dear friends and partners,

The world is a very different place today than it was when we started working on our gratitude report. These are trying times for everyone, but especially for the most vulnerable members of our community, some of whom find solace at the Library. The Bozeman Public Library is a place where all facets of our community gather, where you meet your neighbors and friends but also interact with people you might not otherwise. It is hard on all of us to have this wonderful public institution temporarily shuttered.

I hope this report serves as an uplifting reminder of the amazing things your support enabled last year. You helped us educate the next generation of readers, improve our campus with the addition of the Labyrinth, bring library services to remote areas, connect underserved patrons with social services, and so much more. This current crisis will pass and your Library will once again be a place for community connection. We will need your continuing support to rebuild our program schedule and continue planning for expanded Library service as our population grows.

Thank you for your generous investment in our work. I hope to soon see you again at the Library!

Janay Johnson  |  Executive Director

Thank you for believing in the Bozeman Public Library’s mission to create opportunities that inspire curiosity, exploration, and connection. With your support we continue to build beyond books and grow with the needs of our community.

2019 financial information
Year Ending December 31, 2019

you came together to give for the library

$ CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS 11%

STAFFING SUPPORT 17%

6 OUTREACH & ADULT PROGRAMS 19%

ARTS & CULTURE 32%

OTHER LIBRARY FUNDING 21%

support to the library

Children’s Programs ................................... $24,208
Outreach and Adult Programs ...........................$43,023
Arts & Culture .............................................. $70,265
Other Library Funding ............................... $46,436
Staffing Support to Library ....................... $36,848
Total Support ....................................... $220,780

Foundation Operations Costs .................. $237,188
Total ................................................................ $457,968

sourcest of support

Individuals & Businesses ......................... $183,607
Events ..........................................................................$96,733
Foundations ................................................. $53,239
Interest & Dividends .................................. $129,419
Other ................................................................. $9,922
Total .................................................................$472,030

Does not include investment gains/losses. Comprehensive financial statements are available at bozemanlibraryfoundation.org.
It’s Wednesday morning and an energetic group of kids are gathering in the Children’s Room attempting to sit quietly on the brightly colored floor tiles.

“You know, the girls look forward to Storytime all week, and they’re always excited about the art project,” says Matt Miller, Library patron and father of two girls.

Each week the Library hosts nine Storytime sessions for children ranging from 0-6 years old. “Storytime is structured to show parents and caregivers ways they can help their child interact with books and develop early literacy skills. The benefits of reading with young children will impact them for the rest of their lives,” says Cindy Christin, BPL Children’s Librarian.

Miller regularly brings his girls to the Library to instill a love of reading, but he also shares how this simple activity has connected his family to the larger community.

“As a stay-at-home dad, a lot of times you don’t talk to a whole lot of people other than a 2-year old or a 3-year old and your wife. I didn’t really have any resources, any friends that we could talk about strategies for raising your kids, or even going out and doing fun things as families together. So, I came to Storytime and we’ve been able to meet up with some other families who chose the same weekly routine and became great friends with them, it really became a good way to talk about raising families and strategies for education.”

Supporting early literacy programs remains a primary focus for the Foundation. In addition to Storytime, private donations fund parenting classes, Summer Reading, Creative Workshops, and Children’s Festival of the Book, Montana’s only literary festival just for kids.
taking the library on the road

The Bookmobile slowly makes its way down a long dirt road. The Bridgers provide a stunning backdrop. Today it’s traveling to Pass Creek School, a rural one-room schoolhouse roughly 25 miles from the main Library campus.

While our bustling Library sees an average of 1,200 visitors each day there are many citizens that can’t make it here on a regular basis.

“The students at Pass Creek School—we’re a long way from town! A lot of their time is spent at home on the farm or the ranch; they just weren’t getting to the library as often as I’d hoped that they would. And so, when I learned that the Bookmobile was going to be operating, I just knew this was going to be perfect for them,” says Sidney Rider, Pass Creek School Teacher.

The Bookmobile regularly visits rural schools, playgrounds, senior living facilities, and local events. It made 580 stops last year circulating materials, issuing library cards, and hosting programs.

“Theyir reading skills have improved, and I really feel that the Bookmobile has created a love of reading and books and lifelong learners in my students,” says Ms. Rider.

The wheels on the Bookmobile began rolling in July 2017 and continues to operate thanks to private donations. It has become a vital resource for the Gallatin Valley, providing expanded access to Library services.

~Sidney Rider
There is a flurry of movement in the Library lobby. Strollers push by on the way to Books and Babies, a woman admires the latest art exhibition, several people sort through the shared magazine bins, and Hailey Hogan unlocks the green door next to the large community room.

Hogan is beginning her twice weekly shift in the Open Door, a dedicated office staffed by local social service and health agencies, public safety, and community groups. She is one of the service navigators representing over 20 organizations and the number is growing.

“The Open Door gives us the opportunity to work closely with multiple providers and perfectly fits our mission to connect people to what they need and decreases the barriers to service,” says Hogan, Coordinated Community Response Specialist for Help Center, Inc.

In the first month of operation approximately 150 people visited the Open Door including a young man needing help with transportation to his job, an expectant mother looking for resources, a person needing help preparing a will, and a young woman in an abusive situation.

“We get a wide variety of questions. Sometimes it’s something simple like a person asking for a bus schedule or directions to HRDC and other times it’s more complex. I meet people I might not otherwise get to meet,” says Hogan. We are proud to support our community with a one-stop resource portal like the Open Door, and it wouldn’t have happened without the generosity of our Library supporters. Donations funded the construction and operating costs of this project. We are thrilled to see new connections being made with our patrons.

“It opens the door to a conversation.”

~Hailey Hogan
Thank you for investing in your local library.
Your generosity strengthens our Library’s ability to innovate, adapt, and raise the next generation of readers. Thanks for being a member of our active community of supporters.