

# 2023 Annual Report

Helen Kate Furness Free Library





Dear Members, Supporters, Patrons, and Neighbors,

2023 has been a year of growth for the Helen Kate Furness Library. Our growth is a direct result of the unwavering support from our patrons, the Nether Providence and Rose Valley communities, and the energy and experience of our dedicated Library staff and volunteers.

Our Board has continued to work tirelessly to meet its ambitious Fundraising goals. Coming off a banner year in 2022, we introduced new *Annual Sponsorships* with incredible response. We are continually grateful to those local businesses and entrepreneurs who have pledged to support the library. Drawing on the tradition of our ever successful fall *Well Red* event, we also introduced the first ever *Jazz on the Green* fundraiser in June. At the close of the year, we also introduced a *Planned Giving* opportunity, to allow our generous donors to support future generations of library patrons.

Programming has also grown - in events offered, attendance, and targeted audiences. We welcomed Jenny Reitmeyer to our staff, and have enjoyed her well-attended youth programs. Our Library is committed to serving all ages and stages; and our innovative staff members are always working to make our library more accessible. You may have observed one of the several building updates and maintenance projects completed this past year. Ms. Lori was most excited with the installation of a new donor funded water fountain and bottle filler in the children's library. Less visible but also important, we replaced the fire alarm system and remediated sewer issues in the children's library.

As a parent and educator in the Wallingford community, I am ever grateful to have the Helen Kate Furness Library in my neighborhood. It is has been my privilege to serve on the Board of Directors, and I am humbled by the ever growing generosity of its patrons. In this new year, I urge you to continue to give in whatever capacity that may be, and trust that your kindness will continue to positively impact our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

*Emily Levitz*

Emily Lovitz

President, Board of Directors



Dear Helen Kate Supporters and Patrons,

As I look back on 2023, the word that stands out to me is *growth*. The library was busier this year in all aspects, including visits, materials borrowed, programs attended, computers used, and services provided. Over 32,000 people walked through our doors this year and we circulated over 112,000 items. We love seeing each of you at the library!

This year we focused on expanding our programs, events, and opportunities for learning and enrichment; we offered 260 community programs reaching over 6,125 people. In March, we partnered with the Library Speakers Consortium to bring you 30 virtual author talks throughout the year as part of the Sandi Nailor Memorial Author Series, with some of our most popular authors including Rick Steves, Linda Bastianich, and Amor Towles. Over the summer, many children and families joined us for our bucket drumming and live animals events in local parks. This summer we also expanded our staff and now have a dedicated part-time staff member to provide programs for tweens and teens. She has started a Teen Advisory Board, which gives teens the opportunity to take an active leadership role in assisting with planning and implementing library events. This has been more successful than we even anticipated and has demonstrated that there is a real desire and need for the library to provide a safe and welcoming space for tweens and teens to interact with their friends and participate in social activities.

In early 2024 we'll be launching a Library of Things. In addition to museum passes and hotspots, you'll also be able to borrow tabletop games, outdoor games, tools, electronics, a birdwatching kit, and more, all with your library card! We are looking forward to another wonderful year and are so grateful for our community who supports the library by using the library, volunteering, and providing financial support.

Sincerely,

*Leah Kulikowski*

Leah Kulikowski, Library Director



# 2023 By The Numbers



The library was open  
2,404 hours



32,616 in-person  
visits to the library



6,649 active card  
holders



432 new library  
cards issued



37,111 physical items  
in the library's  
collection



Including 2,482  
new items added



33,652 eBooks &  
digital items were  
borrowed



Contributing to a  
total of 112,325  
checkouts



We lent our items  
outside of Delaware  
County 76 times



Our service is  
delivered by 4 FT &  
3 PT librarians



And 70  
volunteers who  
gave 3,766 hours



Museum passes  
were borrowed  
405 times



And brought in 323  
items from outside of  
Delco upon patron  
request



6,394 reference  
questions  
answered



Public computers  
were used  
2,253 times



Meeting rooms were  
reserved by the  
community 240 times



260 total programs  
(133 for youth &  
127 for adults)



Attended by 6,125  
people (3,987 youth  
& 1,436 adults)

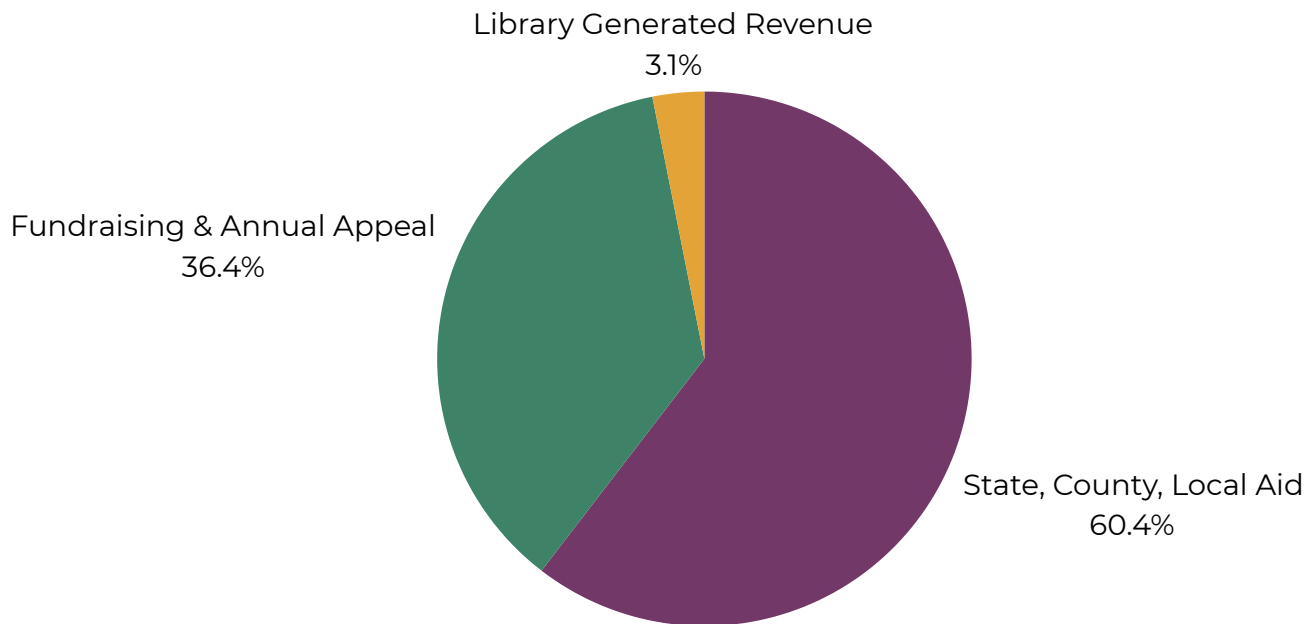


Including 30  
author talks



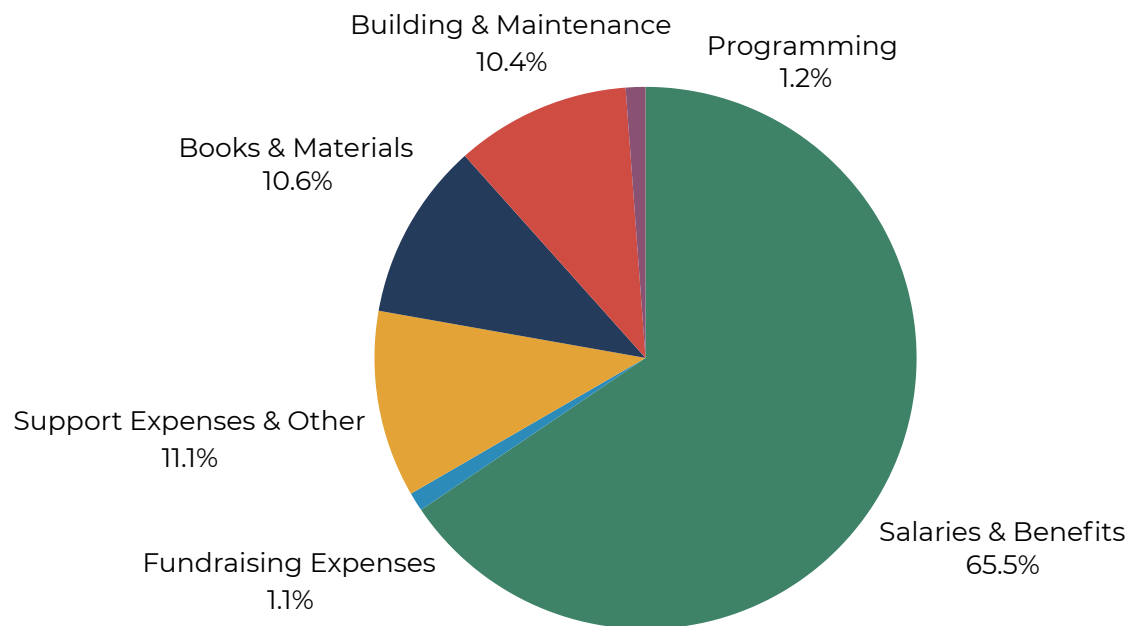
686 generous  
donors  
(Thank you!)

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE



State, County & Local Aid \$255,372	Fundraising, Annual Appeal & Grants \$154,028	Library Generated Revenue \$13,189	Total \$422,589
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## OPERATING EXPENSES



Salaries & Benefits \$281,000	Support Expenses & Other \$47,741	Books & Materials \$45,464	Building & Maintenance \$44,758	Programming \$5,031	Fundraising Expenses \$4,807	Total \$428,801
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# VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many volunteers who have dedicated their time to the library this year! They have been instrumental in keeping the library functioning by assisting patrons, checking in and out books, receiving book deliveries, and shelving. They've worked tirelessly at both the main and children's desks, as well as tackling numerous other tasks. We are extremely thankful for their invaluable contributions. In the past year, **70 individuals collectively contributed over 3,700 hours!**

Sarah Bagonis	Sachin Goindi	Sue Maze
Cathy Bartkowski	Richard Griscom	Kathy Michael
Nancy Bateman	Sandy Gruber	Jennie Nicolayev
Cliff Bayuk	Jessica Hadley	Anne O'Brien
Carol Beckman	Michelle & Sydney Hall	Linda O'Hara
Elizabeth Bergstrom	Liz Hammond	Aashna & Snehal Pandey
Sharon Black	Terry Haynes	Christine Pasquariello
Amy Boyce	Mary Halloran	Steve Peura
Dana Bradley	Anne Hollyer	Rita Pirollo
Christie Cari	Mary Holman	Joyce Romoff
Diane Carroll	Erica & Ezrin House	Kathy Salom
CJ Chen	Kaylynn Hove	Diane & Jack Scott
Kyle Chiem	Joe Hsu	Kim Shimer
Donna Clifford	Yusuf Husain	Owen Staley-Bischoff
Shelby Collins	Mary Jones	Peggy Steele
Tom Costello	Gwen Kannapel	Nick & Tommy Tapino
Gail Cowan	Lucy Karn	Marti Trzepacz
Jeanne Damico	Ravneet Kaur	Irene Varga
Raima Evan	Judy Kiesel	Mike Vartanian
Linda Fertig	Karen Krogh	Gabby Verona
Jenna Feters	Jaina Livingstone	Eric Wang
Julia Gaudet	Zac Lowe	

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to our Board of Directors for dedicating their time and energy to ensure the library's success. From fundraising to building maintenance, human resources and bookkeeping, their work and expertise has contributed significantly to another successful year of providing services to our community. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Board for their passion, dedication, leadership, and generosity.

Emily Lovitz, *President*

Don Cooney

Candace Walter, *Co-Vice President*

Nadina Deigh

Erin Stancill, *Co-Vice President*

Sandy DiCamillo

Kathryn Boland, *Treasurer*

Hollis Gelber

Joyce Romoff, *Assistant Treasurer*

Lucy Fowler Glasson

Ruth Lindeborg, *Secretary*

Alli Granger

Jessica Brill, *Rose Valley Borough Rep*

Woody Johnson, *Board Elected*

Kathryn Mehan, *Rose Valley Borough Rep*

Elisabeth Lim

Donna Ferruzzi, *Nether Providence Twp Rep*

Elena Sisti

Kelly Kaminski, *Nether Providence Twp Rep*

Sarah Ware

## LIBRARY STAFF

Leah Kulikowski, *Library Director*

Lori Friedgen-Veitch, *Youth Services Librarian*

Molly Deutsch, *Technical Services & InterLibrary Loan Librarian*

Laura Gandia, *Adult Services Librarian & Volunteer Coordinator*

Meg Hawkins, *Library Associate*

Beth Noto, *Library Associate*

Jenny Reitmeyer, *Youth Services Library Associate*