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Foundation
310 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
AND YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE
COMMUNITY WE SHARE.

New Faces

This year, five members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors completed their terms. We are grateful to **Alan Blumenthal, Robin Branstrom, Julie Lerner Levine, Patty Norman** and **Jim Woodward** for their service, dedication and leadership, and we look forward to many years of continued engagement and friendship.

We are thrilled to welcome two new board members:



LeRoy Davis is the Head of Treasury Strategy & Structured Funding at Wells Fargo. He and his wife moved to Charlotte two years ago from New York, where he worked a collective 24 years for Citigroup and JPMorganChase. LeRoy holds a Master of Science in Engineering-Economic Systems from Stanford University. He enjoys traveling, gospel and jazz music, and mentoring.



Cristina Wilson is President and Partner of *Charlotte Agenda*. Formerly, she was the editor of *Carolina Bride* magazine and *SouthPark Magazine* and a regular contributor to *Thrillist*. She is the co-author of *Carolina Bride: Inspired Design for a Bespoke Affair*. Cristina is a Davidson College alum and lives in University City with her husband and daughter.

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Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, Executive Director
Teleia White, Director of Individual Giving

Karen Beach, CFRE, Deputy Director
Melanie Baron, Marketing and Communications Specialist

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY FOUNDATION

310 N. Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

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Transformations

Bigger, Better, Together

When *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas was chosen as the featured title for Community Read 2019, Outreach Channel Leader and project manager Meryle Leonard saw an opportunity. “The themes in this book are so relevant and timely, we knew we’d need partners with different experiences and expertise. It was a natural opportunity to position the Library system as a convener and a platform for programs and dialogue that may be facilitated by others,” Meryle explains. “The support and participation of over 30 community organizations - including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department - was essential to the program’s reach and success.”

“*Engaging the residents of Charlotte to read and have meaningful dialogue on topics critical to the city provides an opportunity to understand the different perspectives and experiences of our community. Partnering with our Library and community partners, together, we can create constructive solutions to help Charlotte move forward.*”

- CHARLES BOWMAN
Charlotte Market President for
Bank of America, presenting sponsor
of Community Read 2019

We asked CMPD Community Engagement Officers **Richard Nelson, Brent Hartley, Ryan Botzenmayer** and **Michael Nguyen** (pictured above) for their thoughts on the partnership.

What is important about this book, and about reading and discussing it together?

RN: This book brings up tough topics. It isn’t just a police story. There are issues of race relations, teen perspectives, law enforcement, identity, school, neighborhoods - everyone can identify with a character or situation, see other views and discuss.

BH: And we’ll continue these dialogues - Community Read is the start of an ongoing partnership.

How does a program like Community Read help to build a stronger community?

RB: We all say we want change, and this program is making change. The beauty of the partnership approach is that we all can reach more people and build participation. There is potential for much greater impact.

Why did CMPD choose to be a Community Read partner?

BH: We were already addressing these topics - Chief Putney’s *Bridging the Difference* program is all about community conversations, and that

energy trickles down. We jumped on board.

Have you been surprised by any aspect of this program?

MN: Kids share their interactions with the police, and we walk through similar scenarios from an officer’s perspective. We can all do better by understanding one another.

RB: Older participants have been very interesting. They recall the civil rights era, it’s educational to us to speak with them.

How do you see the Library as a platform for community programs?

RN: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library locations are common ground. They are a perfect space for this.

MN: Libraries are important because reading is the foundation for everything else. We read to understand.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS.





Nearly every day, children stream from school buses into ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center, each holding hands with a buddy. They're stronger, safer and have more fun with a partner. So does your Library.

Partnerships with over 30 organizations made it possible for last month's Community Read program to engage exponentially more people, and working together has brought us all closer to our complementary and shared goals. Similarly, partnerships with our supporters – businesses, foundations and individuals – help bring Library initiatives old and new from idea to reality.

By leveraging the power of relationships, together we are building a stronger community. Thank you for your partnership.

Warmly,

Crawford

Crawford Pounds
Chair, Foundation Board

Jenni

Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE
Executive Director

EVENTS

FINAL DRAUGHT

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Town Brewing Company
Quarterly discussion series features chef, restaurateur and cookbook author Bruce Moffett

SUMMER BREAK

June 1 – August 10, 2019

Read, learn and explore with your Library

VERSE & VINO

Thursday, November 7, 2019

Charlotte Convention Center
Signature annual fundraising event, featuring New York Times best-selling authors

EPICFEST

Saturday, November 9, 2019

ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center
Free family literary festival featuring award-winning authors

**FOR THE LATEST EVENT INFORMATION,
VISIT FOUNDATION.CMLIBRARY.ORG**

A Gift of Connection

Increasingly, our lives are online. We talk, read, pay bills, apply for jobs, attend school and shop...all with a touch or a click. **But many in our community grew up before any of this was possible.**

Your Library's digital literacy courses have brought hundreds of seniors and others with limited experience online. Now, thanks to a generous investment from AARP North Carolina, graduates will have the tools to stay active in the digital world. Michael Olender of AARP North Carolina explains, *"AARP has worked with Charlotte Mecklenburg Library since 2013, and we are especially proud to sponsor digital inclusion. This program will help older residents embrace smart technology, allowing them to live with greater independence, dignity and choice."*

Courses cover everything from hardware and software basics to mobile devices, social media and Internet safety. In 2017 the Library began offering digital literacy courses in outreach locations thanks to an investment in portable computer labs from the Philip L. Van Every Foundation, and there has been heavy demand from senior centers.

"We field questions in every Library location from seniors who are new to the digital world," said Everett Blackmon, University City Regional Library's main contact for digital literacy classes. "Many are learning something they never considered, and they immediately use their new skills."

Francine Ashe owns an iPad and a smartphone, and she credits the Library for teaching her to use them. "I've stepped into the electronic age. Seniors are lonely sometimes, and there is so much we can access. I share pictures with my grandchildren, find recipes on Pinterest, and I even read books online. A whole world is at my fingertips." Shirley Massey, a resident of Prosperity Creek Senior Apartments, agrees. "I want to learn everything I can absorb."

To learn more about digital literacy courses for seniors and all ages, visit cmlibrary.org.



More than half of last year's digital literacy course participants were over 65 years old.

DID YOU KNOW?



- Nearly 20% of our community doesn't have Internet access at home.
- Your Library is Mecklenburg County's largest provider of free access to the digital world.
- Library Wi-Fi was used over one million times last year.

Legacy Giving

Gail McKnight was a lifelong library user, and her legacy still impacts her beloved Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

Longtime employees recall Gail as a daily customer of the Myers Park location. She'd chat with staff, settle in to read newspapers, and gather with a group of retirees she called "the boys." She lived in a condominium nearby, but the Library was her home away from home.

Upon her death in 1996, Gail left a bequest of \$240,000 to the Library, to be used to benefit staff "for a deed well done." Today, the Gail McKnight Endowment Fund supports staff development, and in a quickly changing industry ongoing professional training is essential.

The Library maintains eighteen endowed funds, some unrestricted to meet the Library's highest priorities and others designated to specific programs or branches. A gift of \$50,000 or more can be used to establish a new, named endowment, or a donation of any amount can be added to an existing fund.

For more information about making a lasting impact and honoring a loved one in perpetuity through a bequest or endowment, contact Karen Beach at 704-416-0802 or kbeach@cmlibrary.org.



Multiply Your Impact

James Ferguson has always been an avid reader. He supports the Library because he values the resources his own family uses, but he also values the Library's role in the community. *"I love that anyone can walk in and teach themselves any subject they're interested in. Lifelong learning is key to adapting to a changing world," James explains. "We all have finite resources and matching gifts are a great way to increase the impact of my gift to the Library Foundation."*

Many companies support their employees' philanthropy through matching gifts. Some even match volunteer hours or the contributions of spouses or retirees. Let us know if your employer has a matching gift program so we can maximize your impact.

For more information about matching gift programs, contact Teleia White at 704-416-0803 or twhite@cmlibrary.org.

James Ferguson, his wife Kate and children Charlie, Ben and Claire.

