



HELEN KATE FURNESS LIBRARY

MEMBER OWNED AND SUPPORTED SINCE 1902

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



The Helen Kate Furness Free Library
100 North Providence Road
Wallingford, PA 19086
610-566-9331



Dear Corporation Members and Friends of the Library,

Thanks to you — our donors, our staff, our volunteers and our Board, 2019 was a great year at the Helen Kate Furness Free Library. The increase in support from Nether Providence Township and Rose Valley Borough and the strong support of our donors enabled us to expand our services and position us for even more growth next year.

Here are some highlights from 2019:

- ↪ Circulation is up with our improved collection and elimination of DVD rental fees.
- ↪ Museum passes were added to the collection! You can now visit The Academy of Natural Sciences, the Elmwood Park Zoo and others with a FREE FAMILY PASS.
- ↪ ACT@Furness debuted at May Fair in conjunction with WSSD schools and Hedgerow to showcase the talent of our communities.
- ↪ Expanded programming with joint events like the Ken Burns' Country Music Preview Night, Organizing Tips: the Marie Condo Way, and Paint Night.
- ↪ Sign-ups are now online for Ms. Lori's children's programming.
- ↪ New fund-raising activities were added to the mix, like the Pop-Up Auctions and the Family Photo Shoots to appeal to a broader segment of the community.

There are many changes behind the scenes, as well. The Board, working with the Librarians, led initiatives to ensure a sustainable library that included increased communications through monthly newsletters, updates to various policies and a survey to gather input for programming content and times. It has been another busy year!

We want to thank Jennifer Stock for skillfully managing our Library for over six years. She leaves us with improved collections and fond memories of her competent, helpful presence in the library, eagerly leading book clubs and good-spirited participation at library events. We wish her luck at Upper Darby Library.

Working with the library has been a wonderful experience for me. There are truly terrific people dedicated to keeping this library viable and vibrant: The warm, knowledgeable librarians, the dedicated volunteers who are there every day, the hard-working Board members and our generous donors. Plus, the opportunities to grow are plentiful. Thank you all for your service to our Library and our community.

Sincerely,

Lynne A. Alvarez

President, Board of Directors



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Dear Supporters and Patrons of our Beloved Library,

The staff and volunteers at Helen Kate are here to serve YOU — our neighbors of all ages and interests. Our goal is to be responsive to your needs whether you are looking for the perfect picture book to read to your child's class or need to download an ebook for your upcoming vacation.

As we look forward to working with a new director in 2020, I cannot commend my hard-working staff enough. Our new Technical Services Librarian Molly Deutsch has jumped right into her many responsibilities, and recent library school graduate Shannon Collins is making sure that circulation services runs smoothly. Our knowledgeable reference librarians Meg Hawkins and Janette Vickers are here to assist you on evenings and weekends. And last, but certainly not least, our volunteers are the heart of the library. We are all committed to keeping the Furness Library a dynamic and engaging hub in our community.

As a team, we're also dedicated to shaking up the idea of what happens in the library. In 2019, Astronaut Academy recruits dropped parachutes from the top of the stairs, new readers shared books with local dogs, Science in the Summer participants examined a sheep's heart, and at a SKOYZ (skill toy) workshop, tweens and teens mentored each other as they learned to spin plates.

Of course, we've also had many visitors in our beautiful, quiet, Carnegie-style front reading room (save for the not-so-quiet concert in December!). We've enhanced internet connectivity throughout the library and we continue to update our book collection to include the latest titles. Our online offerings are expanding, from increasingly popular e-books and audiobooks to online courses and tutoring, there's always something new to discover via our website.

This year, we'll participate in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, which provides early literacy encouragement for the very youngest, and roll out "Design, Create, Play," a program for elementary and early middle school students made possible through a Tinkering grant. It's going to be a great year ahead!

Sincerely,
Lori Friedgen-Veitch,
Director, Children and Youth Services



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WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

One of the first things a patron sees when walking into the Helen Kate Furness Free Library is our circulation desk, staffed by one of our many volunteers. They donate their time and talent every day of the week in order to keep the circulation desk running smoothly, assist patrons with questions, shelve books, and simply be all-around helpful! Our volunteers always have a smile and a friendly greeting for patrons and librarians alike.

The Helen Kate Furness Free Library relies so heavily on our volunteers; we just couldn't do what we do without them! Collectively, they dedicated an astounding 3,700 hours of their free time this year. Thank you, volunteers; we're forever grateful!

Alexandra Hodges

Alix House

Amy Pickett

Andrea Couzens

Ann Schilling

Anne Hollyer

Beth Noto

Carl Maiwald

Chris Fanning

Christie Cari

Christine Pasquariello

Cindy Santa Maria

Cliff Bayuk

Connie Holt

Donna Clifford

Dru Finkbeiner

Erica House

Gail Cowan

Gayle Beaney

Gwen Kannapel

Jack Scott

Jane McNerny

Jeanine Mackey

Jeanne Lovern

Jessica Hadley

Joann Massaro

Joanne Cavanagh

Joe Lesniak

Joe Zojwalla

Jon Lichtenstein

Joyce Romoff

Judy Kiesel

Judy Voet

Kathleen Micheal

Kathleen Myers

Kathy Salom

Katie Boland

Lennie Giorgianni

Lenore Kaufman

Linda O'Hara

Lynn Kelley

Marti Trzepacz

Maryann Maiwald

Mary Halloran

Mary Lou Day

Melissa Wickham

Michelle Hall

Nora Burridge

Pat Beal

Rich Flanagan

Rita Pirollo

Rosemarie Mannion

Ruth Stewart

Sheila Byrne

Yue Zhou



HKF 2019 STATISTICS

- Total items in collection: 43,530
- Total items added: 2,394
- Total physical items circulated: 60,834
- Total e-materials circulated: 17,544
- Total computer sessions: 5,789 hours

2019 Statistics and Programming

For children, teens and families...141 programs attended by 3,134 people.

Including: Toddler Tales, Preschool/Kindergarten Stories, Book & Cookie Bedtime Stories, Infant Lap-Wiggle, PAWS for Reading, Longwood Gardens Community Read, Chat Play Learn, Coretta Scott King Award Diversity programming, LEGO Builders, Bored? Got Board Games, STEM Saturdays, Teen Nutrition, Happy Hogwarts Halloween, Santa Saturday, Pen Pal program, Movietime!, Astronaut Academy, Science in the Summer, Teen Pizza Reads, SKOYZ Skill Toy Workshops, and Eyes on Wildlife.

For adults...144 programs attended by 3,057 people.

Including: December Open House, Book It! 5k Walk/Run, May Fair, ACT@Furness, Fueling the Hungry Family, Well Red 13, the pop-up garden with the Audubon Society, Paint Night, Crime and Cookies, Babysitter Fair, and viewing Ken Burns' "Country Music" with the local musicians of Last Chance.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math (STEAM)

To support the joy of discovery, we held 113 programs that enabled our community to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math with 63 programs for adults, and 50 programs for children, families, and teens with approximately 1,300 people attending. Highlights include Science in the Summer, STEAM Saturdays, and Astronaut Academy.

Community Outreach

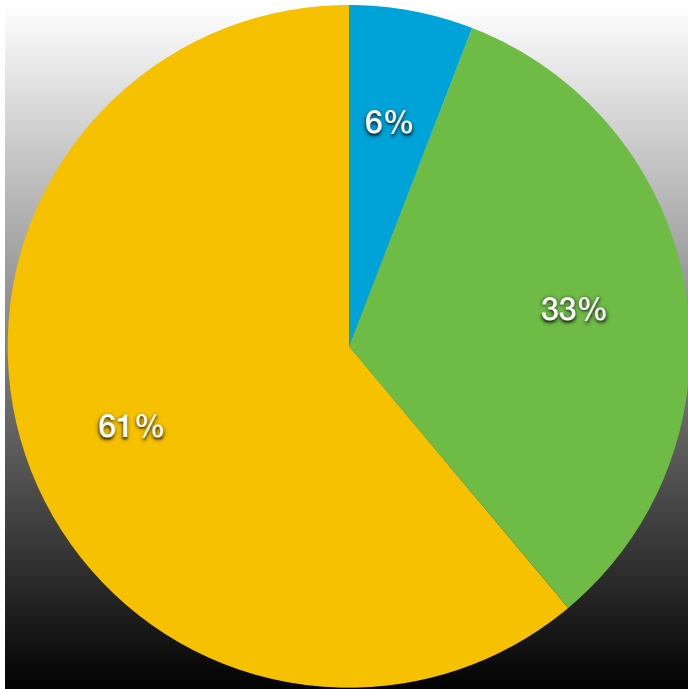
We always look for ways to share our love of learning and discovery with our friends throughout the community. This past year, we provided Kehillah Early Learning with 4 story-times on each visit; sent our "Astronaut Ambassador" to 45 classes at NPE and WES in June; visited the English Language Program summer camp, and hosted your annual walking Kindergarten Field Trip from WES to the library.



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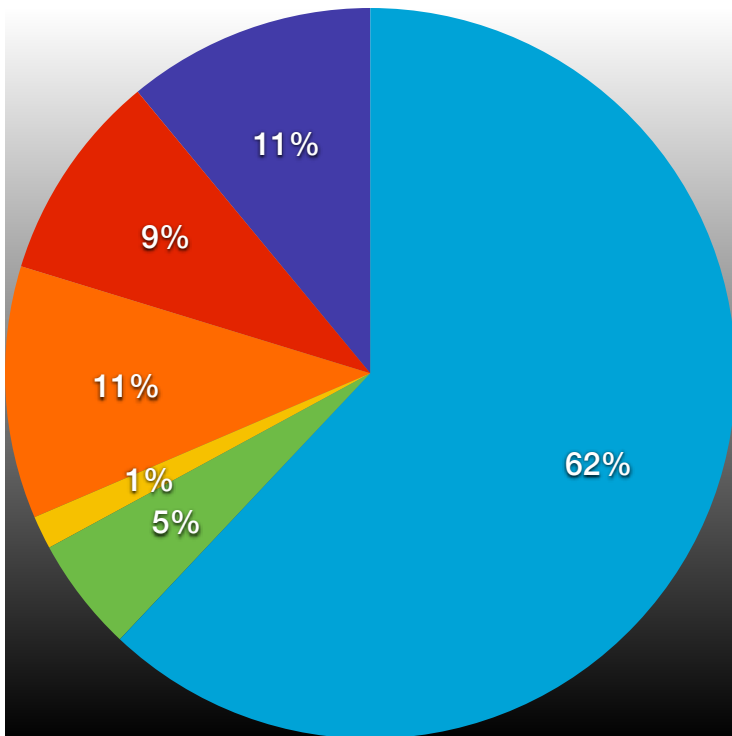
2019 Support & Revenue



<i>Support & Revenue</i>	<i>Year ended 12/31/2019</i>
Library-Generated Direct Revenue	\$18,834
Fundraising, Annual Appeal, Gifts & Grants	\$105,876
State, County and Local Aid	\$195,882
Total Revenue & Support	\$320,592

- Library-Generated Direct Revenue
- Fundraising, Annual Appeal, Gifts & Grants
- State, County and Local Aid

2019 Operating Expenses



<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>Year ended 12/31/2019</i>
Salaries & Benefits	\$193,461
Fundraising	\$15,794
Programming	\$4,598
Collection	\$34,855
Support Expenses	\$28,928
Building & Maintenance	\$34,289
Total Operating Expenses	\$312,099

- Salaries & Benefits
- Fundraising
- Programming
- Collection
- Support Expenses
- Building & Maintenance