

# ST. HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY **FRIENDS&FOUNDATION**

August 30, 2023

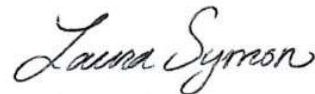
Dear Friend of the library,

Attached is the Friends and Foundation St. Helena Public Library Annual Report for fiscal year 2022-23. We are so grateful for your generous support which enabled the library to offer programs and services which enhance the user experience. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Carol Gruetzner  
Board President  
St. Helena Friends and Foundation



Laura Symon  
President Elect

email: [friends@shplfoundation.org](mailto:friends@shplfoundation.org)



2022-2023

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## St. Helena Library FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 171, St. Helena CA 94574  
[www.shplfoundation.org](http://www.shplfoundation.org)

# Annual Report 2022-2023

A message from our Board of Directors

We are delighted to bring you this update on how your gifts have allowed the St Helena Public Library to advance the mission of the library and to meet the needs of our wonderful community. Federal, State, and local funding do not cover the costs of community programs, new e-books, part-time staffing and infrastructure repairs. Your gifts in 2022-23 of \$136,104.00 helped us continue the tradition of St. Helena having one of the finest rural libraries in California.

For more than 125 years the library has been a focal point for encouraging learning, civic dialogue, and building social connectivity. When residents needed a gathering place to meet, the library has been a safe and trusted meeting place. Your patronage this past year will enable us to not only keep our doors open but will also enable our leadership team to create the library of the future for our children and grandchildren.

Please visit our website

[www.shplfoundation.org/donate](http://www.shplfoundation.org/donate)

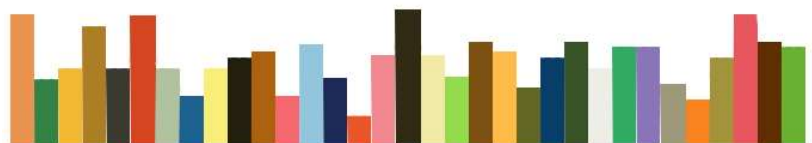
to make a donation.

We look forward to seeing you at the library again soon.



## THE LIBRARY AS PEOPLE

The library as people reflects the shift away from building collections to building human capital, relationships, and knowledge networks in the community. People are at the center of the library's mission to inspire and cultivate learning, advance knowledge, and nurture and strengthen communities. While there are thousands of stories in the public library, the ones that matter most come with the people who use the library. The public library comes alive when it is teeming with people from all walks of life: from PARENTS reading with their children in colorful comfortable chairs, to TEENS learning how to write code for a new video game in a noisy learning lab, to STUDENTS meeting in a library classroom for group discussion as part of an online high school course, to JOB SEEKERS working on résumés in career centers, with guidance from a business librarian, to ENTREPRENEURS preparing presentations in co-working spaces, using the library-provided Wi-Fi and creating new products in maker spaces, to IMMIGRANTS learning English in classes and improving their job-seeking skills with the help of community mentors.





Salsa Kits



Easter 2023



Halloween Activities

*Take away my people, but leave my factories, and soon grass will grow on the factory floors. Take away my factories, but leave my people, and soon we will have a new and better factory.*  
—ANDREW CARNEGIE

## What your support created

### Programs:

Your gifts have made it possible for the library to offer educational programs that support early childhood development. These popular after-school events nurture and strengthen the social fabric of our community and prepare our children to favorably compete in our rapidly changing world economy.

Without your support the Foundation would not be able to offer educational entertainment that expands learning and enhances social connectivity and social discourse. These programs encourage and promote the acquisition of knowledge and foster creativity which drive improved productivity and prosperity. Your gifts made it possible for the library to offer the successful summer reading program for children and adults, “Read Beyond the Beaten Path”

### Materials:

Your gifts made it possible for the SH library to purchase additional eBooks that are in high demand. These books are available in English and Spanish and are particularly valuable to students, jobseekers, entrepreneurs, immigrants, and retirees.

### Part-time staffing:

Our exceptional library staff is led by Chris Krieden. Their dedication, knowledge, listening ears and friendly service are why our community loves to visit the library. Your gifts have provided the, much needed, part-time staffing resources for: providing technical services, to the sorting and processing of book donations, to staffing the Children’s Library and, lastly, cleaning of returned CD’s and movies.

**VISITS TO THE LIBRARY**  
2023 - 59,765 ↑  
2022 - 45,142

**PHYSICAL CHECK-OUTS**  
2023 - 105,449  
2022 - 110,467

**DIGITAL CHECK-OUTS**  
2023 - 30,326  
2022 - 27,483

**OUR PROGRAMS**  
2023 - 173  
2022 - 204

**ATTENDIES**  
2023 - 4847 ↑  
2022 - 3,866



## Thank you to our generous 2022 - 2023 Donors.

Every dollar you donate to Friends & Foundation helps make St. Helena Public Library one of the best small libraries in America!

### \$5,000 — \$11,000

Mr. Mark Epstein  
Beth Nickel  
Mr. and Mrs. Dann Boeschen

### \$2500 — \$4,999

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\$1 — \$249

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