



ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY



Elkhart Public Library 2018 Annual Report



The value of knowledge

Throughout the school year, Elkhart Public Library and National Honor Society students from area high schools team up for Homework Help. Whatever the subject, tutors

will provide free assistance to any student wanting help. All that's needed are the assignment and the questions. "Homework Help has been an ongoing program at EPL for

more than 15 years," says children's librarian Chuck Pieri. "... (K)ids get the help they need for their assignments, as well as new skills and strategies to tackle these subjects on

their own in the future. "I'm happy we can collaborate with the schools and create a safe learning environment where young kids and their peers can work together."

185

Students getting 1-on-1 homework help

1,427

Uses of Brainfuse tutoring in EPL digital library

11,642

Students visited in class by EPL librarians



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The value of hard work

Theresa Lobley's journey to work at Elkhart Public Library was never easy.

Lobley graduated from Soup of Success, a Church Community Services program aimed

at helping women overcome obstacles and achieve personal and professional goals.

EPL builds partnerships with many local organizations for services and programming.

This connection led to an outstanding addition to the staff.

Lobley says she relied on the skills she learned in the program to get the job at EPL.

"What Soup of Success did

for me was ... strengthen my strengths and overcome my weaknesses," Lobley says. "It helped give me self-worth and self-value. I'm never too old, I'm like fine wine, I just get better."

339,692

Visits to the five
EPL locations

500,453

Checkouts of physical
items in the EPL collection

62,630

Digital library
downloads



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The value of technology

Since 2015, Elkhart Public Library has worked with teachers to enhance classroom learning and individual creativity.

"Ecards" are available to public and private K-12

students in the library service area. The cards give access to the digital library – research tools, tutors, vocational manuals, and – of course – books, music and more.

"Ecards have been extremely valuable," says Tara White, literacy director for Elkhart Community Schools. "... (They) provide our students with a multitude of options for

learning and engagement."

EPL spends about \$250,000 for its digital library annually, providing a worthwhile educational environment without commercial content.

22,300

EPL student ecards in use
by public and private schools

332,017

Total documents
viewed in digital library



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The value of convenience

Their new building at C.R. 17 and the U.S. 20 Bypass wasn't quite finished. Love's Travel Stops and Hardee's needed a place to do job interviews. Steven Wieger says they

made a smart choice turning to Elkhart Public Library. "Hotels will charge you \$150 or \$200 for smaller rooms than you get at your library," says Wieger, the Love's gener-

al manager. "The space at the library was flexible. It worked for us to have people complete their hiring paperwork while we did interviews on the other side. The staff was great.

"And, in a community, everyone knows where the library is." At their December opening, Love's presented a donation to EPL to keep providing valuable services to the community.

3,493

Hours of meeting room use at downtown location

71

Partnerships through community engagement

\$25,509

Sponsorships, grants and gifts received in 2018



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The value of compassion

A knock on the door. A call to come in. Craig Cheney is ready to serve another library patron who is unable to leave home for medical reasons.

The homebound program

is just one of the offerings of Extension Services. EPL staff bring the library and its items directly to the community - retirement and rehabilitation facilities, daycares, and even to

patrons who cannot leave their home, such as Elkhart resident Norma Wisoleek.

"I think it's fantastic," says Wisoleek, who has been in the program for about three years.

Cheney says he particularly enjoys the homebound visits because "they don't have a lot of people around. So the visits are pleasant, and I like connecting them to the library," he says.

2,294

Items delivered through the EPL homebound service

933

Class visits to schools and daycares by EPL librarians

793

Participants in programs at area nursing homes



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The value of community

When Heidi Gunn and her family moved from Colorado to Dunlap, the library was the first place she took her daughters. "It's good for our girls to know that wherever you go,

there is a library you can plug in to," says Gunn. Heidi and her husband see the library as a place to meet other families and prepare their daughters for school.

"We can incorporate all of the awesome library programs into our (preschool) lessons," Gunn says. "When you homeschool, it's nice to not have to own every single awesome book."

A teacher before becoming a mom, Gunn says she values storytimes for the socialization and crafts. Her girls also are active in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten reading program.

33,237

Total attendance at all EPL programs and events

1,844

Programs provided for all age groups

18%

More students in summer reading than 2017



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The value of experience

Kiel is an international leader in developing and making seats for mass transit. When the company needed computer training, they turned to Elkhart Public Library.

Michaela Oberbauer, Kiel North America's GM, frequents the library. On one of her visits, she asked about the computer classes and whether she could set one up for Kiel.

Working with Steve Thorpe, computer services teacher, she was able to get her employees training on spreadsheets for inventory, purchasing and other calculations.

"It's been very helpful, we've all benefited," Oberbauer says. "... Everyone at the library is very customer oriented, and I am thrilled that we have such a good public library here."

44,439

Research and instructional questions fielded by EPL staff

1,620

Additions to EPL local history archives



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A vision for our community

Usually, a letter from the CEO or executive director will appear in the front pages of a report like this - a warm introduction of all our accomplishments.

As I looked at our annual report, I saw how much more meaningful it would be to take the last page and share the vision for Elkhart Public Library.

Our board of trustees and staff are profoundly serious about our fiscal responsibility to spend tax dollars wisely. We have evolved to become a library of the 21st century. We still have storytimes and books on the shelves, but we expand our digital library daily. We also are a community center and leading provider of activities and programs for all ages.

As we begin work on our 2019-



LISA GUEDEA CARREÑO

21 strategic plan, our vision is to help every person develop their fullest potential. Our vision also is to help our diverse communities grow strong and connected.

We will accomplish this with a dedicated staff who provide answers and assistance to our community. We will continue to provide exceptional programs and opportunities for people to connect and learn.

We pledge every day to inform, inspire and empower our diverse communities.

We have shown the value of our work in 2018. We are excited to focus on our future.

The value of our library