanks to your generous investment in the library, our annual fundraising is on budget, and we expect to sustain the increased contributions to the library initiated last year. In 2017 the Foundation contributed \$42,000 to support book acquisition, programming, and services, and with your help we were able to increase that to \$50,000 in 2018. Expressing our support of childhood literacy, \$18,000 of last year's gifts were focused on children.

Changes are underway at the Main Library. Superior Street construction last summer led to a decline in downtown use, but it picked up at the two branches. Traffic downtown promptly increased on completion of the street. Internally, the computers from the cramped computer lab were moved upstairs to a sunlit, spacious area in the west corner of the building. There, your contributions helped the library purchase a portion of the new tables and chairs for the rechristened Computer Center. The vacated computer lab space will undergo renovation this fall for much needed restrooms.

The Foundation's mission continues to be support of the library through sponsorship of programming and acquisition of books, materials, and furniture and to grow our endowment to ensure long-term engagement. Our current vision is to increase our advocacy for investment in early childhood literacy. This was the first goal of the five-year *Strategic Plan 2016-2020* developed by the library four years ago. There was broad support as the plan was being developed, and there have been successful early literacy initiatives in Duluth in the past, which unfortunately were unsustainable due to lack of funding.

Nationwide, studies over the past 25 years or so have documented the benefits of early literacy both to individuals and to the community as a whole. Children who are well prepared to start school with pre-literacy training earn better grades through their school careers and have a greater probability of graduating from high school and finding work. They are less likely to engage in criminal activity and more likely to remain in the workforce and support the community as taxpayers. The most optimistic study I've reviewed documents a 17 percent long-term return on the initial investment in early literacy programs. In its responsibility to advocate for the library, the Foundation intends this year and next to focus on achieving the *Strategic Plan's* goal of enhancing childhood literacy in our city.

I thank all our valued contributors for assistance in this important work and hope that our ongoing efforts warrant your continued support.

Sincerely,

President, Duluth Library Foundation Board

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Telephone: (218) 730-4262
Email: duluthlibraryfoundation@gmail.com
or hollyduluthlibraryfoundation@gmail.com

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

Revenues, gains, and other support

Contributions and grants	\$173,004
Bequest	\$817
In-kind contributions	\$13,705
Interest and dividend income	\$33,922
Gain or loss on sales of investments	\$37,549
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$258,997

Endowment

Change in value of endowment	(\$80,134)
Value of endowment, beginning of year	\$1,493,474
Value of endowment end of year	\$1,413,340

Expenses

Direct support of Duluth Public Library	
Children's programming	\$9,445
Teen programming	\$5,000
Adult programming	\$2,523
Learning for all ages	\$8,693
Books for all ages	\$9,804
Redesigned spaces	\$14,535
Total cash and in-kind support	\$50,000
Program support to the Duluth Public Library	\$57,320
Total support for the Duluth Public Library	\$107,320
Administration	\$46,824
Fundraising	\$20,809
Total expenses	\$174,953

Change in net assets	\$70,339
Net assets, beginning of year	\$1,298,446
Net assets, end of year	\$1,368,783

"Foundation donors are dream fulfillers!"

- Heidi Harrison
Youth Services Staff

DULUTH LIBRARY FOUNDATION

520 W. Superior Street | Duluth, MN 55802



Learning through play at the West Duluth Branch Library.

Thank you for helping us create
a lifelong love of learning.

Learn more at www.duluthlibraryfoundation.org