

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY REPORT

One of the busiest libraries in Vermont, the Kellogg-Hubbard Library is an independent non-profit organization that serves East Montpelier and several other Central Vermont communities. Founded in 1894, the library is open 55 hours and six days per week. We have a collection of over 74,000 items, and last year's circulation topped 268,000—the second largest in the state. Borrowing printed books is still what patrons like to do best; however, we also lend other items, provide public computers, free wi-fi and e-books, and offer hundreds of programs each year.

Technology continues to be important to library users. We have 14 public computers, and last year patrons used them an average of 325 times per week. In addition to general internet access, we provide free access to 60 subscription databases. Using our computers or their own devices, patrons used the library's w-fi to access the internet an average of 1,122 times per week. Plus, anyone with a KHL library card can take out e-books without even coming into the library; they can do this from home or from anywhere with internet access. We offer two online e-book services, and last year patrons borrowed e-books 9,408 times. E-book circulation has been increasing by about 1,000 per year. Over 900 patrons received technology training at the library, ranging from how to do internet research to how to download e-books onto their personal devices.

Last year we offered 542 programs—322 for children and 220 for adults. Attendance totaled 9,686. PoemCity, our month-long celebration of poetry, continues to be extremely popular, as is the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesday program, for which we are the Central Vermont host. Besides making occasional story time visits in our towns, at the library we offer two every week. In the summer we our children's library offers a reading program and three, week-long camps.

Our Outreach program regularly visits seven East Montpelier daycares. Last year we lent the daycares 2,350 books, and while making book deliveries, volunteers read over 4,200 stories to children. We provided story times at the preschool in the spring and fall, and two during the summer. Using donations and grant money, we distributed 140 free new books at Outreach story times. Outreach volunteers and staff also serve East Montpelier adults. Each week they bring books to the Old Meeting House community lunch, where patrons can choose from a selection or request specific books or authors.

East Montpelier residents are active library patrons: 547 adults and 109 children have active library cards. In addition to the 2,350 books borrowed by the daycares, 247 borrowed at the community lunch and an undetermined number borrowed electronically, last year East Montpelier residents checked out 16,458 items.

The library has an active and very strong Board of Trustees, and Lindy Biggs is the East Montpelier representative on it. Several East Montpelier residents are library volunteers.

This year the Kellogg-Hubbard Library is asking East Montpelier to provide \$38,614 towards our operations, the same amount we requested and which voters approved last year. The library asks our towns to pay \$16 per capita in local taxpayer support; this is well below the statewide average of \$30.38.

The library's current budget is \$915,000. Fundraising, donations, grants and earnings on the library's endowment, provide half the library's revenue and allow it to offer high quality service to our communities at far less than the statewide average. The library is asking East Montpelier residents to pay 4.2% of our operating costs, and for that support they receive full access to one of Vermont's premier public libraries.

Tom McKone, Executive Director