



# A TREASURY OF STORIES

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

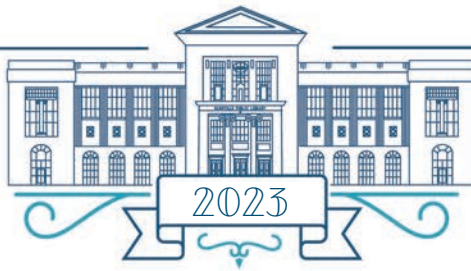
ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of Nashville  
Public Library is to inspire  
reading, advance learning  
and connect our community.



Nashville Public Library Foundation  
funds, advocates, and amplifies  
Nashville Public Library to power  
literacy, life skills, and connection for all.



**N**ashville Public Library is a treasury of stories. From a child's first visit to their branch to new worlds opened for a grandparent with their first tablet, each experience represents the multitude of riches within this institution. Beyond a place for books, we are a community that connects Nashvillians with the resources they need to grow, learn, find inspiration, and write their own adventures, every day. We are proud to share this with you -

ONCE UPON A TIME...

Every Number Tells a Story

**1.8 MILLION**  
Items in the Collection

**2.2 MILLION**  
Library Visits

**138,549**  
Items Added to the  
Collection this Year

**2.7 MILLION**  
Digital Downloads

**2.4 MILLION**  
Public Computer Sessions

**286**  
Volunteers gave 12,934  
hours of service to NPL

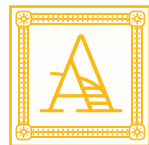
**44,491**  
New Library Cards



TERRI LUKE

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I believe in the power and the promise of public libraries.



And when a community embraces a library the way Nashville has embraced NPL, the possibilities are endless. We are so fortunate to have the support of people from across Nashville – customers, volunteers, staff, and the generous donors and corporate sponsors of the Nashville Public Library Foundation.

Together, as a library community, we made the 2023 fiscal year a success. NPL launched a new collection, called the **Library of Things**, and supported learners of all ages with education programs for every stage of life. Meanwhile, each time they joined a story time across the library's 21 locations, NPL's customers celebrated the joy that books and imagination provide. They came together to create respectful,

welcoming spaces for open conversation about the pressing questions our community faces today. Finally, the library's readers went on a journey of knowledge, discovery, and inspiration with NPL, **as they borrowed more than 6 million books and library materials.**

We will go even further in the 2024 fiscal year, with investments in:

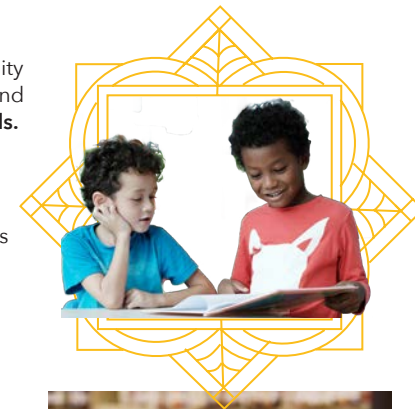
- A team for the new Donelson Branch Library, set to open in 2024
- More staff capacity in NPL's Equal Access division, which offers special programs for people experiencing hearing loss, vision loss, and deafblindness
- 250 more afterschool slots and an additional 100 summer learning slots for Nashville's students through the Nashville After Zone Alliance
- Investments in NPL's Votes for Women staff
- A new Limitless Libraries ambassador, who will serve Metro Nashville Public Schools through NPL's school lending program
- Two new traveling children's librarians, who will serve six Nashville zip codes that are home to an estimated 6,162 children aged 5 and younger
- Translating key portions of NPL's website into Spanish, for greater accessibility

When a city and a library come together, great things happen.

**On behalf of the NPL staff, I want to thank you for supporting the library - as customers, as volunteers, and as donors.** Thank you for making the 2023 fiscal year one of excellence. We are grateful for you. And we look forward to serving you in 2024 as we read, learn, and create community, together.

Sincerely,

Terri M. Luke, NPL Interim Director



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



SHAWN BAKKER



We are fortunate to have a world-class library system in this city. I believe that we should be even more grateful at this time for the treasures Nashville Public Library holds. Public libraries across the country face increasing challenges with funding, programming, and access to materials. Nonetheless, our Nashville Public Library continues delivering great service for our great city.

I am inspired in my work when I hear from donors who share what motivated them to make a gift and from individuals whose lives have been transformed

Many of NPL's most popular and effective initiatives are made possible through generous private support of NPLF.

by an experience at the Library. As I reflect on the past year, I am pleased to share some highlights:

- A passionate group of library ambassadors advocated for city leaders to increase public funding to ensure that NPL can continue to invest in our 21 branches throughout the community. **The result was an increase of \$1.96 million in NPL's Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget.**
- **Almost \$1 million was raised through fundraising events this year.** Award-winning author Louise Erdrich joined us for a weekend of activities as the Literary Award Honoree. In the spring, our Picnic with the Library brought together a record number of families to support children's programming.
- **1,578 donors and corporate partners contributed \$2.8 million.** These dollars were employed to bolster and expand some of NPL's most beloved initiatives for Nashvillians of all ages.
- Convened experts to help support and **amplify NPL's effort to build a comprehensive strategy to address early literacy skills** for Nashville's children.

Our commitment to cultivating NPL's treasury of stories is not just about the volumes lining our shelves. It is also about the lives touched, the minds expanded, and the connections forged. With NPL's innovative programming, **NPLF's strategic partnerships, and your unwavering support, we have extended the reach of our library beyond its physical walls to power literacy, life skills, and connection for all.** Thank you for being a part of that.

Gratefully,

*Shawn Bakker*  
Shawn Bakker, NPLF President

1,578

Generous donors supported NPL through gifts and grants.

92

Next Chapter Society members helped NPLF reach new heights.

131

Ambassadors formed a chorus of support for NPL.

757

New donors joined their neighbors who support the Library through charitable giving.

# FINANCIALS

As a department of Metro Nashville, **Nashville Public Library** receives the **majority of its funding directly from the city**. The **Nashville Public Library Foundation** was created in 1997 to enhance the Library's programs, facilities, and collections **beyond the city's budget**. We are pleased to share our joint fiscal story and showcase how a thriving partnership between local government and private philanthropy makes a difference for library patrons and the city of Nashville.

## NPL FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

The Nashville Public Library Foundation is supported by generous community members dedicated to building a brighter future by empowering one of our city's greatest resources – *Nashville Public Library*.

### REVENUE

CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT	2,806,643
SPECIAL EVENTS net of expenses	638,950
EARNED INCOME	130,721
INVESTMENT EARNINGS net of expenses	54,045
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$3,630,359</b>

### EXPENSES

CHILDREN	341,340
TEENS	463,099
LIFELONG LEARNING	211,922
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	329,952
GENERAL PROGRAMMING	263,205
COLLECTIONS	763,845
LIBRARY OPERATIONS	74,682
NPLF OPERATIONS	1,061,474
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,509,519</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$120,840</b>



JULY 1, 2022  
THROUGH  
JUNE 30, 2023



## NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCIALS

### CAPITAL BUDGET

The capital budget funds the library's physical footprint and uses bond proceeds to support construction, renovation, and large library maintenance equipment.

LIBRARY MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES	13,928,708
NEW DONELSON LIBRARY SITE / PLANNING	35,635
RICHLAND PARK PLANNING	910,719
HADLEY PARK PLANNING	1,211,063
PEG STUDIO PLANNING	500,000
PARTICIPATOFRY BUDGET	262,968
MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	8,537,925
<b>TOTAL FY23 CAPITAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$25,387,018</b>

### OPERATING BUDGET

The operating budget is the annual amount approved by Metro Council to operate the Nashville Public Library System. This includes General Fund Appropriations (personnel, utilities, repairs, and other costs associated with operating NPL facilities), as well as support from the Nashville Public Library Foundation and State and Federal Grants.

OPERATING BUDGET	40,041,500
ADDITIONAL FUNDING (STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS)	1,122,840
NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION (DIRECT FUNDING TO NPL)	2,379,798
<b>TOTAL FY23 NON-CAPITAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$43,544,138</b>

\*Audit in process at time of press. For full financials, please visit [www.nplf.org](http://www.nplf.org).



## BRINGING BOOKS TO LIFE (BBTL)

In addition to connecting early childhood educators to NPL's rich resources and promoting the use of books in the classroom, **BBTL is proud of the work done connecting teachers with the artists who create children's books!**

In FY23, BBTL hosted author **Jessica Young for a special educator workshop**. All participants left the workshop with tools and lessons they could use in the classroom and received a signed copy of one of Jessica Young's books. BBTL received nothing but positive feedback. Everyone was so excited to hear about BBTL's next educator workshop with an author.

**549**

**Bringing Books to Life** programs delivered critical early literacy lessons to Nashville's children and the adults who care for them.

*"I enjoyed hearing about the process involved when Jessica brainstorms a book idea and how to make it accessible for children."*

*-Janelle*

# LITERACY

The library is a place for books and reading – and so much more. Literacy involves the development of essential foundational skills, fostering a love of stories, creating a base for understanding, access to knowledge, and mastery of skills.



## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



"As a parent of two kids who have enjoyed participating in Battle of the Books (BoB), I am particularly grateful. This program offers kids the joys of being part of a team and the thrill and struggle of competition. For kids whose interests lie inside a book instead of on an athletic field, Battle of the Books can often be their first exposure to this critical opportunity for growth.

My daughter really fell in love with reading when she joined her friends in preparation for competition. Since discovering BoB, she has become a voracious reader.

Her team has been school champion every year since their 5th grade year - which was remote because of Covid. This year was their first chance to take part in the district competition at Main. They loved meeting the author and engaging with kids from other schools.

It was an opportunity for them to enjoy the library on an entirely new level. Thank you for this uniquely wonderful program. I'm happy to support it with a gift to NPLF." *-Alex, BoB Parent*

**307**

**Wishing Chair Productions** presentations fostered the love of stories in children of all ages.

**468**

**Puppet Truck shows** brought the delight of puppetry arts to schools, day cares, and senior centers all over Nashville.

**66,353**

**Limitless Libraries** books traveled the city and were delivered directly to kids and teachers in MNPS schools.



**872**

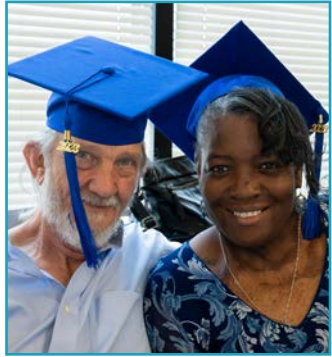
learners and educators accessed new skills through **NPL's Adult Literacy programs** and **Mobile Literacy Lab**.

**218,480**

days of reading by Nashvillians during **Summer Reading Challenge**, helping over **7,200 readers** – preventing summer slide for the youngest participants and reminding more seasoned readers why they love a good book.

## ADULT LITERACY

The return of the in-person Spring Summit after three years was the most important event of the year. **NPL's Adult Literacy conferences** are highly valuable professional development activities for adult educators in the community. It is a platform for knowledge exchange, skill enhancement, and networking opportunities. The structured programs allow participants to stay current with educational trends. Attendees also share peer-to-peer: best practices, challenges faced in the field, and creative approaches to adult education. Most of the time, exchanging ideas and thoughts lead to future projects that benefit both educators and their students.



## DIGITAL INCLUSION

**1,500+**

older Nashvillians aquired critical new skills for the 21st century via **604 Digital Inclusion** programs.

98% of participants said that they intended to apply skills learned from a Digital Inclusion program.



## Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA)

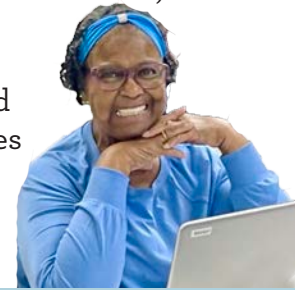
The 2022-2023 school year saw **51 NAZA-funded after school partners in 32 schools and 9 community sites.** These locations provided programming to students from 39 MNPS schools, which included middle schools, elementary schools, and charter schools. From those schools, 1,532 youth attended programming. NAZA partners provided 5-8th graders with engaging activities that develop social, emotional, and cognitive skills; co-created youth leadership opportunities; and aligned programming with the growth practices identified in Nashville's Vision for Holistic Youth Development.

**2,500+**

youth participated in **NAZA** afterschool and summer programs that supported their academic day, provided enrichment opportunities, served meals, and provided transportation.

## LIFE SKILLS

**N**PL provides for individuals throughout their lives at every age and stage. Technology, language, wellness, and creative classes, teen after-school initiatives, professional development, resources for jobseekers, and connections to social services help patrons learn skills, expand their horizons, and reach their goals.



**Be Well** at NPL hosted meditation sessions at the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center. Not only did it provide help for people dealing with the challenges of cancer, but organizers helped patients sign up for library cards to access materials from NPL! Many of the nurses and staff commented that the program helped them too.

**52,500**

teens participated in **Studio NPL** or other NPL teen programming.



## STUDIO NPL

**T**his year, Studio NPL created its first "Teens Teach Tech Week." Four teenagers were awarded paid opportunities to work with Studio adult mentors for one month to develop their own workshops. The teens were coached to create marketing materials, project examples, and recruit for their programs. The week of teen-led activities varied from vinyl cutting to jewelry design and creation, photography, and podcasting; **the podcasting workshop had the highest participation ever!** These kinds of opportunities are key for the Studio NPL model. Not only does it teach the technical skills that young people find relevant to their schooling, hobbies, or future careers, but it **helps develop them as citizens, presenters, and leaders in their communities!**





**3,665**

people attended a **Special Collections program** and learned about Nashville's unique place in history.

**8**

**Courtyard Concerts** brought the joy of music to people of all ages.

**90**

**Seed Exchange programs** connected people and plants across 19 branches.

**2,064**

**Community Passport** check outs gave NPL cardholders free admission to Cheekwood Estate, Country Music Hall of Fame, and the National Museum of African American Music



## CONNECTION

**N**NPL is a gathering place that connects individuals, not only to the ideas, knowledge, and resources they seek, but to each other and our shared heritage. Through special collections, archives, concerts, art shows, author events, and more, NPL is an essential community builder.

## GENERAL COLLECTIONS

**T**he NPL Collections Department became a trailblazer this year by partnering with the Middle East Cooperative Acquisitions Program in Cairo to become the only U.S. library to offer materials for adults in Kurdish. This intentional pursuit to respond to the needs of Nashville's large Kurdish population is another example of how our Library strives to reflect and serve all. **This new collection is 183 titles and growing!**

**Next Chapter Society** - NPLF's emerging leaders group - was integral to the successes of NPLF this year. With 90 members and a 23-member Leadership Council, the group connected over 250 booklovers at their monthly book clubs; hosted three events that brought in more than \$23,000; introduced more than 100 new donors to NPLF through their t-shirt partnership with local artist Elisheba Mrozik; donated countless hours volunteering for the Foundation; raised a total of \$44,700 to advance the work of the library; and along the way forged a community of friends who care for the library.



## BANNED BOOKS

**N**ashville Public Library made **international news** and won Library Journal's Marketer of the Year award with the launch of the "I Read Banned Books" library card. Nearly 5,000 customers signed up for this card. The nationwide response was incredible, with calls and emails flooding in from around the country asking for library cards, stickers, and more.

The Foundation answered the call by launching a **Banned Books fundraising campaign, raising more than \$14,250 from 75 donors across 16 states**, as well as an online merchandise collection that has brought in an additional \$13,700 from customers as far away as Australia!

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*"Thank you for an amazing experience at the Votes for Women exhibit yesterday! My team members and I were fascinated by all we learned about Nashville and Tennessee's history in the suffragette movement, and how much of what happened over 100 years ago remains true today. We will continue to share the VFW and Civil Rights Room experiences to our groups."*

*-Marie R. Sueing, Chief Diversity Officer  
Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp*



*"As a lifelong reader and a parent, I am not exaggerating how crucial the library is to a functioning democratic society. By protecting library access for people from across generations and social positions, of people of all genders and creeds, our community learns how to care for one another."*

*-NPL Ambassador*



*"I support Chris, a man with special needs in his mid-fifties. One of his favorite activities is to go visit the Donelson branch. We pick up books, DVDs, and Chris spends hours at the Lego table. Ryan and everyone is so welcoming. We love going to the library!"* -A.J.

# SUPPORTERS



*"As NPLF supporters, we not only help to perpetuate books that inspire, but we also create a place where everyone is welcome to gather and immerse themselves both in the great works of ages past and current happenings."*

*-Brock Kidd, Pinnacle Bank*

Generosity is at the heart of what we do. We are grateful for our many supporters who advance the work of the Library.

Sandra Schatten Foundation  
The Wallace Foundation  
West End Home Foundation



Jennifer and Eric Paisley, Rechter Family Fund\*+  
Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc.  
The James Stephen Turner Family Foundation  
Laura Anne Turner^  
UBS Financial Services, Inc  
Vanderbilt University  
Jerry and Ernie Williams\*

## GIFTS OF \$100,000+

Amazon Inc.  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Federal Communications Commission  
Institute of Museum and Library Services

## GIFTS OF \$25,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous Corporate Contribution  
AllianceBernstein  
Lucie W. Cammack  
Anne Davis and Karl Dean, Anne Davis and Karl Dean Advised Fund\*+  
Dollar General  
Economic Club of Nashville  
Expanded Schools, Inc  
First Horizon  
Carol and Robert Frist, Carol K. and Robert A. Frist M.D. Fund\*+  
The Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation  
HCA Healthcare Foundation  
Ingram Content Group  
Martha R. Ingram, Martha Rivers Ingram Advised Fund\*+  
Stephanie and John Ingram, John R. Ingram Advised Fund+  
Lillias and Will Johnston\*  
Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund  
The Memorial Foundation  
Juli Mosley\*  
Michael Shane Neal\*  
Nissan Foundation

^ Deceased

\* Denotes membership in the Carnegie Society

+ Through the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

## GIFTS OF \$10,000 to \$24,999

Aladdin Industries Foundation, Inc.\*  
Anonymous\*^  
Melinda and Jeff Balsler\*  
Jean Ann and Barry Banker, Blue Grass Community Foundation\*  
McLean and Damon Barbieri\*  
Barge Design Solutions  
Cassidy and Dierks Bentley, RISER Foundation\*  
The Blakney Foundation  
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust  
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.  
Ann and Frank Bumstead\*  
Rosalyn Carpenter\*  
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Anita Cochran\*  
Comcast  
Sondra and Doug Cruickshanks\*  
Katie and Kevin Crumbo\*  
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Deloitte  
Anne and Robert Doolittle\*  
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FirstBank  
Jennifer and Billy Frist\*  
Google Fiber  
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PNC Bank  
Susannah and Zulu Scott-Barnes\*  
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Keith Simmons\*  
Shirley and Stuart Speyer, Shirley and Stuart Speyer Family Fund\*+  
State of Tennessee  
Tennessee Arts Commission  
Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Truist  
Christi and Jay Turner\*

## GIFTS OF \$5,000 to \$9,999

Alignment Nashville  
Anonymous\*  
Aon Corporation  
Grace and Carl Awh\*  
Belmont University  
BNA Nashville International Airport  
Cynthia and Scott Brooks\*  
Melinda and John Buntin  
Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation  
Amy and Don Chomsky  
Laura and John Cooper  
Joe C. Davis Foundation  
Deaf Church of Murfreesboro  
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Ernst & Young Nashville  
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Kate and Steven Ezell\*  
Forefront Books  
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Fulfillment Supply Innovation  
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Lucy and Jeff Haynes\*  
HCA | TriStar Health

The Willard R. and Frances J. Hendrix Foundation  
Debbie and Don Holmes\*  
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Junior League of Nashville  
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Melissa and Andrew Lasher\*  
Ellen Martin and Gerald Nadeau  
Susan and Stephen Mathews  
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Lindsay and Tyson Moore\*  
Nashville Food Waste Initiative  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLC

Network of the National Library of Medicine  
OakPoint Real Estate  
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Joelle and Brant Phillips  
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Southern Orthodox Partners  
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Rhonda Taylor and Kevin Forbes\*  
Emily and Rick Theobald  
Turner Construction  
Josephine VanDevender and Giles Ward  
Katy Varney and Dave Goetz, The Clearview Fund\*+  
Linda and Alexander Waddell\*  
Nancy^ and Robert Wahl\*  
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis  
Melissa and Jay Wellons





*I have always supported the library. [I] love everything – most especially the Civil Rights Room, the Votes for Women Room, the Puppet Truck, and the many offerings given to the children in MNPS and the community at large. ~Karen M.*

## GIFTS OF \$2,500 to 4,999

Robin Holab-Abelman and Stephen Abelman\*  
 Frank Andrews\*  
 Baulch Family Foundation\*  
 Margaret Behm and Harlan Dodson  
 Sara and Richard Bovender  
 Lou Ann and Gary Brown\*  
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 Carrie and Damon T. Hininger\*  
 Aubrie Hutzel  
 Lauren and Edmund Jackson  
 Helen and Alex Jahangir



Denice and Milton Johnson, R. Milton and Denice Johnson Family Advised Fund\*+  
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 Alan Kulkin, Carolyn Kulkin Fund for Education & Community+  
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 LinkedIn  
 Kaaren and Ben May\*

Betty and Conn McConnell, Betty and Conn McConnell Charitable Fund+  
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 WME Entertainment  
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 Nahed and Joel Zehr\*

## GIFTS OF \$1,500 to 2,499

Christina and Mike Apperson\*  
 Sallie W. and John H. Bailey\*  
 Shawn and Jeremy Bakker\*  
 Kathleen and Doug Bark\*  
 Russell Bates and Ben Scott\*  
 Allison and John Beasley\*  
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 Chase Cole  
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 Alice and Max Goldberg\*  
 Gwen and Frank Gordon  
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Barbara and Greg Hagood  
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 Library Ideas, LLC  
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 Debbie Webster-Clair and Walter Clair  
 Carolyn Wenzel  
 Mary Ann and Ben Weprin\*  
 Marisa and Alex Williams  
 Kristin and Whit Wilson  
 Pam Zimmerman\*  
 Mary Zutter and Sam Santoro\*



## GIFTS OF \$1,000 to 1,499

21st Century Dentistry  
 Evadne and Mark Awh  
 Bank of America,  
 Private Bank  
 Megan and Bruce Barry  
 Kristy Biermann  
 Blythe and Tim Browne  
 Mary Bufwack and  
 Robert K. Oermann  
 Scott Chambers,  
 Scott C. Chambers Fund\*+  
 Fletch and William Coke  
 Holly and Gabe Coltea  
 Rebecca Diggs  
 Brenda and Glynn Dowdle  
 Mary and John Earthman  
 Crystal and Victor Evans  
 Ashley and James Ewing  
 Mary Falls and Jim Cooper  
 Emily and Jan Freitag  
 GHP Environmental  
 + Architecture

John Greer  
 Patricia and John Grillos  
 Kevin Hageman  
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**Advocating for public funding of the Library** was identified as an NPLF priority in 2020. This year, under the leadership of volunteer Advocacy Task Force Chair, Paige Clancy, our vision to engage passionate library supporters in our work became a reality with the launch of the NPL Ambassadors program. **We now have more than 150 NPL Ambassadors who share their library stories** to convey the importance of our library

system to Metro Nashville's elected officials. From speaking at council meetings to sending emails and making phone calls, dozens of our ambassadors voiced their collective support for full funding of NPL in the FY24 Operating Budget. **The result was an increase of \$1.96M in NPL's Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget.**  
*What's most exciting?  
We have only just begun!*



**We are grateful to have shared this year with you. For all the ways you support Nashville Public Library, we thank you.**

**(NOT) THE END...**

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