



HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Donations & Volunteer Annual Report

2025





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DAVID EDELMAN

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I've said it before, and it is still true - we could not do all that we do here at the Hastings Public Library without the generous support of our financial donors, and all of the time invested by our dedicated volunteers.

We are able to accomplish so much more because of you, from building improvements, to resources, to offering more and unique programming to serve the community.

Your feedback in 2025 also helped us create our new Strategic Plan. Your continued support over the life of this plan will help as we strive to achieve our ambitious goals.

Thank you for another great year. All of us at HPL truly appreciate your support.



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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:



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TO LEARN MORE**

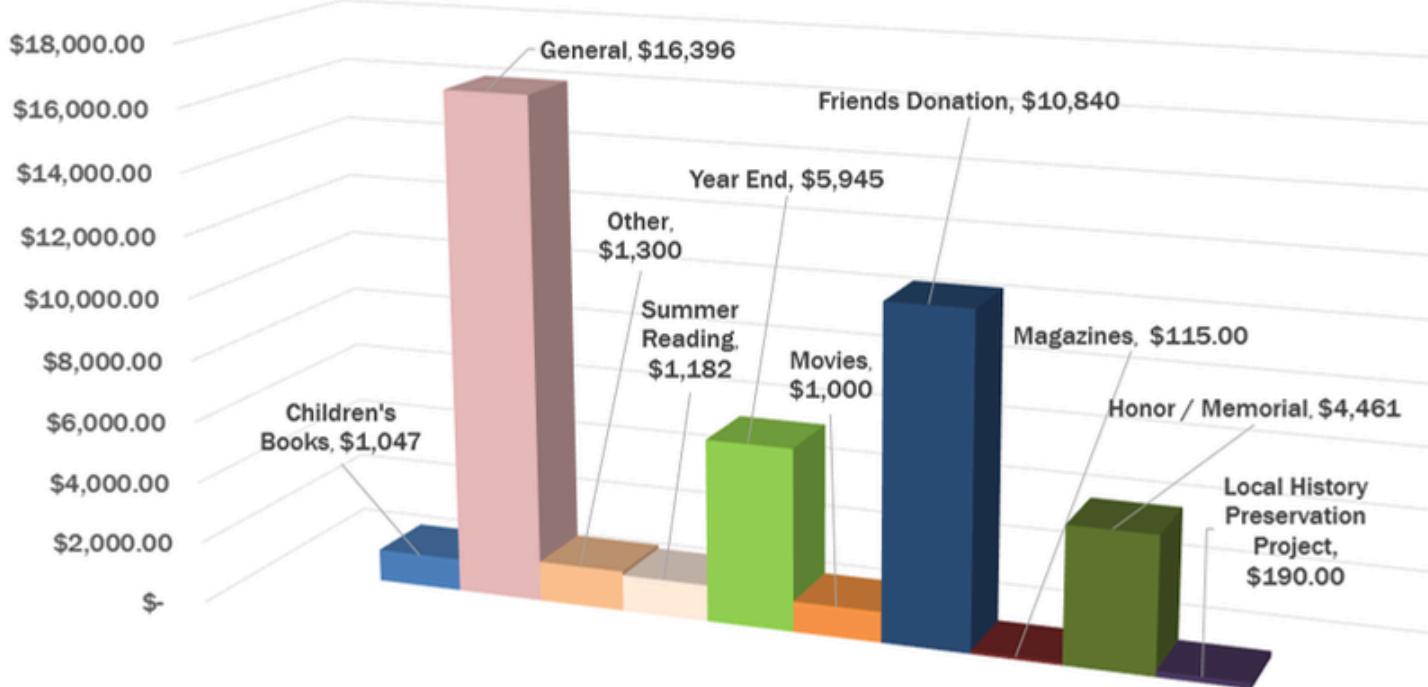


bit.ly/4jnZc5x

DONATION SUMMARY

Here is a breakdown of the **\$42,475** 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.



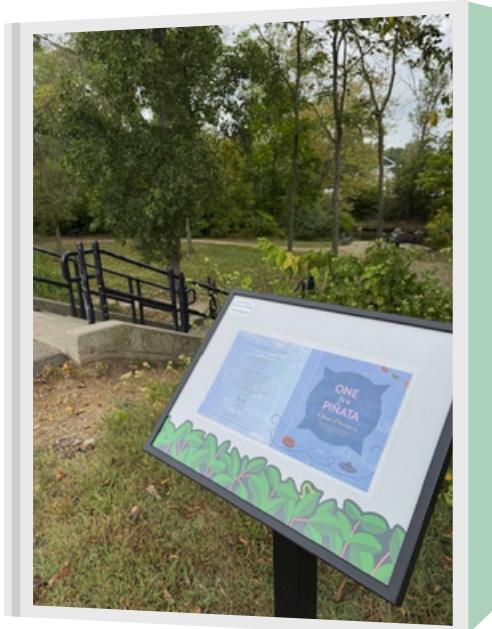


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DONATIONS MATTER

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.





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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 Friends gave over \$10,000 to HPL in 2025, helping cover summer reading expenses, material purchases, conferences, organizational memberships, publications, programs, and more. Thank You!



VOLUNTEERS

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.



EARLY LITERACY

Early literacy is critical to children's later success, and HPL, with the help of many volunteers, partners with local schools to keep it a priority. Reading is Fundamental (RIF) and Reach Out and Read (ROAR) are the two core programs. **In 2025, 16 volunteers read 175 hours to kids, and we gave away more than 575 books!**

HPL also hosts twice weekly story times that continue to grow in popularity, with dozens often attending both days. Youth Librarian Miss Erin, with some volunteer help, reads and gets the kids singing, dancing, and often crafting to get their creative juices flowing.

A volunteer also periodically brings therapy dog Jace to HPL to read to kids. Jace often helps the kids settle in and enjoy the story even more.





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SUMMER READING

ADVENTURE awaits AT HPL

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

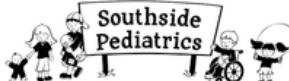
In 2025, we launched our new Summer Reading theme that will be reused each year. It helps maximize our investment in marketing and themed materials, plus it is highly versatile and applies to virtually any program or event we might dream up. Thank you Youth Librarian Erin Quada for driving this.

715 Total challenge participants, all ages

23 Summer Reading youth specific programs

758 Summer Reading youth program participants

Thank you to all the individuals, 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:



for environmental education

Bright Start Pediatrics

Barry County



THANK YOU!

There are too many volunteers to thank you all appropriately here, but a few deserve special mention for the gift of your above and beyond time and dedication to helping HPL succeed.

Judy K.	Tammie N.
Ed and Marcia S.	Ellyn M.
Karen D.	Donna M.
Diane H.	Pam S.
Kelli N.	Patricia W.
Gwen M.	Mindy J.
Peggy H.	Rita B.
Kathy L.	Tammy W.

Together, we accomplish a lot.

