

2020

# Wright Memorial Public Library



Wright Memorial  
Public Library

*"In these times, libraries and librarians are my bright spots, and we have the very best of both."*



Awarded Five-Star Rating  
2020 Library Journal  
Index of Public Library Service

Ranked 10th in the nation for usage per capita compared to libraries of similar size in the 2020 Library Journal Index. The ranking is a testament to the community's commitment to education and lifelong learning.



### **LIBRARY VISITS LOOKED DIFFERENT**

**24% increase in virtual visits** to both the library's website and mobile app

### **DIGITAL RESOURCE USE SOARED**

**14% climb** in eBook and eAudiobook circulation, continuing a **5-year double digit upward trend**

**53% spike** in use of digital resources like Ancestry, Lynda.com, NYT Online, Kanopy, and Hoopla

### **PATRONS EMBRACED VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Wright Library suspended in-person services on March 14. Two days later, the library launched virtual programs.

**250 patrons per week** participated in library programs

### **TAXPAYERS REAP STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

**For every \$1.00 spent, the total economic benefit was \$5.04**



## **A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

During the spring 2020 shutdown, Wright Library rallied to continue its mission and adapted quickly to meet the community's needs by:

- Circulating materials safely through material quarantines, curbside pick up, and contactless returns
- Offering virtual programs for all ages to continue our mission to promote lifelong learning
- Assisting patrons by phone and email to connect with expanded digital collections and to apply for eCards
- Helping residents exercise their right to vote by placing absentee ballot applications outside the library
- Using grant funds to expand public Wi-Fi to the entire library campus, allowing users to connect from their cars and lending laptops for those without devices

While the library adapted daily to the needs of the community, it was also planning for the future. A \$1.5 million capital campaign was launched to leverage new levy funds so work could begin on the "Next Chapter" renovation, a \$5 million project that will transform the library's learning spaces while enhancing its beloved historic feel.

When at last the library re-opened the building in June 2020, a local band played on the lawn to celebrate as a line snaked down the walkway, reminding us of the purpose and value of a library in the center of a community.

We thank you for your gracious support this year and for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community. We are looking forward to a strong, healthy future.

*Kristi Hale*

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

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## MEETING PARENT AND STUDENT NEEDS DURING THE PANDEMIC

When students were sent home for virtual learning in March, many parents called on the library for help. The library's team of childhood literacy experts responded by hosting virtual meetings for parents, creating new programs for kids at home, and providing book and lesson suggestions for families new to homeschooling.

Throughout the year, the Wright Library team learned new methods for connecting with families, serving diverse needs, and providing a variety of individualized services to patrons.

"Serving young readers during the pandemic has been both challenging and rewarding," said Youth Services Coordinator Jacqui Taylor. "I miss the way things used to be, but we're working to make every day excellently educational for Oakwood's young learners."



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

**Book Buddies** paired teen volunteers with young readers for virtual or masked in-person reading sessions, with the goal to keep kids reading during the summer, especially after COVID-19 disrupted learning for many. Teens and kids met online, in driveways, on park benches, and on porches to make meaningful connections, read together, and foster a love of reading.

*"My son is eager to read to his buddy and enjoys the conversations they have about the books. His love for reading has grown exponentially through this program."*

*"The community's support has always been the cornerstone of Wright Library."*

## AN INVESTMENT IN LIFELONG LEARNING

The Oakwood community cast a vote of confidence in Wright Library's future in 2020, approving the first tax increase in a decade for the library. The 1.5 mill operating levy not only strengthened the library's financial status, it gave wings to a project to revitalize the building for the coming decades.

Thanks to this support, the library's "Next Chapter" renovation is underway. It will include:

- Improved accessibility, including ADA-compliant bathroom upgrades and new park entrance
- Innovate spaces for children and teens
- A new tech-enabled community room
- Separate computer areas for adults, teens, and children
- Infrastructure repairs



## FINANCIAL HEALTH

Wright Library has a long legacy of conservative fiscal management, and it quickly responded to the negative impact of COVID-19 on state and other funding. The 2020 budget was reduced by 5% and the Wright Library Foundation provided an essential economic recovery grant of \$48,000 to support operations. An additional \$28,000 in grants were received to help offset costs of operating safely during the pandemic.

The library finished 2020 with general fund revenues of \$1,958,856, and expenditures of \$1,714,709.

The additional 1.5 mill levy passed in 2020 is projected to maintain library operations over the next 10 years.



# Thank you

## FOUNDATION DONORS

"I feel like I finally paid Wright Library back for just a little bit of what the library gave to me as a young man."

David L. Flory, \$500,000 Capital Campaign Donor

### 2020 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

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### WRIGHT MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

In 2020, generous donors gave \$49,952 to support additional collections, services, and programs that the library could not offer with tax dollars alone.

The \$1.5 million capital campaign to support the "Next Chapter" building renovation reached 70% of its goal, and included a \$500,000 gift from former Oakwood resident David L. Flory, who credits the library with his success as an investor and attorney.

### 2020 LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD

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Visit [wrightlibrary.org/foundation](http://wrightlibrary.org/foundation) to learn how gifts to the Foundation support lifelong learning in the heart of Oakwood.

### 2020 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

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Lu Ann and Steve Stanley

Bruce and Julie Teeters  
Nancy and Tom Thickett  
Steven and Nadja Turek  
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Wright Brothers Family Foundation  
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**JANUARY** "The library is my happy place. The kids love to come here, doing their own thing, and they're all learning. It's the best." **FEBRUARY** "Thank you for hosting the Hall Hunger Initiative. It was enlightening to hear people from a variety of backgrounds grappling with what these big issues mean for their lives and what actions they can take in the future to address them."

*In response to public health recommendations, Wright Library suspended in-person services March 14, 2020. Two days later, the library launched virtual programs.*

**MARCH** "Thank you for the online storytime this morning. It's given my kids great continuity." **APRIL** "We appreciate that Miss Karen took the time to do this as it's been hard for my 4-year-old son to comprehend what's all going on. Coming from a familiar face helped ease some of his worries. Thank

you!" **MAY** "We miss the library! Thank you for continuing to share stories and programs with the youth." **JUNE** "I was at the library to check out books. I liked the way they reopened. It felt safe." **JULY** "We really value all that you and the rest of the library staff do throughout the year. What a great benefit that we live in a community with such a vibrant local library."

**AUGUST** "Thanks for this great opportunity [storywalk]. This was a great way to experience something on-site, safely." **SEPTEMBER** "We are very thankful for you and the entire staff in their continued efforts to keep the library programming going. We are looking forward to inserting them back into our routine." **OCTOBER** "My entire family was really confused about the process of early voting, and your librarians gave us the information we needed to go vote today. I just wanted you to know that you helped nearly 20

people exercise their right to vote today. Thank you." **NOVEMBER** "I have been so impressed with how the library has adapted during this time. Grateful to still have their services." **DECEMBER** "Thanks so much for putting on these events and having such patience with the kids. It means the world to us during this pandemic."

