

MEMBER OWNED AND SUPPORTED SINCE 1902

THE
HELEN KATE FURNESS
FREE LIBRARY

2021 Annual Report



The Helen Kate Furness Free Library
100 North Providence Road
Wallingford, PA 19086
www.hkflibrary.org

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Dear Members, Supporters, Patrons and Neighbors,

My son and I stopped by the library the other day. It was supposed to be a quick run to drop off a book and find a few new materials to enjoy at home. But it turned out to be a longer visit than expected because it seemed almost like “before”. There was a line at the check out desk; people were using computers; Ms. Lori captivated children who had a chance to flip “pancakes”. The building was bustling, and, though masks covered friendly smiles, I could tell everyone was excited and happy to be back at the crown jewel of our community.

In a time of change and transition worldwide I’m so proud of what the team behind Helen Kate Furness Free Library has accomplished this past year. Our collection has grown with a special focus on diversity. New offerings unlock free access to local institutions and lifelong learning. Fundraisers were transitioned to more touchless, electronic formats and the book sale shifted to a year-round, self-serve model. No matter the challenge our team found a workable, successful solution.

Much uncertainty remains but one thing is constant: our staff and volunteers strive every day to provide a place of warmth, learning and community at the library, whether it’s inside the beautiful stone walls or on the verdant front lawn. Since the pandemic began the staff has gone above and beyond to operate the library, especially once the building reopened to the public in June. Thank you Leah, Lori, Molly, Laura, Meg, Jeanette and Beth for your commitment to the patrons of Helen Kate Furness Free Library.

Another constant is the generous financial support from our neighbors and friends. As a board, we weren’t sure how this year was going to look financially when we set the budget in late 2020 but we were astounded to surpass our expectations by 40 percent. Thank you for your continued generosity and kudos to the board members who worked together for such a worthy cause.

As we enter year three of the global pandemic, Helen Kate Furness Free Library is ready and prepared to take on whatever new challenges and opportunities arise. We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jessica Brill

Jessica Brill
President, Board of Directors

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Dear Helen Kate Supporters and Patrons,

As we have found ourselves living through another year of a global pandemic, my hope is that the library has been a bright spot and a resource for you this year. Thank you for visiting the library, browsing our collection, attending programs, volunteering, supporting us financially, or stopping in to say hello.

Looking back over the year, we have had several major transitions in service as well as some exciting new additions. We started off the year offering contactless pickup, then in June we reopened the building for limited hours, and in October we expanded our hours to 6 days per week. We began offering WiFi hotspots and a chromebook for checkout, expanded our eBooks collections on Overdrive and Hoopla, added new TV series and documentary DVD categories, and made three new museum passes available to checkout. We have also been working on our book collections, adding new titles with a focus on diversity, curating the items we own, and replacing many worn or damaged books with fresh copies.

Starting in January, we moved many of our programs outdoors to the library's front lawn. Ms. Lori held her first outdoor Front Lawn Storytime on January 11; when it snowed, some children arrived to storytime all bundled up and on sleds! Our outdoor programs and storytimes were welcomed by patrons searching for normalcy during a time period when things were anything but normal. We moved other programs outdoors as well, with PAWS dog teams listening to eager readers and elementary school students learning about amazing animals on Wildlife Wednesdays. For adults, our book discussion group met outdoors and we offered a new 5-week program series, The Art of Nature Journaling, in partnership with Audubon Pennsylvania. This program encouraged participants to connect, reflect, and write about nature using prompts. We were delighted to receive calls and notes from our neighbors and patrons who were happy to see the library offering safe opportunities for gathering during a time when so many of us have felt isolated.

Next year will be the 120th anniversary of the Helen Kate Furness Free Library. The library has a long history of supporting the community, regardless of what is happening in the world. Thank you for your continued support of the library. It is your generosity and engagement that enables us to keep providing exceptional service to our community.

Sincerely,

Leah Kulikowski

Leah Kulikowski
Library Director

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Our Volunteers

The Helen Kate Furness Free Library relies on our volunteers and we just couldn't do what we do without them! **Collectively, they dedicated 2,481 hours of their time this year.**

The library staff and board of directors are especially grateful this year for our fabulous volunteers, who have been working with and beside us through this public health crisis. Helen Kate Furness staff was able to continue providing services and quality customer support because of our incredible volunteer corps. We are so grateful to our volunteers who have helped us prepare books for checkout, receive bins of interlibrary loan deliveries, shelve carts of library materials, problem solve technical issues, and many other tasks that helped keep the library going through a challenging time.

There have been challenges and changes, but we have cared for and encouraged one another along the way as we worked to serve our community. **You make this library a special community gem.**

65 Volunteers Contributed Hours in 2021

Ali Jamili	Jack Scott	Mary Halloran	Aashna Pandey
Amy Boyce	Jessica Hadley	Mary Holman	Abi Chakrabarti
Anne Hollyer	Jo Ann Massaro	Mary Jones	Akshay Risbud
Anne O'Brien	Joyce Romoff	Mike Vartanian	Avery Cavanagh
Candy Walters	Judy Kiesel	Michelle Hall	Darsie Foreman
Cathy Bartkowski	Judy Voet	Peggy Steele	Ezrin House
Christie Cari	Kathleen Meyers	Ranita Chakrabarti	Jai Rastogi
Christine Pasquariello	Kathy Michael	Richard Griscom	Kai Lincke
Cliff Bayuk	Kathy Salom	Rita Pirollo	Kate Noto
Dana Bradley	Kim Shimer	Sandy Gruber	Katy Foreman
Diane Scott	Linda O'Hara	Sharon Black	Liam Foreman
Donna Clifford	Liz Hammond	Sue Maze	Mason Hall
Donna Ranere	Maggie Michael	Terry Haynes	Molly Foreman
Elizabeth Bergstrom	Marti Trzepacz	Tom Costello	Nick Tapino
Erica House	Mary Foreman	Yuni Thornton	Paige Trout
Gail Cowan		Zac Lowe	Tabitha Shatney
			Tommy Tapino
			Yash Rastogi

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2021 By the Numbers

Physical Materials

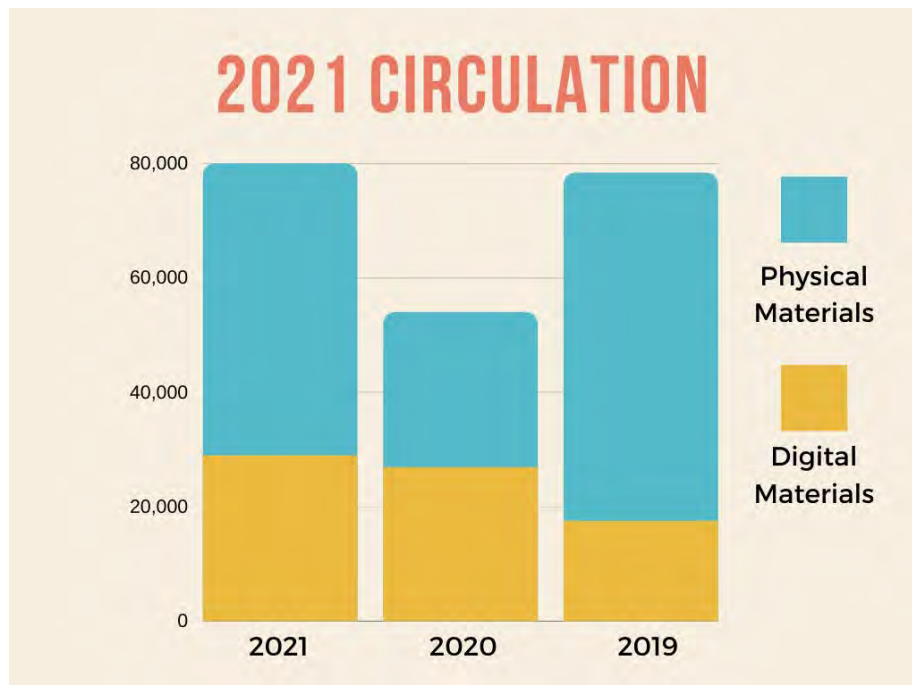
- Total Items in Collection: 41,475
- New Items Added to Collection: 2,502
- Total Circulation: 50,974 (Contactless for 5 months)

Digital Materials

- Total Circulation: 28,966

Library Patrons

- Total Active Registered Patrons: 6,306
- New Patrons: 297 new patrons joined the library this year



Total 2021 circulation of physical and digital materials surpassed 2019 total circulation.

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2021 Programs

For children, teens, and families: 103 programs attended by 2,709 people

Including: Toddler Tales, Preschool/Kindergarten Stories, PAWS for Reading, Front Lawn Stories, Santa Saturday, Wildlife Education, Picture Book Bundles, Dungeons & Dragons Dungeonmaster Workshop for Teens, Longwood Gardens Community Read, Outdoor Movie Nights, Take-N-Makes and more!

For adults: 29 programs attended by 390 people

Including: Book Date with Helen Kate Book Discussion, 5-week Nature Journaling series co-sponsored with Audubon Pennsylvania, seasonal reading challenges, Gift Wrap Exchange, Take-N-Make Kits, and even an outdoor concert by beloved local band, Last Chance!

Science, Technology, Engineering Art & Math (STEAM): 33 programs attended by 701 people

Supporting the joy of discovery, we held 33 programs that enhanced community in exploring STEAM topics with 33 programs for children, family, and teens with 701 attending. Highlights include: NASA Scavenger Hunt, Wildlife Wednesday, Sandi Nailor Memorial Author Series with Amy Thomas, as well as many science topics incorporated into story times.

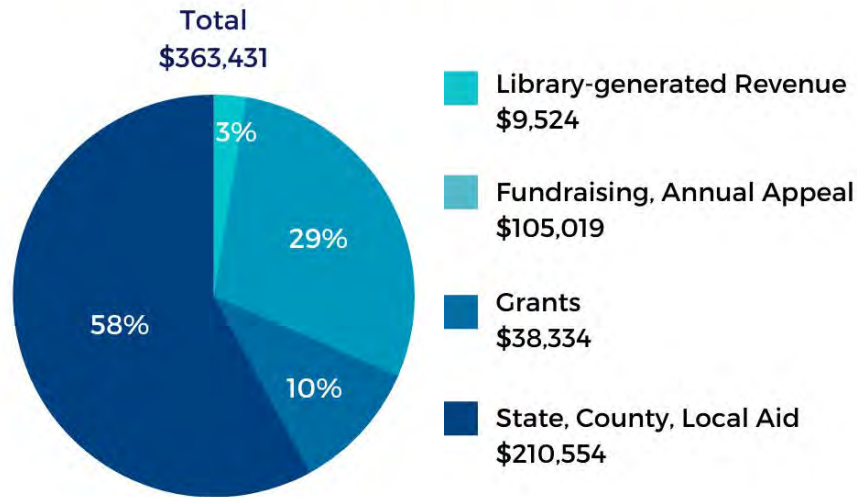
Community Outreach: 1 program reaching 93 community members

We enjoy sharing the love of learning and encourage curiosity with our friends in the community by taking the library outside of our walls. Ms. Lori attended the Not So Spooky Storywalk in Rose Tree Park. She was one of the Delaware County Library librarians who participated in this festive outdoor event.

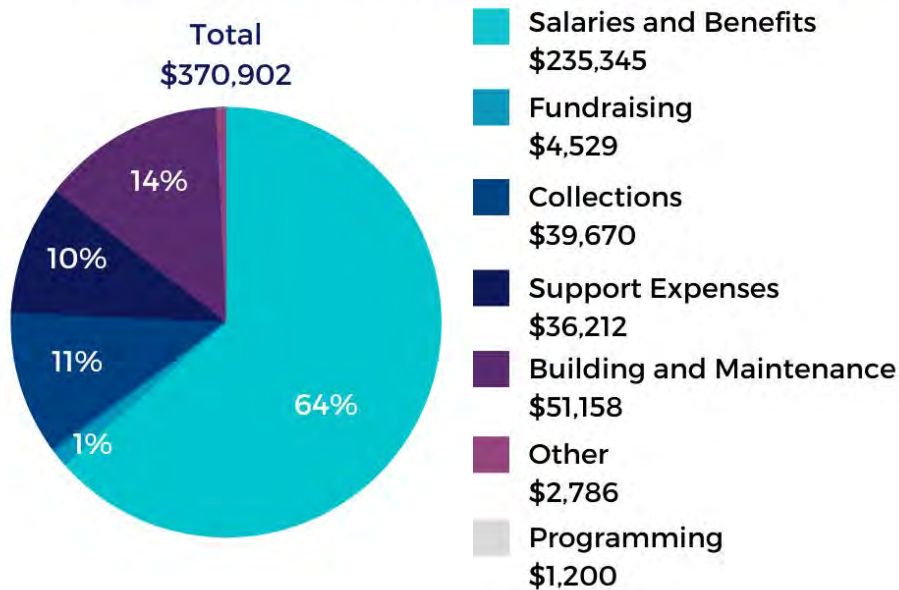


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2021 SUPPORT AND REVENUE



2021 OPERATING EXPENSES



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Because of our community's generosity and support, we were able to not only meet, but exceed, our fundraising goals. We entered into 2021 with much uncertainty and with a cautious Annual Appeal goal of \$55,000 and a total fundraising goal of \$75,000.

We were astounded by our community's generosity. At the end of 2021, the annual appeal donations totaled \$87,817, with overall fundraising at \$105,019. Your generous donations, combined with funding from Nether Providence Township and Rose Valley Borough and grants secured by the library staff and board, allowed us to meet our budgetary needs for the year.

We were able to update and curate our adult fiction and nonfiction book collections, and increased our eBook collections. We also completed several building projects, including grading the back of the property to prevent additional flooding in the children's library and trimming overgrown trees along the back of the building to preserve and protect the Chadwick wing addition of our beloved building.

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Thank you to our 2021 Board of Directors!
We greatly appreciate the time, energy and creativity you
share with our Library.

Jessica Brill

*President &
Rose Valley Borough Representative*

Elisabeth Lim

Co-Vice President

Jennifer Zwitch

Co-Vice President

Katie Boland

Treasurer

Joyce Romoff

Assistant Treasurer

Sara Pasternack

Recording Secretary

Rachel Lundberg

Corresponding Secretary

Donna Ferruzzi

Nether Providence Twp. Representative

Amanda Hemmer

Harwood Johnson

Kelly Kaminski

Nether Providence Twp. Representative

Beth Karn

J. Poe Leggette

Ruth Lindeborg

Hollis Gelber

Alli Granger

Candace Walters

Helen Kate Furness Free Library Staff

Library Director

Children's Librarian

Technical Services Librarian

Public Services Librarian

Reference Librarian

Reference Librarian

Reference Librarian

Leah Kulikowski

Lori Friedgren-Veitch

Molly Deutsch

Laura MacBride

Meg Hawkins

Janette Vickers

Beth Noto