

# HLF News



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## 25 Years of the Humboldt Library Foundation: From Challenge to Opportunity

Dear Friends,

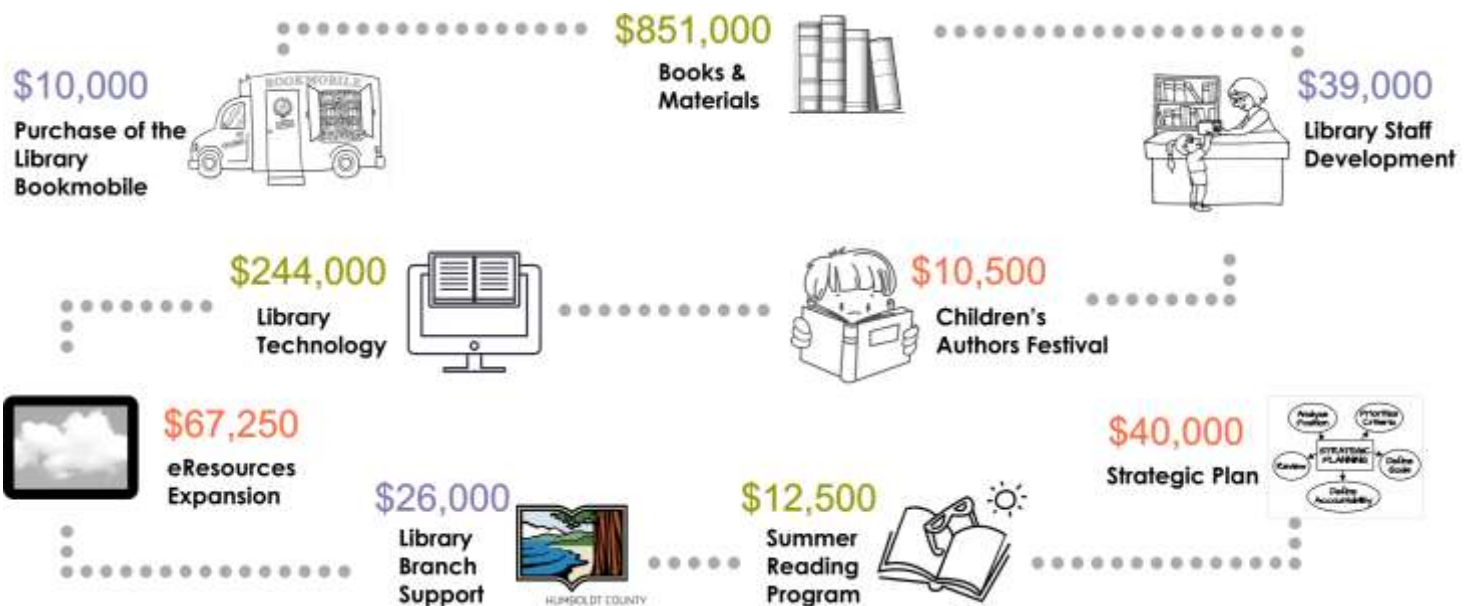
2021 marks the Humboldt Library Foundation's 25th Anniversary. We are humbled and grateful for the tremendous support we have received from the North Coast community. Your contributions have allowed us to ensure that a key pillar of our community, the library, continues to provide, inspire and unite us.

We don't have to tell you that the services provided by the library are critical. Libraries ensure that information is open and accessible to all. Libraries also provide critical public spaces for events, programs and resources. During the COVID-19 pandemic the library system has continued to connect people with parking lot wifi, curbside service and online resources while also playing host to the County Joint Information Center as it coordinates the pandemic response.

The success and expansion of key library services was never guaranteed. Since the Foundation's inception we have strived to take every challenge as an opportunity to sustain, expand and increase the accessibility of our library. We will continue to rally the book lovers, the dreamers, the creators, the educators and all who agree that knowledge and resources are here to be shared.

This issue celebrates the supporters who have enabled us to help fund our library system for a quarter of a century. We also look ahead at all the work left to be done.

Since its inception, HLF has awarded over \$1.3 million in grants to the Humboldt Library System, including:



## From the President's Desk *by Elizabeth Murguia*



This year HLF is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Since 1996 we have been inspired by a simple idea -- to open the world of the library for kids and families and for any and all who wish to reach for the treasures within. We have a record of success. **We've built an endowment nearing \$1 million and made direct grants to the library of over \$1.3 million.** We continue to provide a substantial amount for the annual books and materials budget, and we support technology upgrades and special projects. On the occasion of our 25th anniversary, a look back is definitely in order.

### The Library – The Challenge

It was a family affair, that sunny November day in 1995 when the doors were thrown open for the new library in Eureka. Nearly 5,000 eager readers had shown up to get their first look, to check out the new digs, to beam for the cameraman atop a ten foot ladder. We took a family photo (check it out on the back page). Yes, a glorious day for the family. It had been an extraordinary challenge, a near twenty-five year effort to get out of the basement of the courthouse, and step into the people's house with a spectacular view -- The Main. We were triumphant.

### The Humboldt Library Foundation – The Opportunity

Like most challenges, buried within was an opportunity. To build the new main library in Eureka, Humboldt County library supporters had stepped up and shown tremendous generosity in support of the project. It was inspiring. A small band of library supporters, emboldened by the community's generosity and by the confidence we could raise funds locally, created the Humboldt Library Foundation one year later with the goal of funding and supporting the library system in perpetuity.

And just like that we went to work. Our first major opportunity: replace the antiquated catalog system with a new automated system that tied the collection together and made it accessible for all cardholders. It was a six figure commitment and because the county coffers were bare, we took up the challenge. Donors dug deep, volunteers worked hard. We raised the funds and the system is still in use today.

From the beginning it was and continues to be a team effort. Current and former board members, community partners, library leadership and staff, book lovers galore, event attendees and auction bidders have volunteered hundreds of hours in support of this cause. People, touched by the idea of the public library -- the inspiring, the practical, the fanciful, and the magical -- are willing to give.

Together over the last quarter century we've restored the collection and added thousands of popular titles, built a young adult section, added science and nature books for kids, beefed up do-it-yourself and adult non-fiction volumes, modernized the DVD collection, helped fund a new book mobile, digitized a unique oral history project, upgraded technology, expanded electronic resources, online research tools and helped train staff. We've hosted lectures, sponsored exhibitions, featured local authors and honored local library advocates with the annual Helen Everett Award.

### The Next Challenge, the Next Opportunity

Libraries are the heart of a community. With a free library card you can reach your highest potential, explore the universe or delve into a mystery. Libraries remain the center for life-long learning and work each day to close the opportunity gap. They lie at the heart of our democracy.

So raise a glass, take a bow and smile at the camera. Let's pick up the challenge again and support new projects like home delivery for underserved communities and growing our network of supporters through programs like our Legacy Circle. On to the next!

"When a library is open, no matter its size or shape, democracy is open, too."

Bill Moyers

## Donor Spotlight

## Meet Our New Board Members

### Congressman Jared Huffman

"Libraries are critical public spaces that promote equal access to information and technological and social services while also promoting civic engagement and community building---benefits that are essential in rural areas with limited access. It's up to all of us to support our public libraries and the Humboldt Library Foundation is successfully leading the way in this effort. I am proud to call myself a supporter."



### Mary Meengs

"I love the library because I never fail to be excited by gathering an armload of book-treasure. Also, I tutored someone in basic literacy for about 5 years, after being matched by the Humboldt Literacy Project. We always met on Wednesday evenings after work at a table upstairs. It was wonderful to have the quiet space and to introduce him to the library and all its wonders....I doubt he ever would have been in there otherwise."



### Assemblymember Jim Wood

"I truly believe that books unlock the door to our imagination, our ability to teach ourselves new things and the capacity to see things from another person's perspective. The Humboldt Library Foundation is dedicated to making sure that these keys remain free and accessible to residents of Humboldt County and that is why I support them."



### Terri Clark

Terri was born in Long Beach into a Navy family and attended 13 schools before graduating high school. After 4 years in Monterey, she moved to Arcata to attend HSU in 1974. She worked 3 years in the HSU Library as a student assistant, feeding her love of reading.



In 1992 she was asked to join a local Rotary Club and quickly found a home for her love of service. She was the first woman to be President of the Rotary Club of SW Eureka (1997-98) and the first to be District 5130 (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties) Governor in 2002-2003. She continues to be involved in Rotary, serving as her Club's Foundation Chair and on the District Foundation Committee.

Professionally her career was in finance and human resources in both the profit and nonprofit worlds. She retired in May 2016; she and her husband, Marty Lay, enjoy spending time at their cabin on the Russian River outside Santa Rosa and traveling. She is an avid quilter and reader. She and Marty share their home with 2 perfect cats, Westminster and Waterloo. She is excited to work with the board of the Humboldt Library Foundation.

### Jane Callahan

Jane Callahan has worked in the nonprofit sector for her entire career. Areas of expertise include nonprofit development and management, community building initiatives and fundraising and strategic planning. She has a background in international media development, public health, evaluation and public policy. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Access Humboldt. Jane loves to cook for her family and friends, is an avid reader and enjoys home renovation and decorating. She is a graduate of HSU and lives in Eureka, CA.



## From the Director's Desk

by Chris Cooper

For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Humboldt County Library is offering limited indoor Express Services. We are thrilled to welcome our friends, patrons and community members back into our library buildings.



People have really been missing the library, and though we've adapted to provide more curbside pickup options and online resources, there's nothing

quite like being able to browse the shelves and pick out your next book, magazine or movie.

Things may look a little different but our hearts, and our books, are still in the same place. We began new, temporary hours on Tuesday, April 20 at the Ferndale, Kim Yerton Memorial (Hoopa), and Rio Dell Libraries. More locations will open over the next several weeks. Curbside service will continue until the library returns to full hours.

With Express Service now available in select locations, patrons will be able to browse for materials, access free public computers for 20-30 minute sessions and take advantage of printing and photocopying. Patrons will also be able to get assistance with accounts and material checkout. Face masks and social distancing will be required. Children under 9 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Our buildings will observe limited capacity. If you would like to pick-up, but are not sure what you want to read, listen to or watch, call your library. Staff members can help create a "grab bag" of books and other items just for you. Patrons can also submit a request through the library's form at <https://humboldt.gov.org/2880/Grab-Bags>.

Not ready to return in person just yet? You can continue to enjoy library programming from home. We offer Humboldt County Historical Society programs, book clubs and more. Just click on the calendar on the Library's homepage to check it out!

With support from the Humboldt Library Foundation, our consortium for e-books and digital audio and magazines, NorthNet, has more than 15,000 e-books, copies of more than 2,300 individual magazine titles and more than 3,700 audiobooks accessible with your library card.

The library's online resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information about all of our resources can be found on the Library's website [humlib.org](http://humlib.org) or by calling your nearest library branch.

On behalf of my incredible team, and Humboldt County Library communities, we thank Humboldt Library Foundation for its unwavering support and generosity during this COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to the future as the foundation continues to serve our community of library lovers.

## Buy a Book

Help Build the Collection

Give a Book to Honor a Friend or Family Member

1 Book ~ \$25

2 Books ~ \$50

3 Books ~ \$75

4 Books~ \$100

Buy A Shelf of Books ~ \$500

OR Join the Club

BUY A BOOK A MONTH

Celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

And make a recurring monthly donation of \$25

**It's Easy! Use the enclosed envelope or**

go to the HLF website DONATE button

Help people of all ages enrich their lives and open the world.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

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## HLF Legacy Circle

The HLF Legacy Circle comprises a special group of individuals who have remembered the Humboldt Library Foundation in their wills or estate plans. Their gifts will grow the HLF Endowment Fund, a long-term strategy to provide enhanced funding for the library in perpetuity.

For every new HLF Legacy Circle member added during 2021, Ed Olsgard and Michele McKeegan will make a contribution to HLF of \$500. So please consider today – your planning will provide immediate and long-term support for the public library.

### Legacy Circle

Tom & Roberta Allen • Jim & Judy Anderson • Jon Michael Asmundson • Barbara Barratt • Mona Beaver Patty Berg • Norma Bohrer • Kathrin Burleson • Gladys Burritt • Pam Cavanagh • Karen Childers • Marge & Max Custis • Sandra Corcoran • Jud Ellinwood & Anda Webb • Nancy Frost • Bill & Grace Greenwood Susan Hansen • Catherine Hart • Thelma & Ted Ingebritson • Connie Kaiser • Allan Katz • Tom & Judy Klapproth • Peter & Nancy LaVallee • Leslie Lollich Barbara and Joseph MacTurk • Dennis & Satoko McCarn • John & Sara Moore • Elizabeth Murguia • Ed Olsgard & Michele McKeegan • Bruce Neidorf • Susan O'Connor • Birgitta Portalupi • Kelly & Neal Sanders Richard Stanewick • Jane Stein • Angus & Joan Stewart • Judith Stoffer • Sara Traphagen • Vis & Sally Upatisinga • Valera Vierra • Edward & Judy Webb

*Join Members of the Legacy Circle—Remember HLF in your Will or Estate Plan*

## STAY CONNECTED

'Like' Humboldt Library Foundation on Facebook

- Learn about Branch Resources and Events
- Find Links to Book Recommendations
- Connect with other Library Supporters and Book Lovers
- And hear about HLF Events and Activities





## Help Us Fund Home Deliveries The Library at Your Door

The Humboldt Library Foundation is seeking funds to purchase a cargo van for a new Humboldt County Library project, **“Home Delivery: The Library at Your Door.”** The plan is simple: a cargo van will drop off requested library materials at the doorstep of currently underserved residents. This project will benefit seniors, families and individuals with transportation and mobility barriers. These barriers to access have become even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The home delivery program meets the challenge of the moment and builds capacity into the future. It is an innovative program that has enjoyed enormous success in similar library jurisdictions, as evidenced by a fifteen percent increase in library material circulation. Prior to home delivery, patrons who faced challenges getting to the library (too far to walk, a one-car family, limited or no public transportation option) have expressed extreme satisfaction with home delivery.

How it works: Cardholders can use their library card, either online or by phone, and the requested materials will be delivered to their door, with return pickup service. Home delivery will initially be restricted to patrons in Eureka, Arcata and Fortuna, with plans to expand the service area in the near future, to include the communities of McKinleyville, Ferndale, Rio Dell, Blue Lake, Bayside, Loleta, Samoa and Scotia. The Humboldt County Library will provide ongoing operational support for the program, through staffing and van maintenance.

To ensure its success, the Library has designed a robust outreach effort, partnering with a variety of community organizations that work with underserved populations. The plan targets seniors in congregate and assisted living facilities, working families sheltered at home with school-age kids, persons with disabilities, Tribal and Latino communities, low-income individuals, families and others with limited access to transportation.

The Humboldt Library Foundation is asking for your support to assist us with the much needed project. Donations can be made online at [Humboldtlibrary-foundation.org](http://Humboldtlibrary-foundation.org) or checks can be mailed to PO Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502.



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*See Also Board of Sponsors, Page 5*

"The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty."

Pablo Neruda



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## Library Branches

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Blue Lake Branch  
1100 Greenwood Ave. 707-668-4207  
Ferndale Branch  
807 Main St. 707-786-9559  
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*The Library Family  
The Ribbon Cutting, November 1995*

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