Dear Friends,

2020—wow, what a year. In the disorienting early weeks of the pandemic and associated shutdown, we were deeply concerned about how we would continue to serve the community, particularly our most vulnerable patrons. Our wonderful librarians rolled up their sleeves and quickly developed creative solutions. And you, our supporters, responded to this time of uncertainty with unprecedented generosity, providing the funding we needed to implement these new services. Your gifts enabled us to increase our collection of digital resources, provide free books to kids, pivot to virtual programming, purchase mobile internet hotspots and laptops for lending, and move forward with our plans to expand library service as Bozeman grows.

I hope the Library can play a part in our collective return to “normal” as it becomes safe to gather again. I look forward to chance encounters with acquaintances in the stacks, enjoying a concert with friends on the lawn, and touring supporters around the building.

I am proud to live in a community that understands the transformative power of libraries. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Janay Johnson | Executive Director

Original Cover Artwork: “Discover Your Wild Side at the Bozeman Public Library” by Jennifer Lowe-Anker

bozemanlibraryfoundation.org
Supporting our Community Through the Shutdown

Your unwavering support this year provided critical funding to help us adapt to a changing world while safely reaching as many people in our community as possible. Thank you for believing in the Bozeman Public Library’s mission to create opportunities that inspire curiosity, exploration, and connection.

Support to the Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BPL Forward</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Early Learning</td>
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<td>Library Campus Improvements</td>
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<td>Expanding Digital Access</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Kind</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Operations Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Sources of Support

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions (excluding bequests added to endowment)</td>
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<td>Endowment &amp; Quasi Endowment Appropriations</td>
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<td>Capital Reserves</td>
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Year Ending December 31, 2020

Does not include investment gains/losses. Comprehensive financial statements are available at bozemanlibraryfoundation.org.
The population of Bozeman has more than doubled since the Library Foundation started a capital campaign for the current East Main Street location in 2001.
In 2020 we launched the BPL Forward initiative, which will guide the growth of Library service in Bozeman for the next decade. Your support will help us increase access for all sectors of our community.

Improvements to the Main Street location
In 2020, we hired the architect team of Minneapolis-based library specialists MSR Design and local firm SMA to lead a community-driven process to help us reimagine the downtown Library space. We are still in the process of finalizing the concept, but we anticipate the changes will involve a modest addition and internal reconfiguration. The goals of the project include creating more spaces for gathering and interacting, both informally and formally, and capitalizing on the Library’s unique location adjacent to the park and trail system.

Service Points on the West Side
Our plans to open a satellite location in Gallatin High were delayed a bit due to the pandemic. We are now planning to open Fall 2021. Thanks to you, we have the start up funding secured and our librarians have begun ordering materials and supplies so we’ll be ready to open as soon as it’s safe to do so. We are also exploring ways to create additional material drop off and pick up locations on the west side for added convenience.

Planning for a West Side branch
We know that the farther people live from the Library, the less likely they are to use it. We want all Bozeman residents to have convenient access to free books, services and early literacy programs. That’s why we’re committed to planning for a full-service branch to serve our expanding community. This will be a collaborative project that may involve co-location with other City services or amenities.

“I’m thrilled that the pandemic isn’t preventing plans for the future of our library and so grateful we have the support of the Bozeman Public Library Foundation.” — Lucy S., Library patron

bozemanlibraryfoundation.org

Learn more
When schools and libraries were forced to shut down during the pandemic, so did access to books, which disproportionately impacted underprivileged children. Our mission was simple—get books in the hands of as many kids as possible, especially kids in need. The Library responded by collaborating with the Bozeman Public Schools to distribute free books provided by the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library at the three sites open for school lunch pick-up. “Parents and kids loved getting to choose their own books!” said head children’s librarian Cindy Christin.

The book giveaway program ran through June 10th and transitioned into a reimagined outdoor version of our annual youth summer reading program that reached 1,200+ kids and families. Weekday story times were hosted on the front lawn of the Library along with an outdoor concert, puppet show, and drumming workshop—all socially distanced of course.

In December, we again partnered with the Bozeman Schools and our friends at the Country Bookshelf to purchase and gift over 400 brand new books to families with children who might need a little help during the holidays.

Providing access to books is critical to promoting reading and your donations supported this mission at a vital time.

Thank you so much for all you do for the community.
I was SO happy when you re-opened for pick up after the COVID closure. The library is such an important part of my life. -Library Patron

bozemanlibraryfoundation.org
Bozeman Public Library gave away 1,000+ books last year!
The Library offers a total of 44 internet hotspots + 12 laptops are available for checkout!
Bridging the Digital Divide

The whole world seemingly moved online last spring and we began celebrating birthdays and holidays with family on Zoom, socializing with friends on FaceTime and attending virtual school and work. But what if you didn’t have access to the internet or a computer in your home?

So many people rely on the Library, coffee shops, and other places with free internet access. With those places offering limited or no service, many of our neighbors were struggling to attend online classes, keep in touch with family and friends, pay bills, and engage in the many other activities in modern life that occur mainly online. The digital divide was quickly becoming a digital chasm.

Thanks to our generous donors, we’ve added 30 mobile internet hotspots to our collection. Patrons can check out a hotspot that gives them a free mobile network at their home, or anywhere else that has cell service. And your donations helped us add twelve laptop computers that can be checked out for home use. Each laptop is paired with a hotspot.

Your support enabled kids to attend online school, quarantined employees to work remotely, unemployed workers to search and apply for jobs, and homebound seniors to take advantage of telehealth alternatives. Making technology accessible to everyone creates opportunity at a critical time for those who need it most.

I am very grateful for this resource. Thank you!

~Library Patron

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