IMPACT REPORT

2026
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 2025–JUNE 2026

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

A Message From Our Executive Director

Building Community

Dan Groberg

This past year at Kellogg-Hubbard was defined by growth—not just in our numbers, but in how deeply we connect with our community both inside our walls and out.

In a year, the library sees nearly 150,000 visits. Some visitors come for books, free Wi-Fi, or a quiet desk; others need tech help, a pass for a state park, or simply a safe, welcoming place to spend the afternoon. Our statistics (see page 8–9) tell part of that story. The rest is harder to measure: a child finding the right book, a teen spending the afternoon somewhere safe, a neighbor using a computer to solve a problem, a family finding relief on a dangerously hot or cold day.

This year continued to demonstrate how much stronger we are with partners. In collaboration with People's Health and Wellness Clinic, we now host a monthly free health clinic. Good Beginnings of Central Vermont sets up in the East Montpelier Room each week to provide resources for new parents and caregivers. Elevate Youth Services provides a safe space for teens each afternoon. Together, we can serve the community more fully.

As community needs change, KHL keeps adapting. We have strengthened services in the library while also reaching outward through outreach, partnerships, and neighborhood access points. Staff and volunteers bring books and literacy support to childcare providers, host programs in local schools, provide reading material to youth in foster care, and help make library resources available to people who may not be able to visit us downtown. Our work outside of the library ensures that the pleasure of borrowing and browsing reaches all six towns we serve.

KHL is an independent nonprofit library, and none of this happens without you. Your tax dollars, donations, and volunteer hours are what keep our doors open and our resources free for everyone.

Thank you for helping KHL grow deeper, reach farther, and welcome everyone.

Dan Groberg, Executive Director

From Our Board President

Sarah Seidman

This year's message begins and ends with gratitude. Our beloved library continues to prosper thanks to the deep and enduring support of our six central Vermont communities, the generosity of private and public donors, our many faithful volunteers, our talented and dedicated Board of Trustees, and the innovative and knowledgeable staff who make the place work.

When I enter the library, I am one of over 500 people who step through our historic doors every single weekday. I see signs of welcome everywhere: friendly faces at the check-out counters, colorful book displays, public computers, and fellow citizens from every nook of life. We come to research a topic, to request a special book, to use the public bathrooms, to hold meetings, to admire the changing display of work by local artists, to pick up a bargain in the basement Book Shop, and just to spend time in a safe, kind and clean space. And more visitors arrive virtually every year, borrowing books and magazines through our online resources. Did you know we also now offer Yoto audiobook story cards and DVD player rentals for our DVD collection?

This year we've committed to expanding our services directly to our members in Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Berlin and Worcester with "on the road" story times in each town and "little free libraries" in Middlesex and Maple Corner. Our strategic plan continues to guide our work as we build partnerships with the Basement Teen Center, Good Beginnings of Central Vermont's caregivers' programs, and monthly People's Health and Wellness free health clinics.

As we welcome our new Director of Library Services Heather Barron, and applaud our hard-working Executive Director Dan Groberg, we celebrate the central role the library plays in our lives. I am grateful to be a part of this wonderful institution. Thank you!

Your **Library Staff**

Technical Services Librarian **Sarah Rogers**

Head Circulation Librarian **Autumn Bissonnette**

Assistant Circulation Librarian **Amy Young**

Facilities Coordinator **Jason Kass**

Interlibrary Loan Librarian **George Spaulding**

Development Manager **Carrie Cleveland**

Youth Collection Development Librarian **Aven Williams**

Meliss Bunce
Circulation Librarian

Heather Barron
Director of Library Services

Caity Kaye
Outreach Librarian

Sarah Wisner
Operations & Communications Coordinator and Assistant Circulation Librarian

Dan Groberg
Executive Director

Not pictured: **Curtis Leno,** *Custodian, and* **Nikki Whelley**, *Programs Librarian*

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Vice President, Calais

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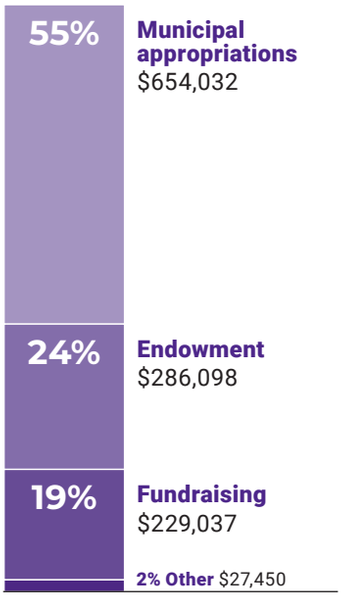
Celebrating Their Leadership

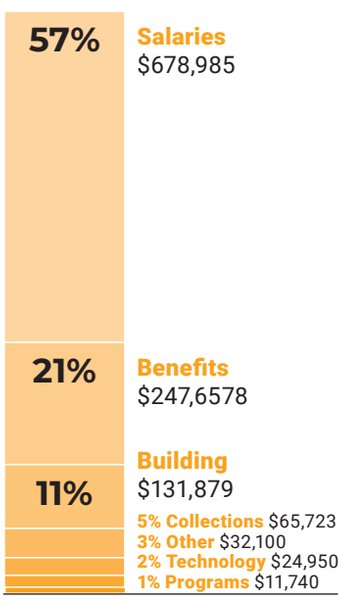
We offer our deepest gratitude to (left, from top) **Craig Durham, John Nelson and Judy Walke** for their years of committed service as members of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library's Board of Trustees. Craig served for more than five years and contributed as a key member of our Fund Development Committee and as a Montpelier City Council liaison, John served for two years and provided valuable insights into labor relations, and Judy's nine years included leadership of our immensely successful Give the Library a Lift Capital Campaign. Thank you for your steadfast leadership and meaningful service to our community.

FY2026 Budget

INCOME
$1,196,617



EXPENSE
$1,196,535



Treasurer's Report

Donna Lasick

Behind every book borrowed, program attended, and question answered is a thoughtful investment in people, collections, and community. Our FY26 budget reflects the resources required to provide the high-quality library services our community depends on while also planning responsibly for the future. The library continues to balance rising costs, stewardship of a historic building, and growing community needs through a combination of municipal support, endowment income, and generous philanthropic contributions.

Our FY26 budget reflects the people-centered nature of library services. The largest share of our expenses—three-quarters of the total budget when salaries and benefits are combined—supports our dedicated staff, whose expertise, creativity, and commitment make the library's programs, collections, and services possible every day. Staff are our greatest asset, and investing in them remains essential to fulfilling our mission.

Like many organizations, the library is facing growing operational costs. Employee benefit expenses continue to rise, placing increasing pressure on the budget, while the cost of digital resources and technology has grown significantly as community demand for online collections, databases, and digital services expands. These trends require careful financial planning to ensure we can continue providing high-quality services while remaining financially sustainable.

While municipal appropriations remain our single largest source of revenue, they support only about half of the library's operating budget. The remainder comes from a combination of endowment income, fundraising, and other revenue sources. This diversified funding model allows us to stretch municipal dollars further and provide services that would not otherwise be possible. We are deeply grateful to the donors and supporters whose generosity helps sustain and strengthen the library's work.

Looking ahead, the library is also focused on building greater financial resilience. In addition to supporting annual operations, we are working to grow reserve funds that can help weather unexpected challenges and prepare for significant future capital needs. Recent flood recovery efforts and building improvements have underscored the importance of long-term planning for our historic facility. As identified in the library's recent Capital Needs Assessment, annual investment in building maintenance and capital improvements should be approximately three times greater than our recent levels of spending. Building reserves now will help ensure that we can responsibly address these needs, preserve the library for future generations, and reduce the likelihood of unexpected financial burdens in the years ahead.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, our Executive Director, and the Staff for their excellent fiscal management. We are also deeply grateful to our donors, towns, and patrons—your support makes everything we do possible.

The closing FY26 financial statements are still in progress and will be available in the fall.

Our Strategic Goals

Now into the first year of our new strategic plan, we're excited to share what we have been able to accomplish to strengthen the ways that we serve and connect our community. Look for these badges throughout this report to learn about the resources, partnerships, and people that have helped us work towards our goals with meaningful results.

1. The Library provides easy access to a high-quality and robust collection of information and media resources and services to people of all backgrounds.

2. The Library serves as a community hub that engages people of all ages and backgrounds.

3. The Library is staffed and governed to meet its mission as an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient organization.

Honoring Carolyn Picazio and Welcoming Heather Barron

This year marked an important leadership transition for the Kellogg-Hubbard Library as we celebrated the extraordinary contributions of **Carolyn Picazio** and welcomed Heather Barron as our new Director of Library Services.

After nearly ten years of distinguished service, Carolyn departed KHL to become Library Director at Waterbury Public Library. Since joining the Library in 2016, Carolyn played an integral role in our growth and success, helping to guide the organization through two strategic plans, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recovery from the devastating Flood of 2023. Her thoughtful leadership, deep commitment to public service, and steady management strengthened every aspect of the Library's operations and positioned KHL for continued success.

We are profoundly grateful for Carolyn's decade of dedication to our community. While we miss her daily presence, we celebrate this exciting next chapter in her career and know she will continue to make a meaningful impact in Vermont libraries.

In July, we were delighted to welcome **Heather Barron** as our new Director of Library Services. Heather brings more than 16 years of library leadership experience and a people-centered approach to serving communities. Her career began with the U.S. Peace Corps, where she helped build a library in Zambia, and most recently she led a public library serving more than 30,000 residents in Warsaw, Indiana.

Heather impressed the hiring committee with her collaborative leadership style, commitment to innovation, and passion for connecting libraries with the communities they serve. Since arriving at KHL, she has embraced the Library's mission and expressed her excitement about joining our dedicated staff and getting to know our vibrant community.

As we reflect on this transition, we are filled with gratitude for Carolyn's remarkable legacy and optimism for the future under Heather's leadership. Together, they represent the continuity, resilience, and vision that continue to shape the Kellogg-Hubbard Library as an essential community resource.

Meet other **new staff and trustees** on this page and throughout this report.

Staff Achievements: Lifelong Learning in Action

Join us in congratulating Operations and Communications Coordinator, **Sarah Wisner** (top right), and Programs Librarian, **Nikki Whelley** (bottom right), for receiving Certificates of Public Librarianship this year! Administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries, this program provides library staff with foundational training in public librarianship, covering topics such as administration, collection development, cataloging, reference, technology, and more. Sarah and Nikki's achievement represents a significant investment of time, learning, and professional growth and strengthens the knowledge and skills they bring to their work every day.

NEW STAFF: Amy Young, Assistant Circulation Librarian

"I love staying busy and boy this place is hopping. I am happy to get such variety in my work week. I have worked with school-age children for about 30 years and it is exciting to continue working with kids, but it is also refreshing to have grown-up conversations about books."

CURRENTLY READING: *The Astral Library* by Kate Quinn

The Power of Partnership: Stronger Together

With the final pieces of our flood recovery now complete, the Library has been able to shift its energy to deepening the services we provide to our community and partnerships with other organizations are helping us do just that.

In our refreshed basement, our partnership with Elevate Youth Services has allowed the Basement Teen Center to grow into an even more vibrant space for teens to gather, create, and connect five days a week. During 2026, the Teen Center has averaged 233 visits from 42 teens each month—more than double the number of young people and nearly triple the visits of previous years. Teens can take part in creative workshops, use instruments and music equipment, play games, and connect with supportive staff and one another. A new mural, created in collaboration with SafeArt, was unveiled during June's Art Walk. As one teen shared, the Teen Center is "a way that I can keep friends as well as a support system when I'm needing help," a place where young people feel accepted and seen.

Also in the basement, our partnership with Good Beginnings of Central Vermont brings The Nest to the Library: a welcoming, baby-friendly space that supports prenatal and postpartum families with opportunities for connection, resources, and guidance.

Starting in May, the People's Health and Wellness Clinic began offering free a monthly clinic upstairs in the Hayes room, offering patient-centered support for individuals in need to help make healthcare and support more accessible.

These partnerships expand what is possible within our walls. By sharing our space and working alongside peer organizations, we can connect our community with services, resources, and opportunities that reach far beyond what any one organization could provide alone.

Small Meeting Rooms Make Big Impact

This year marked the first full year of availability of the Calais and Middlesex meeting rooms, offering new ways that our community can use the Library. Designed for small groups of up to six people, these flexible spaces provide a place for focused work, collaboration, and connection, complementing the Library's larger meeting spaces and welcoming public areas.

Throughout the year, community members have used the rooms for study groups, quiet remote work, and planning creative projects. They have also made it possible for community partners to bring new opportunities into the Library. Central Vermont Adult Education, in partnership with Central Vermont Refugee Action Network, uses a meeting room to provide English tutoring to some of our newest community members. While parents and caregivers work with tutors, their children receive supervision while enjoying the Children's Library or playing on our new play structure.

These small rooms demonstrate how a little dedicated space can make a big impact: creating room for learning, creativity, connection, and community support while making the Library an even more useful and welcoming resource for everyone.

"I love that it is **a really true partnership** between KHL, Central Vermont Refugee Action Network, and Central Vermont Adult Education. Without any one of the three groups, it wouldn't be possible!"

—Liza Earle-Centers, Teacher/ Community Coordinator, Central Vermont Adult Education

NEW STAFF: Curtis Leno, Custodian

"It's a really good vibe here. The architecture is amazing and everyone is so nice!"

CURRENTLY LISTENING TO: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

A More Vibrant Children's Library

Over the past year, the Children's Library has become an even more vibrant place to read, play, learn, create, and connect. New additions have expanded opportunities for children with a wide range of ages, abilities, interests, and sensory needs. A Montessori busy board, sensory floor tiles, Giant Lite-Brite, new seating, and a reading tree have created dynamic opportunities for both active exploration and quiet reading. The reading tree in particular has transformed a previously underused corner into a popular destination where children can choose books and settle in to read. New STEAM activity carts and a Lego table make hands-on learning more accessible and spontaneous, giving children greater independence to explore building, problem-solving, and creative activities.

A new water bottle refill station adds another practical and educational resource to the Children's Library. Families can easily refill reusable bottles without leaving the space, while children encounter a visible reminder of healthy, environmentally sustainable habits. The station's waste-reduction counter has already counted over 1,500 bottles saved from waste.

Outside, the new Little Rapids Playscape extends the Library's welcoming footprint onto the School Street Lawn. Designed, built, and installed in one semester by students in Norwich University's Design+Build Studio, led by local architect Tolya Stonorov, the play structure gives children a new place to play and learn during daytime hours, when other local playgrounds may be unavailable. New seating and picnic areas also create opportunities for caregivers and community members to relax and connect while children play. The project was made possible through support from the Norwich University Design+Build Studio, AARP, Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier, C. Michaud Landscape and Lawn Care, an anonymous donor, and many generous local businesses. Thanks to this community support, the playscape was completed without using Library or municipal funds.

Together, these improvements make the Children's Library and School Street Lawn places where children and families can discover, create, play, and grow together.

NEW TRUSTEE: Stacy Brown

"I have really enjoyed learning more about the wide variety of services and programs that the library offers, intentionally spending more time in the library and seeing how neighbors use and appreciate those services, diving into the policies that support a welcoming and responsive library, and meeting neighbors on the Board of Trustees and library staff that I hadn't connected with before."

CURRENTLY READING: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

NEW STAFF: Aven Williams, Youth Collection Development Librarian

"My favorite part of working at KHL is getting to connect with kids and families and bonding over the joy of reading."

CURRENTLY READING: *Shorelines* by Ruth Ennis

Your Library in Action

CIRCULATION

161,286
physical books, DVDs, CDs and magazines circulated

47,461
materials circulated **digitally**

1,870
streaming **video plays**

1,431
interlibrary items borrowed & 1,064 loaned

PROGRAMS

117
adult programs

2,071
total **adult program attendees**

564
children's library programs

9,746
total **children's program attendees**

With Heartfelt Thanks

In Honor of

Gifts made in honor of special people and milestones, celebrating them through lasting impact.

Bridget Asay
by Kelly McCracken & Mike Donofrio

Ena Backus
by Barbara & Allan Feldman

Chris and Andrew Becker
by Douglas & Margaret Susan Becker

Asher Burg & Julien Burns
by Elliot Burg & August Burns

Mark Dincecco
by Patricia & James Dincecco

Margo Dougherty
by Jackie & David Dougherty

Lucy Favorite
by Katherine & Thomas Favorite

Jacob Feldman
by Barbara & Allan Feldman

The Groberg Family
by Anonymous

Sarah Hofmann
by Jamie Libertoff & Mireya Ortiz

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Staff
by Anonymous, Mary Bronson, Colleen Beamish, Mary Hanrahan, Jessie Lynn & Ben Gabos, Paul Smith & Emily Seifert, Timothy Swartz

Chris Koliander and David Kissner
by Lynne Scammahorn

June Li and Jianguo Chen
by Ellen Ryan & Jim Sanders

Robert Lynch
by Anonymous

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by Susan Ritz & Ethan Atkin

Josephine McGuiggan
by John & Wendy McGuiggan

David Mullett and Martha Tucker
by Sarah Hofmann

Tai Nixa Peterson
by Julie & John Bond

Carolyn Picazio
by Rachel Senechal

Dianne Richardson
by Kathy Andrews, Carrie Youngblood

Rob and Amy Ryan
by Ellen Ryan & Jim Sanders

LaVerne Shelton
by E. Powell

Naia Slaughter
by Anya Farland

George Spaulding
by Thierry Guerlain & Julie Hendrickson , Allison & Don Hooper

In Memory of

Gifts made in memory of loved ones, honoring their legacy through the library's mission.

Hedi & Charlie Ballantyne
by Sarah & Tom Joslin

Constance Ann Brown
by Christopher Brown

Susan "Charlie" Catlin
by David Boswell, Amanda Prentice

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by Claire Gallagher

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by Kimberly Williams

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by Nona Estrin & Charles Johnson

Lucy Dog
by Ethan Hubbard

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Nathan Suter
by Beth Merrill & Josue Montalvan

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Lynne Walther
by Robert Lincoln

Dick Walton
by Kate Gavin

Carol and Charles Wiley
by Dana McCarthy

Andrew Wolfson
by Eric Groberg

Baron Wormser
by Roberta Harold & Wayne Fawbush

KHL Sustainers

With their monthly gifts, these donors provide a reliable foundation that serves our community every day.

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Susan Atwood
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Christie Binzen
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Legacy Donors

These visionary donors have included the library in their estate plans, ensuring a vibrant future for generations to come.

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Through gifts of goods and services, these donors help the library do more with every dollar.

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Bridget Asay
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Twin City Family Fun Center
Vermont Natural Coatings
Jean Vissering & Robert Klein
Susan Walter
Susan Wilson
Woodbury Mountain Toys

Your Library in Action

IN THE LIBRARY

147,701
visits to the library

1,018
new library card holders

894
community uses of **meeting rooms**

2,313
volunteer hours

OUTREACH

264
outreach visits to member towns

344
home delivery visits

NEW TRUSTEE: Michael Dougherty

"The ways people get information, especially digitally, are changing so much right now. I think that makes the library more important than ever in how it connects people with reliable, essential forms of information and culture, while still adapting to the technology needs of our community."

CURRENTLY READING: *The Freaks Came Out to Write* by Tricia Romano

Individual Donors

Each of these individuals has made a meaningful gift that brings ideas, learning, creativity, and connection to our community.

Neuane Adcox
Aaron Adler & Martha Judy
Alice & Charles Aimi
Glo & Bonnie Alexander
Elaine & Salvatore Alfano
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Thomas Allen & Stephanie Venema
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Katharine Burgess & Michael Pavey
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Mark Catlin
Lauren Chabot & Justin Kenney
Marthaleah Chaiken
Andrea & James Chandler
Cynthia Char & Peter Gilbert
Lily Charron
Susan Cheyenne
Nancy Chickering & Kristopher Hammer
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Janna Clar
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Actors Abby Paige and Mark S. Roberts with Nadine Budbill at the State House Farmer's Night reading of Judevine during PoemCity 2026

Puzzle Race winners, January 2026

Saturday Singalong with Jolynda and Nic, March 2026

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