



HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report

2025





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DAVID EDELMAN

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

2025 was a year of change, and I want to thank the Board of Trustees, the community, and especially the entire staff for all of the support this past year, my first as the Director. I may be the Director, but it's a team effort, and HPL has a great team.

We saw staff and Board Member changes, worked through potential federal funding challenges, developed a new Strategic Plan, put on hundreds of programs & events, updated the building, added services, and built new community partnerships. In the end it was a very successful year, and I am excited about what 2026 and beyond will bring.

Thank you.



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OUR STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AS OF DECEMBER 2025

STAFF

David Edelman – Library Director

PROMOTION

Tess Allerding – Assistant Director

PROMOTION

Erin Quada – Youth Services Librarian

Barbara Haywood – Marketing & Adult Programming Coordinator

Chloe Lewis – Circulation Supervisor

NEW

Marty Byington – Processing Supervisor

Celeste Dyehouse – Library Assistant

Sharon Elzinga – Library Assistant

Hannah Klein – Library Assistant

NEW

Ken Petto – Library Assistant

Kylie Petto – Library Assistant

NEW

Lake Seif – Youth Assistant

Tammy Wilde – Library Assistant



BOARD

President: Kelli Newberry (HT)

Vice-President: Cloe Oliver (H)

Secretary: Jane Cybulski (RT)

Members

Sam Cale (H)

Ann Devroy (H)

NEW

Carol Dwyer (H)

Rebecca Lectka (RT)

Ellyn Main (HT)

NEW

Amanda Mattson (H)

NEW

H - Hastings City

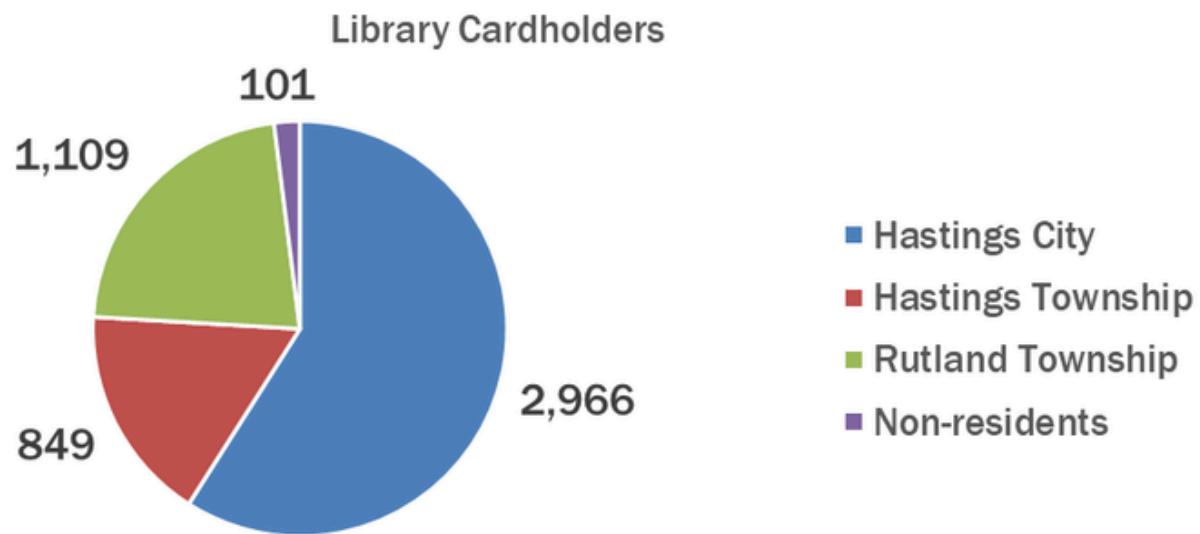
HT - Hastings Charter Township

RT - Rutland Charter Township



OPERATIONAL RECAP

NOTE: ALL DATA REPRESENTS FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025, NOT CALENDAR YEAR 2025



Interlibrary Loans

To other libraries	4,817
From other libraries	5,167

Services & Activities

Number of Programs	353
Program attendance	7,403
Patron visits to building	75,661
Volunteer hours	1,918
Computer use in Hours	5,982
Wi-Fi Logins	11,153

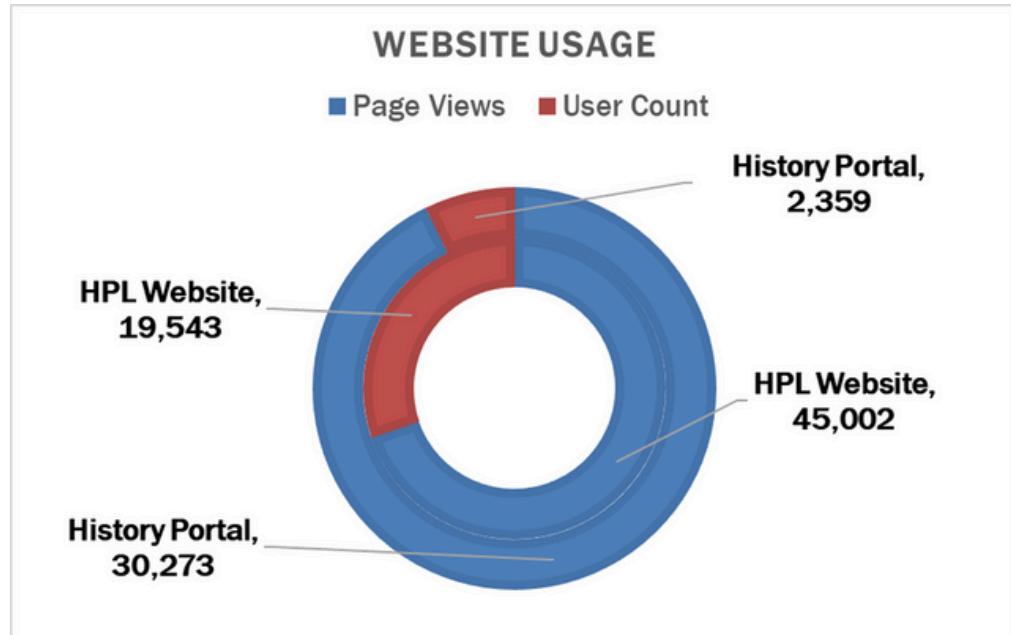
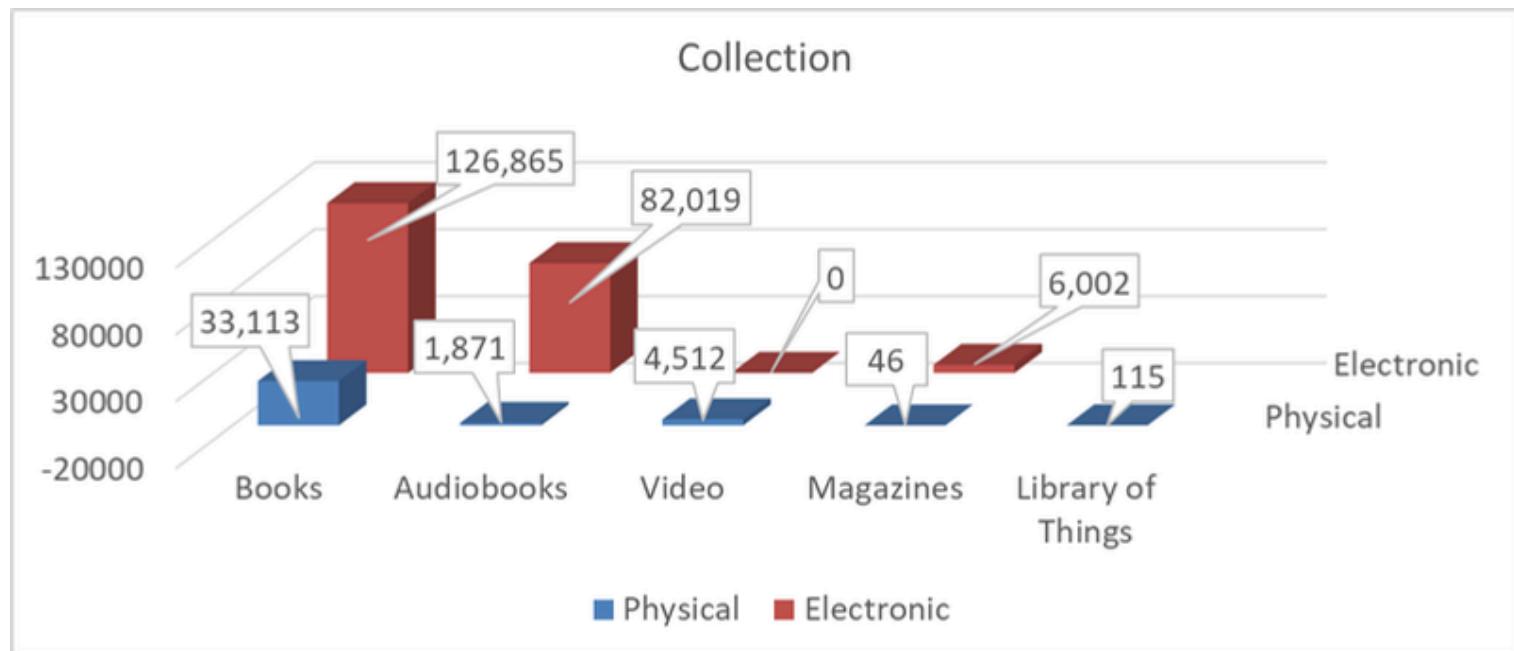


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STRATEGIC PLAN

Throughout 2025, the staff and Board worked on creating a new Strategic Plan with significant community feedback. Our 2026-2029 Vision, Purpose, Strategic Commitments and associated goals are summarized below.

These two statements define who we are as a library:

Purpose

Why We Exist

The library is dedicated to providing access to the information and resources essential for exploring the world, envisioning new possibilities, encouraging imagination, and embracing lifelong learning while fostering connections among individuals.

Vision

What We Strive For

The library strives to be a vital hub of trust and knowledge at the heart of our community, where everyone is embraced and empowered to come together for personal growth and collective enrichment.

These Strategic Commitments will guide us moving forward:



**SCAN THE QR OR
ENTER THE BIT.LY
TO LEARN MORE**



bit.ly/4jnZc5x



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SUMMER READING

ADVENTURE awaits AT HPL

Local artist Ellie Matthai designed all of the logos and artwork.

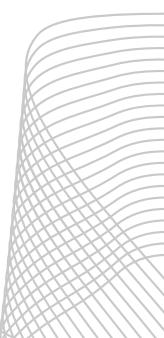
We launched HPL's new Summer Reading theme that will be reused each year. It helps maximize our investment in marketing and themed materials, plus it is highly versatile and applies to virtually any program or event we might dream up. Thank you Youth Librarian Erin Quada for driving this.

715 Total challenge participants, all ages

23 Summer Reading youth specific programs

758 Summer Reading youth program participants

Thank you to all the local businesses and organizations who donated money, prizes, and/or time to support summer reading, and which enabled us to do more. Key supporters included:





PROGRAMS & EVENTS

2025 saw events of all types, for all ages. HPL held classes and workshops on cooking, digital literacy, art, beekeeping, bread making, gardening, rain barrels, and more.



We hosted community discussions and events on the environment, social issues, world travel, homesteading, the Native American experience, and more.

328 Total programs, calendar year 2025, all ages

We had a poetry contest and a community art project, were a JazzFest site, held Katie Christie's book launch, hosted VITA tax prep services, hosted a falconry expert, held writing workshops with local author Sydney Wiswell, had dozens of story times, showed movies and so much more.

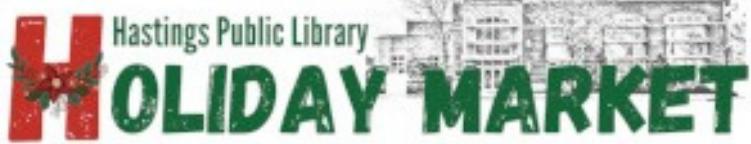


5,450 Total participants, calendar year 2025, all ages

Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who made all of the programs and events possible, and especially Adult Program Coordinator Barbara Haywood, Youth Librarian Erin Quada, and Youth Assistant Lake Seif.



SPECIAL EVENTS



Nothing says the Holidays at HPL quite like the annual arts & crafts event in early December. This year was a big success thanks to AD Tess Allerding's hard work.



More than 950 people attended the event!

The next day hundreds of kids came to see Santa, have a cookie provided by the Friends of HPL, and get their faces painted.



In June, 2025, HPL's first ever **"Touch a Truck"** event saw more than 225 people get hands-on with fire trucks, tow trucks, and more.

February 2025 saw the annual **Family Science Night**. Kids got hands-on experience with STEM activities hosted by 23 local organizations.

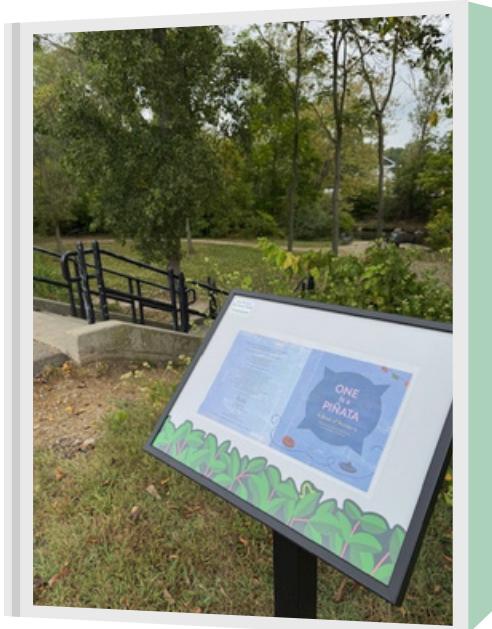




DONATIONS MATTER

HPL is thankful for the very generous community that supports our work and lets us do more to give back. Two 2025 projects in particular, showcase the impact of donations.

Generous donations in memory of strong library supporter and local doctor Bard Bloom, combined with other donations, enabled HPL to upgrade all three downstairs bathrooms with automatic doors. This improved accessibility for all, with the work completed in December, 2025.



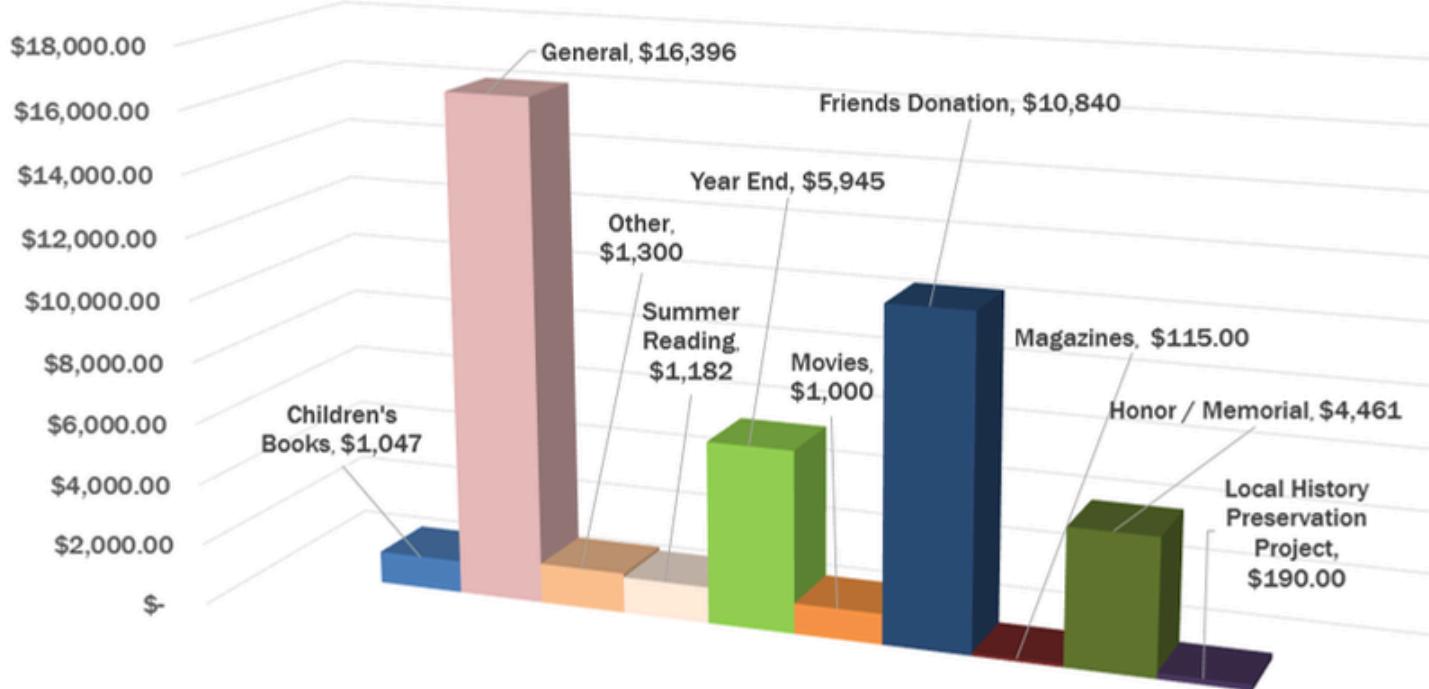
Generous donations in memory of strong library supporter and literacy advocate Jane Arnold, enabled HPL to purchase and install a new **Storybook Walk** along the Thornapple River. The installation was dedicated in her honor on June 3, 2025.



DONATION SUMMARY

Here is a breakdown of the donations received during calendar year 2025.

Donation Summary, 2025

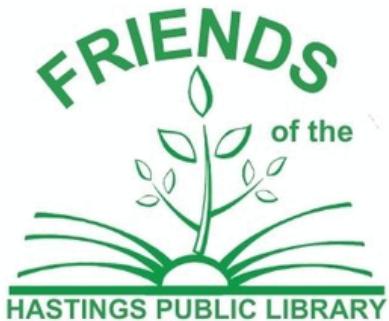


Donations big and small help in so many ways. They allow us to purchase more books and more items for our **Library of Things**, create new programs, and find new resources to help everyone.



VOLUNTEERS

HPL's dedicated group of volunteers, both regular and occasional, enable us to do so much more than the staff could alone. In calendar year 2025, volunteers gave **1,945 hours of service** benefitting the entire community.



The Friends of HPL are huge supporters, giving their time, experience, and financial backing to HPL. They re-shelve returned books, work at programs & events and raise money for the library. Through candy sales, Barry Roubaix parking, two large book sales, the Friends Store, and especially the annual Wine Pairing event in October, they raise thousands annually for HPL.

The Annual United Way Day of Caring in September brought dozens of volunteers to HPL who weeded, dusted, cleaned, and made the library shine like new.





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PARTNERSHIPS

Some of HPL's programs & events, and some of the information & resources we make available to the community, depend on our partners. Just as with our volunteers, we rely on partnerships to get things done.

Here are just some of the organizations and businesses we regularly work with. If we've missed anyone, our apologies.



Barry County Earth Alliance



THE
Ability Collective
OF BARRY COUNTY





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THANK YOU!

Thank you all for supporting the Hastings Public Library throughout 2025. We are excited for 2026 and beyond as we work through our new Strategic Plan and tackle all of the Action Plan items we've identified.

We have big dreams and goals, with a number of large projects on the horizon. Stay tuned for updates as we progress, and don't hesitate to let us know how we're doing.

Together, we can accomplish a lot.

