



Annual Donation and Volunteer Report

Calendar Year 2022

Report Date: June 2, 2023

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A Message from the Director

The Hastings Public Library could not do all that we do without the dedication of the volunteers who give us their time, and the tremendous financial support we receive from the community. We are very lucky that so many believe in our mission and want to help us deliver programming and resources beyond what our normal budget allows.

We so often hear compliments on our building, the quality of our staff, and the breadth of our offerings. Some of that is because of the support we receive from our patrons and the wider community.

Your donations help us purchase more books than we could on our own, send staff to training sessions and conferences, build our digital collection to present and preserve local history, and maintain a welcoming building for all to enjoy.

Your volunteer hours are integral to maintaining our rain garden & landscaping, organizing the local history collection, performing genealogy research, making summer reading and other programs easier to manage and helping the staff focus on patron needs by re-shelving returned books for us.

We are excited to see what 2023 will bring and are thankful that you will be alongside us. On behalf of the Library Staff, I thank you.



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 2022, HPL received financial donations in excess of \$448,000.

Category	Amount
Book SHARE	\$ 20
Children's Books	\$ 275
Honor / Memorial	\$ 891
Summer Reading	\$ 925
Technology	\$ 1,600
Adult Books	\$ 1,841
General	\$ 1,944
Friends Donations	\$ 4,133
Other	\$ 16,474
Local History Preservation	\$ 22,832
Window Replacement	\$ 397,165
Total	\$ 448,100

With these donations, among other things we:

- ♥ Purchased over \$3,000 in youth, adult and large print adult books beyond the budgeted amount.
- ♥ Provided wi-fi hotspot service to the community.
- ♥ Renewed the movie licenses that enable us to show movies every Thursday evening and at other times.
- ♥ Digitized newspapers.

A significant amount of these donations went to the Window Replacement Project described later in this report.

Volunteer Summary

We could not accomplish all that we do at HPL without the dedication and assistance from our amazing group of volunteers. We receive help from patrons, community members, and service organizations:

- ♥ Pierce Cedar Creek Institute helps maintain our rain garden.



- ♥ Volunteers help with landscaping maintenance and weeding.
- ♥ The United Way sends volunteers to help with projects inside and outside.
- ♥ Many individuals run programs held at HPL like chess, weekly movies and more.

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 2022:

- ♥ # of participants: more than 45 regular volunteers
- ♥ # of hours: 2,439

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

- ♥ 2022 Summer Reading Events that served more than 700 community members.
- ♥ Teen Nailed It! Baking Competition.
- ♥ Rain Garden and Landscaping Maintenance
 - ♥ Big shout out to Karen D. who spent a lot of time in the rain garden and helping with the overall landscaping maintenance.
- ♥ Window Fundraising Events.
- ♥ Reading is Fundamental & Reach Out and Read School Visits.
- ♥ Local History and Genealogy Research and Organization Assistance.
- ♥ New Item Quality Checks and Book Covering (over 100 hours!).
- ♥ Picture Book Reorganization
 - ♥ Thank you, Pam S. for the hundreds of hours you gave to this project.
- ♥ Sanitizing Children's Toys.

- ♥ Digital Literacy Classes
 - ♥ A special call out to Dale S., Karen C., Tony C., and Dustin L. who donated their time to teach these important classes.



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.

Friends of the Hastings Public Library

Everyone needs Friends! Including libraries.

Our Friends group is full of extremely dedicated people who are always willing to help, no matter the ask. They give so much of their time and energy to us, 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: Friends re-shelved **over 30,000 items** in 2022!



The Friends hold many fundraising events throughout the year. The money raised is then made available to the Library to help cover everything from supplies and equipment, to books, and even training sessions and conference fees. Some of 2022's fundraisers included:

- ♥ Three 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 call out a few who devote so much of their time to HPL:

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

We Miss You Audrey

We also want to pay special tribute to Audrey Renner, a long-time Friend and HPL supporter who passed away in early 2023.

Audrey was a fixture at the library, giving her time and money to support us for many, many years. She loved coming in to help re-shelve books, volunteered her time at children’s programs, and donated regularly to support the purchase of children’s materials.



We all loved having Audrey around and miss her deeply.

Success Stories

We accomplished a lot in 2022 with the donations given to us and with the help of our volunteers. Here are a few key wins:

Newspaper Digitization

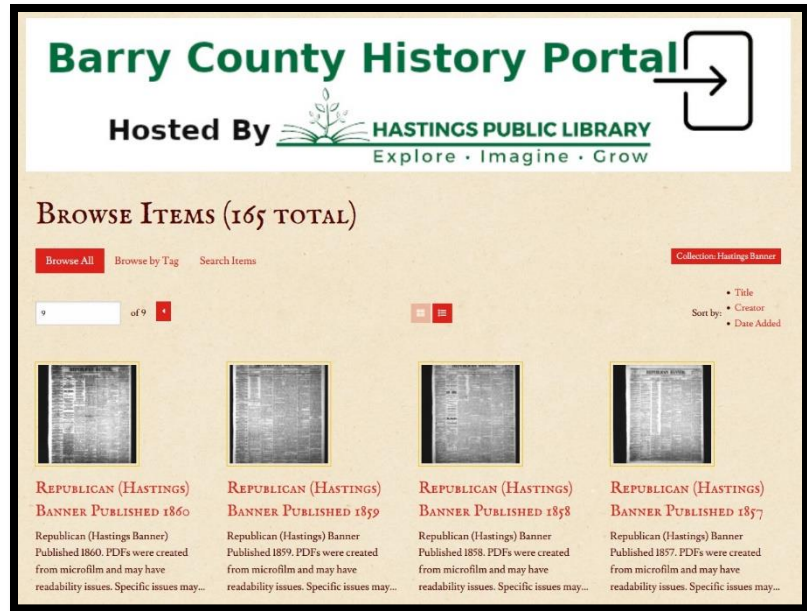
HPL is a repository of local history for all of Barry County. Newspapers are a critical part of the historical record, and we hold thousands of papers on microfilm, CD and in hardcopy. In 2021 we decided it was time to digitize as much of the collection as possible to both preserve it and make it more publicly accessible.

With money raised at the end of 2021, and additional funds received in 2022, HPL began work on digitizing the Hastings Banner. We expected the funds raised to cover that cost with a bit left over.

The generosity of the community overwhelmed us as a single donor offered to pay for all of the Banner costs, leaving the original amount untouched. The Nashville Historical Society then raised money to cover the costs of digitizing the Nashville News, again leaving the original amount untouched.

With the remaining funds, we began digitizing the Middleville Sun & News and will be able to also have most, if not all, of the Maple Valley News digitized.

In all, between 2022's efforts and the remaining work in 2023, we will have spent over \$36,000 on newspaper digitization, all donated by the community.



Summer Reading



2022's theme was an Ocean of Possibilities. Many local businesses donated to support summer programming including: Southside Pediatrics; Thornapple Credit Union; Bellabay Realty, Dream Home Team; Bright Start Pediatrics; Cakes By Shannon; Greenmark Equipment;

Highpoint Community Bank; Hungry Howies; and Dairy Queen. Many volunteers also gave their time to help make the programs a success.

Almost \$1,000 was donated to support programs and supplies needed to keep summer reading fun.

Among other events, we sang and danced with Sue Picking, learned about the ocean with oceanographer Ellen Prager, discovered scuba diving with Marty Buehler and experienced ocean magic with Mr. Jim.



Early Literacy

HPL has two reading programs in partnership with local schools: Reading is Fundamental (RIF) and Reach Out and Read (ROAR). Both programs rely heavily on volunteers to visit schools, sometimes with the youth librarian and help kids with literacy skills. In 2022:

- ♥ 12 volunteers read to kids in 11 classrooms across 4 elementary schools.
 - Total time spent reading exceeded 44 hours!
- ♥ The first post-COVID RIF visits happened in November 2022. The Youth Librarian and 4 volunteers visited 5 preschool classes, distributed 80 free books, read stories, and worked with the kids on crafts.

HPL also holds 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 Wednesday Itsy Bitsy Book Club, while Ellen H. from Pierce Cedar Creek Institute helps with periodic Friday Science Story Times.

Window Replacement

An unfortunate design flaw in the Library's original windows forced initiation of a replacement project that commenced fundraising in late 2021. The windows were allowing moisture between the panes of glass, which caused the coatings to oxidize and "fog" the windows. Many generous donors gave over \$700,00, adding to the \$300,000 the Library Board set aside for the project. Some key happenings included:

- ♥ The Magical Mystery Garden Event in July 2022: Local citizens and artists donated their efforts to decorating windows that were auctioned off. We raised \$20,000.



- ♥ Volunteers helped stuff envelopes for donation mailings.
- ♥ A professional consultant was hired to help guide the process.

Bids for glass and HVAC replacement were received and winners awarded in April 2023. As of June 2023, project timing is still being finalized, but is expected to begin in September 2023.