“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

“DIGITAL LITERACY
SKILLS FOR A CHANGING WORLD”

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“DIGITAL LITERACY
SKILLS FOR A CHANGING WORLD”
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

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

– Greg, ETHS Senior
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
“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
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
“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
Together we build a more literate Evanston.

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
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Middle School Literary Festival</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Martin Luther King Day Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>IMLS Research Grant Brings More STEM Learning Family Programs</td>
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<td>Legendary Children’s Author</td>
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<td>Kevin Henkes Visits EPL</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Un-American: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII</td>
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<td>Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Library Branches</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Money Smart Week</td>
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<td>The Birdhouse Jazz Series: The Greg Ward Quartet</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>NU President Morton Schapiro Speaks at EPL on Student Debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Read by Design Summer Reading Program Kicks Off</td>
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<td>Overdrive Digital Bookmobile Visits Evanston</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Discussion on Watergate’s Legacy and the Press</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Hundreds Watch and Learn About the Solar Eclipse at the Library</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>220 Readers Sign Up to Read Dostoevsky through Mission: Impossible</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Hunger and Food Insecurity in Evanston and the Role of Meals at Home</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Dia De Los Muertos Celebration</td>
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<td>Begin Offering Regular Storytime in Mandarin</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>World Premiere Performance of Masters of Arabic Music</td>
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We believe in literacy for all of Evanston. With community support, we make it happen.