

## KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY REPORT

Since it was founded in 1894, the Kellogg-Hubbard Library has promoted literacy, culture and the free exchange of ideas. Starting with a collection of 5,613 books when the building officially opened in 1896, the library now offers over 70,000 books, CDs, and DVDs, 84 magazine subscriptions, 6 daily newspaper subscriptions, 14 public computers, internet access, outreach services, hundreds of programs for adults and children, and much more. *Preserving yesterday, informing today and inspiring tomorrow* is the motto that guides the library's vision and spurs us to stay up with the needs of our community. The library serves people of all ages, circumstances and backgrounds and has been promoting lifelong learning since before the term existed.

Today the library holds 70,631 items in its physical collection and provides access to 60 subscription databases and to a wealth of other online resources. Lending books—actual physical books that you can hold in your hands—is still by far the most popular service we offer, although digital downloads continue to steadily increase in popularity. While patrons borrowed only 300 e-books and e-audio books the first year we offered them over a decade ago, last year they borrowed 16,253 digital downloads. We subscribe to an online service, paying both a membership fee and a charge for each download, so our patrons have free access. Last year, patrons used our 14 public computers an average of 303 times per week, and those bringing their own devices used our wi-fi over 1,000 times a week. We continue to be one of the most visited and busy libraries in the state. Last year, our patron visits totaled 203,086 and patrons borrowed 278,896 items. That is, they borrowed 262,643 physical items and another 16,253 items electronically. We borrowed 2,555 books for our patrons through interlibrary loan.

Last year we offered 502 programs—258 for children and 244 for adults. Attendance totaled 9,990. *PoemCity*, our very popular month-long celebration of poetry dominates April, but we have evening adult programs from September through June. We are the local hosts for the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesday series. Besides making occasional story time visits in our towns, at the library we offer two every week. Each summer our children's library offers a reading program, daily activities and two or three camps.

Our Outreach program regularly delivers books to two East Montpelier daycares and every other week from October through May brings books to the Old Meeting House Community Lunch, where patrons can choose from a selection or requests specific books or authors.

East Montpelier residents are loyal library patrons: 562 adults and 109 children have active library cards. Last year they checked out 16,166 items—not including e-books, which are not tracked by community.

This year, although we received modest increases from all five towns, we still had a budget shortfall. We covered the gap between income and expenses by reducing our budget lines for both staff and administration; however, this also meant reducing the hours we are open—staying open two evenings instead of four and half days instead of full days on Saturday.

We live on a perpetually tight budget, which in the current year is \$913,926. The library receives only 52% of its funding from taxpayers, with the largest part of that coming from Montpelier. Fundraising, donations, grants and earnings on the library's endowment, provide the other 48% of the library's revenue. We did not ask Montpelier for an increase last year; this year we are asking the city for an increase, but not the towns. We are asking East Montpelier voters to again approve \$42,022 in support of the library. This is only 4.6% of the cost of running the library, and for that amount East Montpelier residents get full access to one of Vermont's premier public libraries.

The library has a strong Board of Trustees, and Lindy Biggs is the East Montpelier representative.

*Tom McKone, Executive Director*