



**HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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# ANNUAL DONATION AND VOLUNTEER REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2023

REPORT DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2024

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone, and I hope all of you had a great 2023. Our year was very busy with so many exciting projects, some of which are discussed in this report. The biggest project was without question the start of our window replacement in October 2023. I cannot say often enough how thankful I am for the generosity of you, our community, in helping make this project a reality.

I think that really sums up how I, the entire staff and the board feel overall. We are all so deeply grateful for the generosity of the community and the support we receive. It doesn't matter whether someone donates large sums, spare change or gives a half hour of their time. It all makes a difference and shows that you care about us, our mission, and everyone who lives here.

We are successful in no small part due to your help. Thousands of volunteer hours help make this library run. Tens of thousands of dollars in donations help us provide resources and programs that would not be possible within our regular budget.

Thank you for your support, and for helping us help the community at large. I look forward to 2024 and am happy we will get to experience it together.



Peggy Hemerling  
Library Director

## DONATION SUMMARY

Donations from Library supporters enable HPL to:

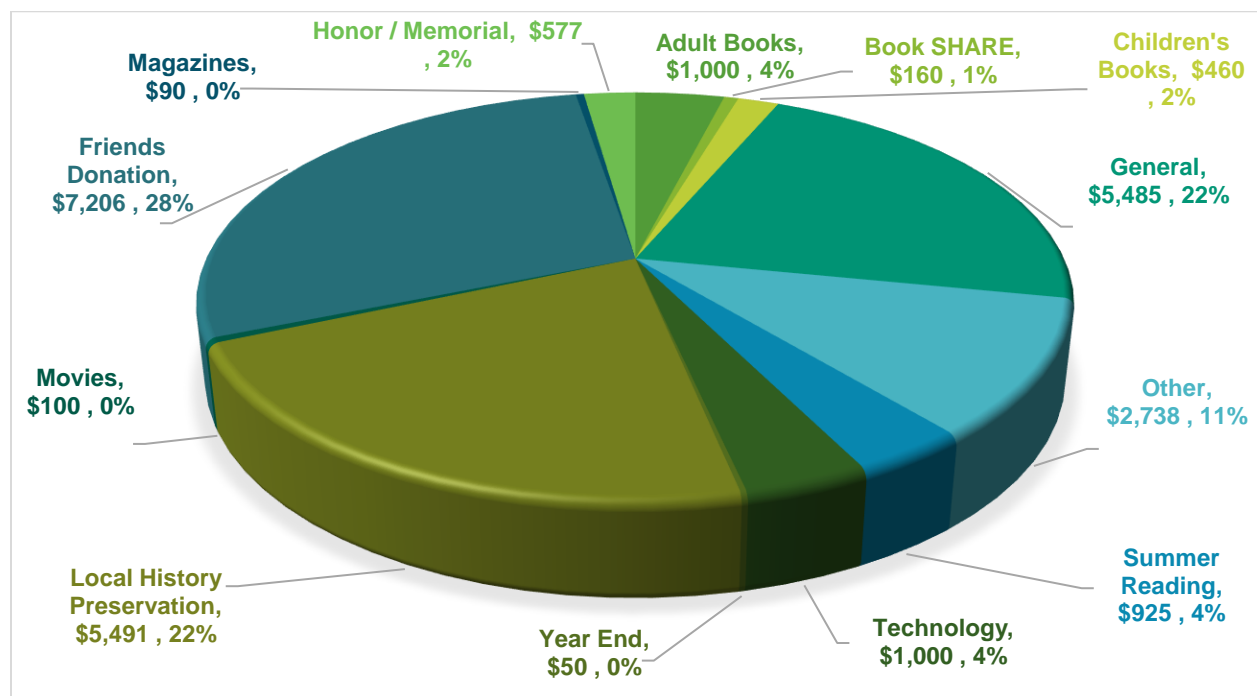
1. Offer programs and services we could not otherwise afford.
2. Buy equipment and supplies in support of programming.
3. Make our money “go farther”.

In calendar year 2023, HPL received financial donations in excess of \$189,000. Donations towards the window replacement project totaled \$165,000 and accounted for 87% of the year’s total donations.

Donated amounts are broken out below, including a percent of the total, excluding the window funds.

## HPL 2023 DONATIONS RECAP

\$25,282 Total, excluding \$165,000 for Windows



With these donations, among other things we:

- ♥ Created a Library of Things Jr. assortment with a \$2,000 grant from the Hastings Elks Lodge #1965.
- ♥ Digitized all of the Nashville News newspaper microfilm rolls, with all costs paid for by the Nashville Historical Society.



- ♥ Renewed the service for several hotspots and paid for our movie licenses.
- ♥ Brought in live performers for Summer Reading programs.

The window donations of \$165,000 pushed the total high enough to have the entire project paid for, and work began in October 2023.

## VOLUNTEER SUMMARY

We are indebted to all of our volunteers, without whom we could not provide as many services as we do for the community. In 2023 we received help from patrons, community members, and service organizations:

- ♥ Volunteers helped with landscaping maintenance and weeding.
- ♥ United Way volunteers helped with projects inside and outside for a Day of Caring.
- ♥ One volunteer helped with genealogy research and three others helped with local history organization.
- ♥ Many individuals ran programs regularly held at HPL like chess, mahjong, Dungeons & Dragons and the weekly movie night.

We especially want to thank all of the dedicated Friends of Hastings Public Library members who give so much of their time to help make our Library a special place. See more about them in the next section.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS DID A LOT IN 2023

More than 15 regular volunteers and dozens of others who helped occasionally gave more than 2,110 hours of their time to the library and our community.

Some of the programs and projects they helped make possible included:

- ♥ 2023 Summer Reading Events that served more than 300 community members.
- ♥ Rain Garden and Landscaping Maintenance
  - ♥ A great big THANK YOU to Karen D. who spent another year helping us maintain our rain garden.
- ♥ Reading is Fundamental & Reach Out and Read School Visits.
- ♥ Local History & Genealogy Research and Organization Assistance.
- ♥ New Item Quality Checks and Book Covering (over 150 hours!).
- ♥ Setting up and running Friends of the Library book sales.

We are also proud to be able to help those needing to complete community service. We like that we can help them meet their obligations while they help us. Several worked hours at the library over the course of the year.



## FRIENDS OF THE HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our Friends group does so much for us, sometimes it's hard to track it all. They are very dedicated to supporting our mission and give so much of their time and energy to us, no matter the ask, we are forever grateful.

Without this group, many programs and library tasks would not happen at all, or would be much more challenging to execute, including:

- ♥ Summer Reading Events
- ♥ Cookies with Santa
- ♥ Book Re-shelving
  - ♥ The Friends re-shelved **over 35,000 items** in 2023!



The Friends also hold many fundraising events throughout the year. The money raised is then made available to the Library to help cover anything and everything such as supplies and equipment, books, program presenter fees, membership dues in local service organizations and library associations, and even training sessions and conference fees.

Some of 2023's fundraisers included:

- ♥ Two used book sales.
- ♥ Selling parking spaces at the annual Barry Roubaix bicycle race.
- ♥ The annual October Wine Pairing and Basket Auction at Seasonal Grille.
- ♥ Art @ the Library raffles.
- ♥ Holiday candy sales.

All of the Friends deserve recognition, but we especially want to recognize a few who devote so much of their time to HPL:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| ♥ Judy K.     | ♥ Rita B.     |
| ♥ Tammy W.    | ♥ Diane H.    |
| ♥ Ellyn M.    | ♥ Kelli N.    |
| ♥ Ed S.       | ♥ Gwen M.     |
| ♥ Marcia S.   | ♥ Pam S.      |
| ♥ Kristine M. | ♥ Patricia W. |
| ♥ Karen D.    | ♥ Tammy N.    |



## SUCCESS STORIES

2023 saw many successful projects accomplished with help from both the monetary donations and the time donations from our volunteers. Here are just a few of the projects.

## NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION

HPL launched a new local history website in 2022 to provide easy access to anyone to digitized local history material, especially local newspapers. The [Barry County History Portal](#) has been very successful, and in 2023 we uploaded two more newspaper collections.

The Nashville Historical Society provided over \$4,000 in funding to digitize our entire collection of the Nashville News on microfilm. That then opened up more funds from previous donations, so we were able to also digitize our Sun & News collection and most of the Maple Valley News. All of the Nashville News and Sun & News are available online now. The Maple Valley News is being uploaded and will be available in early 2024.

In total, since 2022, we have spent over \$36,000 on newspaper digitization, all donated by the community.





## SUMMER READING



2023's theme was Read Beyond the Beaten Path, and everyone had a blast getting outside and trying new things. Patrons loved the canvas bags we gave out and all of the stickers and patches they earned for reading. Many local businesses donated to support summer reading programming, including: Southside Pediatrics, Thornapple Credit Union and Stacey Garrison DDS. Pizza Hut and Dairy Queen gave generously with coupons we used as prizes for reading completion. There were a lot of happy kids with personal pizzas and ice cream cones last summer. Hungry Howie's provided a pizza per week as a random raffle drawing prize for parents who brought their kids to the library.

Ultimately, over \$925.00 was donated to directly support programs and the purchase of supplies needed to keep summer reading fun, while many volunteers gave their time to help make the programs a success.

Among other events, we sang and danced with Kate Carpenter, saw a magic show with Mr. Jim, broke open rocks to learn about geodes with Professor Steve Tchozeski, saw live reptiles close-up with the Michigan Society of Herpetologists, and learned about science through interactive story-telling with Talewise.



Mrs. Kate and Brandt Roaring like Lions.



Felix and Yvette checking out a snake

## EARLY LITERACY

HPL has two regular reading programs that we execute in partnership with local schools: Reading is Fundamental (RIF) and Reach Out and Read (ROAR). Both programs rely heavily on volunteers to visit schools and help kids with literacy skills. In 2023, 18 volunteers read over 200 hours to kids across four elementary schools. We also gave out more than 150 books to the kids!

At the library, we still hold two separate story time events each week. Emily H. from the YMCA and Geneva W. from Barry County Great Start donate their time to help with the weekly Wednesday Itsy Bitsy Book Club, while Ellen H. from Pierce Cedar Creek Institute helps with periodic Friday Science Story Times. Regular weekly Friday preschool story time is also on our calendar.

## LOCAL HISTORY INVENTORY

Several volunteers spent countless hours helping us comb through all of our local history material to build a master tracking database. Work continues, but we have now accounted for over 5,000 specific items in our collection. All of those items are now detailed for content and are assigned storage locations so we can more easily find them to help genealogy and history researchers.

Thank you Val F., Karen D., Diane H., and Marji F. for all of the help on this project.



Prof. Steve Tchozeski breaking rocks