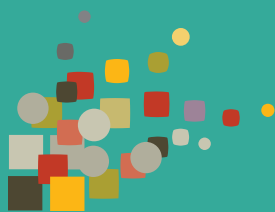


WHAT DOES  
LITERACY  
LOOK LIKE?

---

2017

EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT



**evanston**  
public  
library

Photography by Lynn Trautmann,  
LTPhoto Evanston



# DIGITAL LITERACY

SKILLS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

“It’s no longer a choice to know how to use technology. It’s a necessity.”

– George Lowman, EPL Technology Trainer

The digital literacy initiative at Evanston Public Library is funded in part by support from the Evanston Community Foundation.

136

one-on-one  
technology help  
sessions

---

240

group technology  
classes

---

11,700

basic tech help  
questions answered

---

1,500

in-depth tech help  
questions answered

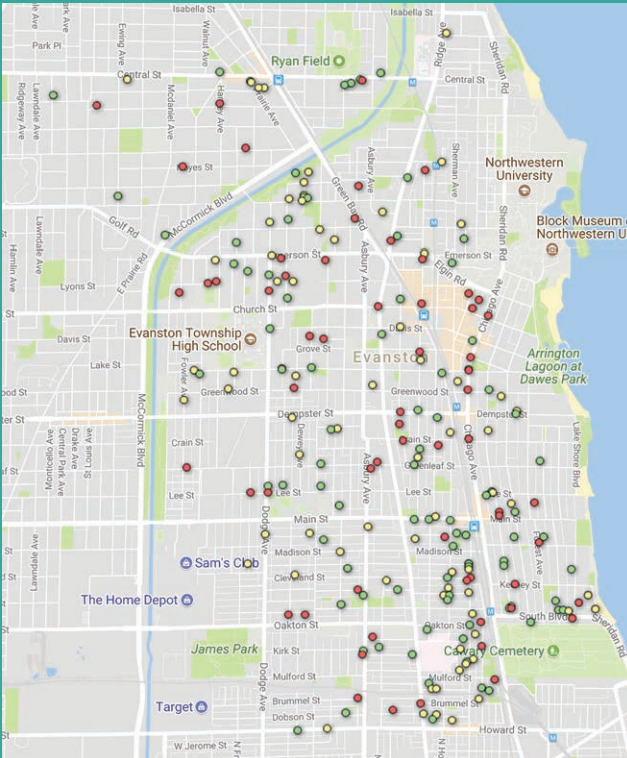


# PROVIDING INTERNET ACCESS

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

About 14% of Evanston residents have no access to the internet at home. In 2017, 353 people brought home the internet for free for a month with a WiFi Hotspot: to **cruise the internet, to look for jobs, to work, to do school projects, to learn.**

## HOTSPOT USAGE



● = pilot users 2016   ● = more usage 2017   ● = most usage 2017

**“I am staying with my grandpa and he doesn’t have internet. The WiFi Hotspot is the best thing ever.”**

– Greg, ETHS Senior

2018

WiFi Hotspot demand exceeds supply. We need more.

2017

100  
WiFi Hotspots available

2016

30  
WiFi Hotspots available

WiFi Hotspots circulated 786 times in 2017 from the Evanston Public Library and through our pilot locations at ETHS and Lincoln Elementary School. Demand exceeds supply.

# EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

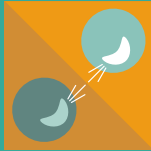
GUIDED BY BEST PRACTICES

Early experiences with books and stories correlate to future achievement. Together, parents, caregivers, teachers, and librarians can develop more literate children. Literacy development starts at birth.

## FIVE SIMPLE STEPS SUPPORT EARLY LITERACY:



Singing



Talking



Reading



Writing



Playing

# 11,198

storytime program attendees

---

# 78

at-risk 4 and 5 year olds showed gains in letter recognition through ABC Boosters



“Evanston Public Library is a great community partner for me and many teachers in District 65. Since EPL received a grant from Foundation 65, they have purchased and lent out various STEAM kits for my students to use. This has made teaching about problem solving, coding, circuitry, and design much more engaging for my students.”

– Sherry Kushner, Media Arts Teacher,  
Chute Middle School, Evanston School



**2015**  
736  
summer  
readers  
ages 0-5

**2017**  
847  
summer  
readers  
ages 0-5,

Summer Reading  
Program participants  
ages 0-5 increased

**16%**

from 2015 to 2017

---

**354**

New Library Cards  
Issued to Kindergarten  
students at D65/EPL  
Library Tours

# EXPANDING COMMUNITY ACCESS

TO LEARNING & LITERACY

“My fundamental goal is to listen to, and advocate for, the needs of our Latinx community and ensure that our services, resources and collections reflect our diverse residents. In doing so, we aspire to promote equitable access and empower our community.”

– Miguel Ruiz, Latino Engagement Librarian, joined EPL in 2017



10

public programs  
focused on Latinx  
community reached:

650

community members

45

Latinx community  
leaders engaged,  
impacting:

1,000+

Latinx community  
members

120

professionals learned  
about immigration  
resources

210

new Spanish language  
books added to the  
collection

# SOCIAL WORK SERVICES:

A NEW PATH TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

In 2017, EPL, in a partnership between the City of Evanston and Presence Behavioral Health, became one of just a few libraries nationwide with an onsite social worker. Patrons receive resource information, direct support, and are helped to find necessary services ranging from primary care, mental health care, housing, and employment.

**“As state and federal cuts began to impact our patrons, making their lives more difficult, we wanted to give them easy access to a trusted resource inside the Library.”**

– Karen Danczak Lyons, Library Director

**“One patron who refused services for 2 years is now getting housed through Connections as a result of the relationship we made at the Library.”**

– Justine Janis, Social Worker

# 630

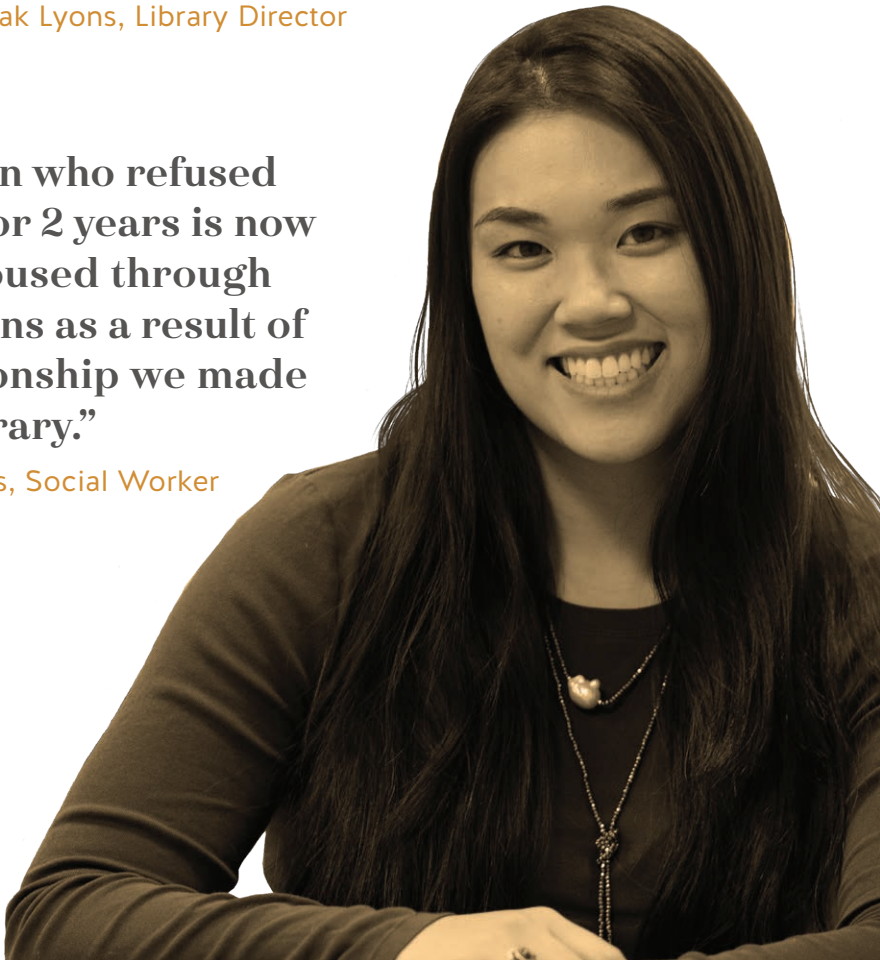
meetings with patrons

# 20

community partners  
collaborating to  
alleviate stresses  
faced by individuals

# 60

hours of supportive  
service to EPL staff  
including trainings  
and consultations



# MEET JASON

SUPER PATRON

“Evanston Public Library is my second home. Staff is like family to me. My great fascination is U.S. presidential history. As a child with a disability, I couldn’t play sports. The gym teacher would send me to the library instead. I’ve read my whole life. I am stunningly impressed with the Evanston Public Library collection and the knowledge of the staff.”

– Jason

Not everyone can make it to the Library in-person. EPL Outreach Librarians regularly visit many locations throughout Evanston, including Over the Rainbow, an Evanston apartment complex designed specifically for low income individuals with physical disabilities.

## JASON’S TOP THREE HISTORY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

*No Ordinary Time*  
by Doris Kearns  
Goodwin

*The Death of a President*  
by William Manchester

*Carry Me Home*  
by Diane McWhorter







**11,280**  
free books distributed  
to 28 locations



**5,551**  
new library cards  
issued in 2017



**1,039,585**  
books, dvds and  
digital materials  
checked out



**317**  
volunteers  
**15,171**  
volunteer hours

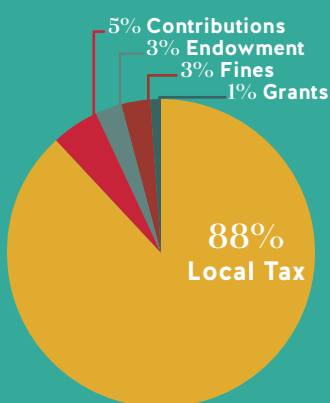


**265**  
people gained  
assistance from an  
Affordable Health Care  
Navigator at the Library  
through a partnership  
with the Patient  
Innovation Center

Together we build a more  
literate Evanston.

Thank you to the 1,269 donors and supporters who gave \$365,000 in 2017. Thanks also to the 171 businesses who partnered with us on programs and services to the Evanston community.

## 2017 EPL FINANCIALS



### 2017 REVENUE

100% = \$7,189,131

#### LOCAL TAX

88% = \$6,370,507

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

5% = \$365,928

#### TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT

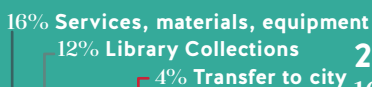
3% = \$190,200

#### FINES/USER CHARGES

3% = \$212,329

#### RESTRICTED GRANTS

1% = \$50,167



### 2017 EXPENSE

100% = \$7,019,006

#### PERSONNEL COSTS

68% = \$4,787,459

#### SERVICES, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT

16% = \$1,100,646

#### LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

12% = \$880,900

#### TRANSFER TO CITY

4% = \$250,000

Preliminary financial overview pending annual comprehensive audit.



# JUST A FEW OF THE 2,748 EVENTS

WE OFFERED IN 2017

## January

Middle School Literary Festival  
Martin Luther King Day Celebration

## February

IMLS Research Grant Brings More  
STEM Learning Family Programs  
Legendary Children's Author  
Kevin Henkes Visits EPL

## March

Un-American: The Incarceration of  
Japanese Americans during WWII  
Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the  
Library Branches

## April

Money Smart Week  
The Birdhouse Jazz Series:  
The Greg Ward Quartet

## May

NU President Morton Schapiro  
Speaks at EPL on Student Debt

## June

Read by Design Summer  
Reading Program Kicks Off  
Overdrive Digital Bookmobile  
Visits Evanston

## July

Discussion on Watergate's  
Legacy and the Press

## August

Hundreds Watch and Learn About  
the Solar Eclipse at the Library

## September

220 Readers Sign Up to  
Read Dostoevsky through  
Mission: Impossible

## October

Hunger and Food Insecurity  
in Evanston and the Role of  
Meals at Home

## November

Dia De Los Muertos Celebration  
Begin Offering Regular Storytime  
in Mandarin

## December

World Premiere Performance  
of Masters of Arabic Music

We believe in literacy  
for all of Evanston. With  
community support, we  
make it happen.



2017

EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT



**evanston** public library

community | events | ideas | resources

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