



# A HOMETOWN HEART

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY | ANNUAL REPORT FY23



This Annual Report Executive Summary for fiscal year 2023 provides an overview of Harford County Public Library's financial and statistical information, programming highlights, and more.

In October 2022, the renovation and construction of the new Darlington Library at 3535 Conowingo Road were completed. The grand opening celebration took place on October 19 with the community enthusiastically welcoming this repurposed, upcycled building. Originally constructed in 1996 as a Wawa, the building served as several banks before it was acquired by the County and Library. The community's desire to retain the original building's footprint was incorporated into the planning, resulting in a new library offering unique services such as a 24/7 exterior locker pickup system, a tablet tower for reading magazines, an exterior patio with a fireplace for community gatherings, and more.

Library outreach services expanded with the addition of three Traveling Library vans, catering to various demographics, including seniors through the Silver Reader, students and educators through the Rolling Reader, and preschoolers through the Preschool Traveling Library. We continued distributing Wi-Fi hotspots to students, educators, and their families, narrowing the digital divide and keeping our community engaged and informed.

"Chesapeake Farm & Bay to Table: Season 3" concluded in January 2023 with "Sweet Treats from Around the World." This popular program series, hosted by master chef and author John Shields, was broadcast live on Zoom and streamed on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, reaching viewers as far away as Ireland. The series explored the local agriculture community, seafood industry, farmers' markets, and more throughout Maryland, touching upon the science of cooking (STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and workforce development in the culinary arts.

Our partnerships and collaborations continued to grow, providing critical resources and services to our customers. A few notable partners include Harford County Bar Foundation's Lawyers in the Library, Harford Community Action Agency Social Services, Harford County Health Department, Harford County Department of Community Services, Harford County Public Schools, Harford Community College, Harford Family House, Harford County Chamber of Commerce, SARC, Baltimore Metropolitan Council Bike to Work Week, Eden Mill Nature Center, Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, and many more, which create opportunities and sustainability for our community.

We were honored to host Blue Star Families through the START (Serving, Thriving, and Reading Together) Book Club at the Aberdeen Library, a successful collaboration between the Library, the local Judy Center, Blue Star Families, and the Navy Federal Credit Union Employee Engagement Team. In August 2022, we celebrated the ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated Children's Department and Outdoor Story Garden at the Aberdeen Library, a space designed to integrate the environment and learning through reading and play.

This year, we welcomed back our dedicated volunteers who provide invaluable service to the Library and our community. The Library formalized an agreement with Harford County Public Schools to allow transition students to volunteer at the Joppa Library during the school day and receive recognition for their contributions. Our Library Friends groups were active with book sales, fundraisers, and supporting programming for each branch.

The Cultural Arts Board marked its fifth anniversary as the official arts agency of Harford County. The board provided over \$165,000 to the local art community through general operating grants, grants supporting arts programming, and Arts in Education grants. These funds support community arts development, arts experiences presented by nonprofits serving underserved communities and schools, independent artists, and the sustainability of the arts in the community.

The Library Foundation hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, "An Evening in the Stacks: Rock the Yacht! Catalina Island," in November 2022. The Gala Committee created a memorable evening for more than six hundred guests. In April 2023, we welcomed Amber Shrodes as the new Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement. The Foundation raised over \$38,000 in support of the 2023 Winter Reading Program and the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge.

The Library is currently embracing unique opportunities to explore new and innovative delivery models while adapting to an ever-changing environment. We continue to introduce the latest technology, including AI (Artificial Intelligence), to our community. To witness a demonstration of how AI can be integrated into our daily lives, visit [hcplonline.org/annualreport.php](https://hcplonline.org/annualreport.php) and see how this executive summary was edited by Chat Open AI from draft to final copy.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of our Library staff who work tirelessly to provide exceptional service and resources to our customers. In addition, we are grateful for the support extended by the Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees. The Library is overflowing with gratitude for our community of Library supporters who champion our mission and vision through library visits, attending programs and events, accessing our free online resources, and more. HCPL remains committed to prioritizing quality and value while bringing innovation to Harford County by actively listening to our customers, staff, and stakeholders, to assess and expand our capacity. Our numerous successes and strong community engagement reflect the Library's leadership, vision, and commitment to delivering exceptional resources and services to our community.

**MARY HASTLER, LIBRARY CEO**

**"Having the freedom to read and the freedom to choose is one of the best gifts my parents ever gave me." – Judy Blume**



Thank you for having this amazing app!  
Our daughter reads new e-books every night

-Gabrielle W.



Our library is the absolute best!  
We go at least once a week!

-Sarah A.



My husband and I enjoy the Winter Reading  
program every year. Since it starts on my  
birthday, I especially enjoy it.

-Elizabeth M.



Finally stopped into this new branch today.  
It is darling. And the staff member who  
welcomed and assisted me was so kind and  
personable. Great job HCPL!

-Kimberly M.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

for Harford County Public Library

### OPERATING REVENUE **\$25,046,145**

County - 83.39%	\$20,886,654
State - 12.48%	3,126,274
Library - 3.13%	783,207
MSAC Cultural Arts Grant - 0.77%	192,086
Other Grants - 0.23%	57,924

### OPERATING EXPENDITURES **\$24,181,926**

Personnel - 70.36%	\$17,014,700
Materials - 13.32%	3,219,713
Equipment - 5.48%	1,326,239
MSAC Cultural Arts Grant - 0.79%	192,086
Other - 10.05%	2,429,188

### CAPITAL BUDGET **\$2,650,000**

## ANNUAL STATISTICS

for Harford County Public Library

Visits to Local Branches	726,558
Circulation	3,042,749
Subtotal - Adult Circulation	1,764,455
Subtotal - Children Circulation	1,278,294
Website & Catalog Visits	6,510,843
Questions Answered by Staff	368,659
Programs Offered	9,385
Program Attendance	401,626
Online Classes	71,448
Collection Size	1,006,835
Digital Collection Circulation	745,238
Volunteer Hours	13,327
Interlibrary Loan - Borrowed	19,374
Interlibrary Loan - Loaned	19,461
Meeting Room Groups	214
WiFi Users	330,479
Personnel - FTE	210.66
Registered Borrowers	148,781
Branches	11
Outreach Vehicles	5
Headquarters	1

# HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES FY23



Back Row: Shannon G. Gahs | Dr. Monique H. Head | Durbin P. Vido, *Treasurer* | Colonel Jonas Vogelhut, US Army, Retired  
 Carol Wright, *Vice Chair* | Terrance Flannery | Dwayne R. Adams | Taryn J. Martin  
 Front Row: Mary L. Hastler, *Library CEO* | Dr. William B. Allen, *Chair*

Not pictured: David Simberg, *Student Representative* | Chad R. Shrodes, *County Council Liaison* | Jessica Boyle-Tsottles, *County Council Liaison*

## HCPL LOCATIONS

**ADMINISTRATION** 1221-A Brass Mill Rd | 410-273-5600  
 @hcaplonline | hcaplmd | Harford County Public Library

**ABERDEEN** 21 Franklin St | 410-273-5608  
 @aberdeenlibrary | aberdeenhcaplmd

**ABINGDON** 2510 Tollgate Rd | 410-638-3990  
 @HCPLAbingdon | abingdonhcaplmd

**BEL AIR** 100 E. Pennsylvania Ave | 410-638-3151  
 @belairbranch | belairhcaplmd

**DARLINGTON** 3535 Conowingo Rd | 410-638-3750  
 @DarlingtonLibrary | darlingtonhcaplmd

**EDGEWOOD** 629 Edgewood Rd | 410-612-1600  
 @edgewoodlibrarymd | edgewoodhcaplmd

**FALLSTON** 1461 Fallston Rd | 410-638-3003  
 @fallstonbranchHCPL | fallstonhcaplmd

**HAVRE DE GRACE** 120 N. Union Ave | 410-939-6700  
 @HdGLibrary | havredegracehcaplmd

**JARRETTSVILLE** 3722 Norrisville Rd | 410-692-7887  
 @JarrettsvilleLibrary | jarrettsvillehcaplmd

**JOPPA** 655 Towne Center Dr | 410-612-1660  
 @joppabranch | joppahcaplmd

**NORRISVILLE** 5310 Norrisville Rd | 410-692-7850  
 @norrisvillelibrary | norrisvillehcaplmd

**WHITEFORD** 2407 Whiteford Rd | 410-638-3608  
 @WhitefordLibrary | whitefordhcaplmd

**ROLLING READER** Mobile Unit | 410-612-1600  
 @rollingreader | hcplrollingreader

**SILVER READER** Mobile Unit | 410-638-3151  
 @silverreaderhcpl | silverreaderhcaplmd



Harford County  
 Public Library