

2024 Annual Report

Helen Kate Furness Free Library



Dear Friends and Supporters,

2024 was an extraordinary year for the Helen Kate Furness Free Library by every measure. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our friends, neighbors, and donors near and far, we surpassed all previous fundraising records—a truly remarkable achievement for a library that has been serving the community for over a century! We couldn't have done it without your heartfelt support, and we are beyond grateful.

One of our most impactful building projects this year was completing a "green" lighting audit in partnership with PECO. By replacing our outdated fixtures with **energy-efficient LED lighting**, we have significantly reduced our energy footprint, saved on long-term costs, and brightened our space. This much-needed upgrade came at the perfect time, allowing us to maximize PECO rebates and make the most of every dollar.

Another highlight of the year was our participation in the first-ever Delco Gives Day. Joining over 280 worthy nonprofits in Delaware County, we proudly finished **1st among nonprofits of our size** and 5th in total number of donors! Your generosity helped us raise **\$32,995**, unlocking **\$7,277 in bonus funds**—an incredible boost for our mission.

Additionally, our **Annual Appeal** was a resounding success, raising **\$107,434** thanks to your unwavering support. Unlike many other libraries that rely more heavily on state and federal funding, we depend on our community's generosity to keep our library thriving. We know we ask often, and time and again, you come through for us. Thank you!

This year, we were thrilled to launch our **Library of Things**, a collection of over **80 unique and useful items** already borrowed over 547 times. From tools and board games to crafting supplies and tech gadgets, our Library of Things helps patrons access resources they need without the expense of purchasing them, while fostering sustainability through shared-use.

Our programs for all ages also flourished in 2024. We offered **319 programs** attended by **7,514 people**, with something for everyone. Children delighted in storytimes, STEM camp, and art classes. Teens participated in a murder mystery event, a self-defense class, and sound meditation workshops. Adults engaged in book discussions, author talks, craft workshops, and fascinating lectures on topics like mushroom foraging and cave exploration.

Beyond fundraising, we've continued much-needed repairs to our historic building, including roof repairs in 2024. Looking ahead, we're excited to bring some essential yet exciting upgrades to the **Children's Library in 2025**.

We are so proud to have you as part of our library community. Our library wouldn't be the same without our wonderful patrons—you are the heart of everything we do.

Sincerely,



Sandy DiCamillo
President, Board of Directors



Leah Kulikowski
Library Director

2024 By The Numbers



The library was open
2,508 hours



38,709 visits to
the library



5,602 active card
holders



574 new library
cards issued



36,643 physical
items in the library's
collection



Including 2,563
new items added



40,590 eBooks &
digital items were
borrowed



Contributing to a
total of 125,049
checkouts



81 items added to
our new Library of
Things Collection



Our service is
delivered by 4 FT &
3 PT librarians



And 56
volunteers who
gave 3,766 hours



Museum passes
were borrowed
494 times



Which were
borrowed 547
times



6,457 reference
questions
answered



Public computers
were used
2,381 times



Meeting rooms were
reserved by the
community 265 times



319 total programs
(171 for youth &
148 for adults)



Attended by 7,514
people (5,248 youth
& 2,266 adults)

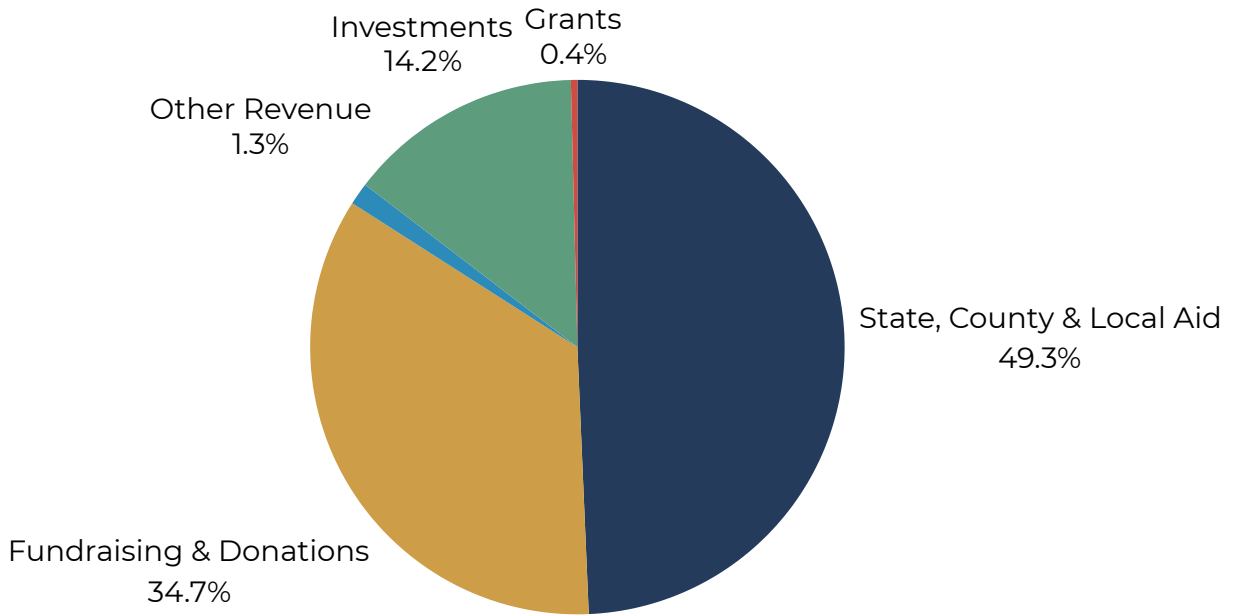


Including 37
author talks



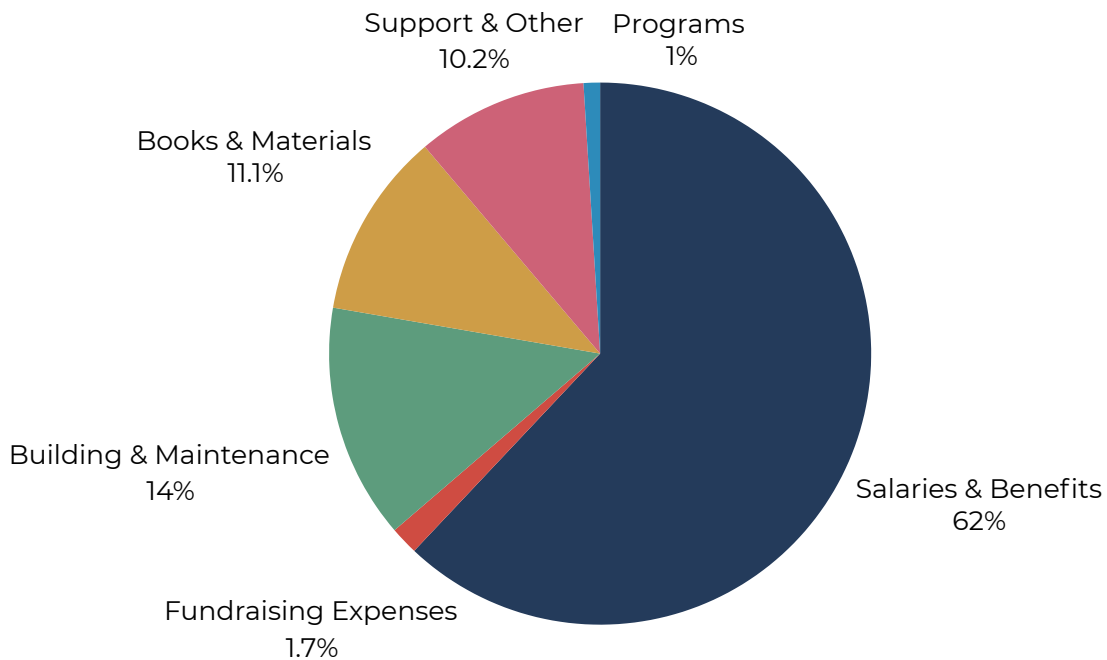
680 generous
donors
(Thank you!)

2024 Support and Revenue



State, County & Local Aid	Fundraising & Donations	Investment Income	Other Revenue	Grants	Total
\$265,652	\$187,071	\$76,568	\$7,235	\$2,100	\$538,716

2024 Operating Expenses



Salaries & Benefits	Building & Maintenance	Books & Materials	Support Expenses & Other	Fundraising Expenses	Programs	Total
\$318,867	\$72,015	\$57,057	\$52,462	\$8,612	\$5,035	\$514,048

Sponsors

Thank you to the generous businesses that supported the Helen Kate Furness Free Library in 2024. These sponsorships helped sustain our programs and services, ensuring that the library remains a vibrant hub of learning and connection for all.

Helen Kate Hero

Hollywood Landscaping

Furness Friend

320 Market Café
Optimum Physical Therapy Associates

Library Lover

A Pickup Project
CDF Family Orthodontics
ECBM
Eckell Sparks Attorneys at Law
Penn Beer Sales & Service
Swarthmore Smiles
Unlimited Tennis Academy

Book Club

The Cat Hospital of Media
Cavanagh Family Funeral Homes
Compass Real Estate: Torrey Jenkins & Sarah Fritz
Erica Deuschle & Co. Real Estate Team
King's Automotive
Manhattan Bagel
Nolan Painting
Paul Carpenter Art
Plush Mills
WSFS Bank

Volunteers

Many wonderful, community volunteers generously dedicated their time and talents to the library this year! Their efforts have been instrumental in keeping our library running smoothly—assisting patrons, checking books in and out, receiving deliveries, and shelving materials. **In 2024, 56 amazing individuals collectively contributed over 3,700 hours of service!**

Sarah Bagonis	Sandy Gruber	Leah Moretti
Nancy Bateman	Jessica Hadley	Jennie Nicolayev
Cliff Bayuk	Michelle Hall	Anne O'Brien
Carol Beckman	Sydney Hall	Linda O'Hara
Krish Bhatta	Mary Halloran	Snehal Pandey
Sharon Black	Elizabeth Hammond	Christine Pasquariello
Amy Boyce	Terry Haynes	Steve Peura
Christie Cari	Mary Holman	Rita Pirollo
Diane Carroll	Erica House	Seb Reed
Donna Clifford	Yusuf Husain	William Reitmeyer
Tom Costello	Gwen Kannapel	Joyce Romoff
Gail Cowan	Ravneet Kaur	Kathy Salom
Amelia Cusanno	Michael Kelly	Diane Scott
Jeanne Damico	Judy Kiesel	Jack Scott
Raima Evan	Max Kotzen	Shelby Seidman
Linda Fertig	Karen Krogh	Kim Shimer
Jenna Fetters	John Mathew	Esther Wong
Sachin Goindi	Sue Maze	Guixin Zhang
Richard Griscom	Kathy Michael	

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors played a vital role in ensuring the library's continued success in 2024. From spearheading fundraising efforts to overseeing building maintenance and financial management, their expertise and dedication were pivotal in another outstanding year of service to our community. Their leadership and commitment remain invaluable to the Helen Kate Furness Free Library.

Sandy DiCamillo, *President*

Caity Kennedy

Erin Stancill, *Vice President*

Emily Lovitz

Elisabeth Lim, *Treasurer*

Jenn Lukas

Don Cooney, *Assistant Treasurer*

Emily McMillen

Woody Johnson, *Board Elected*

Stephanie Mohr

Kathryn Mehan, *Rose Valley Borough Rep*

Joe Pursley

Lucy Fowler Glasson, *Rose Valley Borough Rep*

Elena Sisti

Kelly Kaminski, *Nether Providence Twp Rep*

Kwinn Tucker

Sarah Ware

Library Staff

Our dedicated team of professional librarians bring expertise, creativity, and dedication to every aspect of their work. Through curating collections, hosting programs, and providing exceptional service, they ensure the library remains an indispensable resource for our community.

Leah Kulikowski, *Library Director*

Lori Friedgen-Veitch, *Youth Services Librarian*

Molly Deutsch, *User Services Librarian*

Laura Gandia, *Adult Services Librarian*

Jenny Reitmeyer, *Teen Services Librarian, Part-time*

Meg Hawkins, *Reference Librarian, Part-time*

Beth Noto, *Library Associate, Part-time*