

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library 2020 Report

The Role of the Library

Communities thrive with the knowledge, entertainment, technology and programs that come from a vibrant library like the Kellogg-Hubbard. Services like story times and children's programs improve literacy skills; bridging gaps between home and school and serving homeschooled children. Libraries improve access to technology for our neighbors who do not have a reliable internet connection at home, or don't own a printer, scanner or copier. Libraries fight isolation. New parents, senior citizens and people who live in rural communities benefit from the free programs the Library provides as a way to make social connections and find others who share their values and interests. Libraries provide zero-cost entertainment, because sometimes you just want a movie to watch or a book to curl up with for the sheer pleasure of it.

2020 Highlights

In FY20 the KHL made more digital services available than ever before, reinforcing that the Library is "virtually" never closed. Everyone in our member communities (Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester) can access our physical collection of 70,643 books, DVDs, cd audiobooks and more; as well as our largest ever digital catalog of over 80,00 eBooks, audiobooks, streaming videos (via Kanopy) and digital magazines (via Flipster). Additionally, services that once required a visit to the Library are now all available through our website including library card sign-ups, purchase requests and additional research options. 742 East Montpelier residents have library cards and they borrowed 12,384 physical items last year, not counting digital use which we cannot track by town.

Throughout the pandemic, we've maintained a robust email and phone reference service and loaned thousands of Library materials via curbside pickup. Our programs for adults, children and teens pivoted to online or outdoor formats; some programs saw hundreds of attendees this way. In FY20, 11,207 total people attended our 257 programs for children and teens and 174 programs for adults.

While our Outreach program has been unable to visit most daycares and community events, we started a mobile library and offered increased home delivery services to patrons with medical concerns and homeschooling families. We are looking forward to resuming daycare and preschool service in 2021!

Library Funding

The Library is funded through tax support from the municipalities in our service area, endowment income (from the original bequest from the Kellogg and Hubbard families and individual donors over the years), private contributions and miscellaneous fees for things like printing and copies and overdue materials. Because the library runs on a tight budget, each piece is crucial. We make every effort to find ways to save costs without sacrificing the personal service that makes people value the library so much. The funding requests we make to our towns is per capita based. This is the same way libraries across Vermont measure their municipal tax support. In East Montpelier we are requesting just \$16.15 per capita, much lower than the state average of \$33. Our total funding request from East Montpelier is \$42,022. This is the same amount we've requested for the past three years. Jennifer Myka is the East Montpelier representative on our Board of Trustees and our Co-Directors are Jessie Lynn and Carolyn Brennan. **Thank you for your continued support!**