



# Dakota County Library 2018 Annual Report



DAKOTA  
COUNTY  
LIBRARY

*Dakota*  
COUNTY



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COUNTY  
LIBRARY



## *Letter From the Director*

Dakota County Library cultivates community, creativity and learning. Our mission statement clearly directs our work and that can be seen in much of what we accomplished in 2018.

I'm particularly proud that Dakota County Library was one of only 20 organizations in the world chosen to be part of the Of, By, For All international cohort. It is helping us develop new ways to connect with and better understand the needs of our entire community. Librarians from around the world are sharing best practices, which will guide us as we develop new services for Dakota County residents.

If the Library truly wishes to be the community's place, everyone must feel welcome and comfortable in our locations. So, last year, working with community partners, we took a hard look at how accessible our spaces are for all members of our community, including those with autism spectrum disorder. This work is leading us to make all of our branches more welcoming to all.

Galaxie Library in Apple Valley closed for remodel early last year and reopened in September. This library has a bright new

look and feel with many options for people to enjoy the space while working, creating or learning. A calming space was added; it's a place to go and regroup for someone who may be experiencing sensory overload while visiting the Library. Two other library locations, Heritage in Lakeville and Pleasant Hill in Hastings, closed for remodeling in 2018 and will reopen in the summer of 2019.

Our summer reading and learning program, Summer Discovery, added an online component to offer kids another way to continue learning over the summer. We also expanded the Library's non-traditional kits. Our 2GO kits offer the chance to try out fitness equipment, virtual reality, knitting, drawing comics and much more. One kit is designed to assist caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and dementia. We continue to look for new opportunities to offer people a variety of ways to learn and create.

In 2018, you may have noticed a new logo for the Library. It is just one small part of a rebranding effort that better reflects the wide array of services the Library offers. The new brand invites you to take another look at Dakota County Library and explore the possibilities.

*Margaret Stone*

Dakota County Library Director

# Community Participation



**3,625,613**  
digital & physical items  
checked out



**1,528,791**  
in-person  
library visits



**2,390,998**  
virtual visits to the  
catalog & website



**153,417**  
active borrowers within  
the past 2 years



**202,439**  
uses of online  
research tools



**5,458**  
meeting room  
reservations



**62,185**  
attendance at  
public meetings



**408,869**  
hours of library  
WiFi used



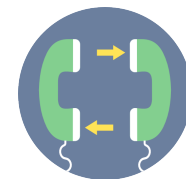
**182,758**  
hours spent on  
library computers



**4,407**  
iLAB reservations



**67,788** attendees at  
**2,563** programs



**85,085**  
library reference  
questions answered



**302,094** individuals at  
**383** outreach events



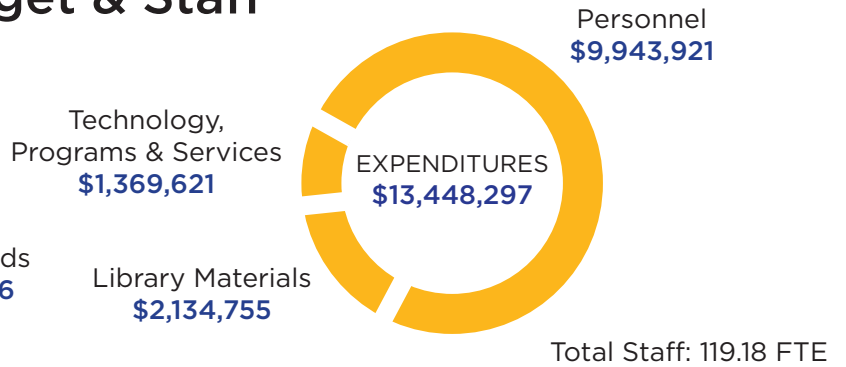
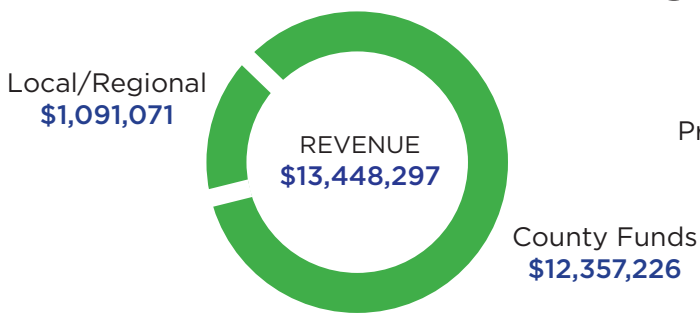
**5,822**  
volunteer hours



**12,957**  
youth registered for the  
Summer Discovery program

# 2018 Year In Review

## Budget & Staff



### Remodeled Galaxie Library Opens

The Galaxie Library reopened in September with nearly 600 customers attending the open house celebration. The remodeled library includes:

- State-of-the-art technology to imagine, design, and create a variety of projects in the iLAB.
- Interactive children's play space with a LiteBrite wall, magnet wall, and mural.
- Calming space for individuals with sensory needs.
- Viewing window with a behind-the-scenes look at library materials as they're returned.
- Study spaces to read, work, and meet.

### Summer Meals Program

50% of youth in the school attendance area near the Wentworth Library are eligible for free and reduced meals during the school year. In partnership with Youthprise and the Minnesota Department of Education, the Wentworth Library hosted a Summer Meals Program that provided free food to youth and adults with disabilities. 689 people attended 32 meal sessions.



773 Meals  
Served



To 724  
children

### 2GO! Kits

2GO! kits allow customers to try a new activity outside the library. Customers can try out a new workout with our Fitness Kits, explore outdoors with our Nature Backpacks and try out a variety of maker and STEM Activities with our iLAB 2GO! kits. Our visit kits can help create a more meaningful visit with your loved ones who are experiencing memory loss. 607 2GO! Kits were checked out in 2018.



360% increase in  
Visit Kit circulation



### New Library App

Dakota County Library launched a new mobile app which allows customers to check their accounts, search the catalog, place requests, and get immediate information and directions to Library locations. The app has a link to the Library's digital collections, allowing for immediate downloads to a digital device. Customers can also use the app to scan their digital barcode at self-checkout stations.

### World Language Collection Expands

The Library's World Language collection was enhanced to include more availability of materials in Spanish, Somali, Russian and Vietnamese languages, and to make these items easier to find in the catalog. World Language materials circulated 13,534 times in 2018.

# 2018 Year In Review

## Accessible Library Services

With support from Dakota County's Innovation Grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Department, the Library developed more inclusive environments and online spaces for those with disabilities.

- The Calming Space at the Galaxie Library is specially designed for individuals who need a comforting space to regulate while at the Library, especially those with autism spectrum disorder or sensory processing differences. The space is equipped with comfortable seating, sensory supports and manipulatives.
- Sensory-Friendly Early Open programs welcome individuals with disabilities and their families to the Library in a calm, open-minded environment.
- 200 Dakota County Library staff completed over 250 hours of accessibility-related training.
- Farmington Library's ASL (American Sign Language) Celebration series welcomed over 200 people, who learned about communication abilities and Deaf Culture.



250 Hours of Staff Training



New Calming Space Area



200 ASL Celebration Attendees

## Homeless Referral Hours at the Wentworth Library

As many as 100 people received support and assistance during weekly homeless services drop-in sessions at the Wentworth Library. In collaboration with community partners, Ally, Guild Incorporated, and People Incorporated, those in need were provided with housing options, chemical dependency and mental health referrals, nutrition and wellness support, and general information about a variety of assistance programs.

## Community Involvement

Dakota County Library was accepted into the OF/BY/FOR All First Wave, a worldwide cohort of 20 museums, libraries and nonprofits, working to create a global movement to help organizations build strong community relationships. Led by the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, widely respected for using community involvement to increase participation and support, Library staff received expert coaching and learned about tools and methods to co-create programs and become of, by and for Dakota County communities.



## Most Checked Out Books

### YOUTH

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* by Jeff Kinney
2. *Dog Man and Cat Kid* by Dav Pilkey
3. *Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas* by Dav Pilkey
4. *Big Nate: Silent But Deadly* by Lincoln Peirce
5. *Dork Diaries 13: Tales from a Not-So-Happy Birthday* by Rachel Russell

### ADULTS

1. *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah
2. *Desolation Mountain* by William Kent Krueger
3. *The President is Missing* by James Patterson and Bill Clinton
4. *The Fallen* by David Baldacci
5. *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult



# Hours and Locations

**Burnhaven Library**  
1101 W. Co. Road 42  
Burnsville  
952-891-0300  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun 1-5 pm

**Farmington Library**  
508 Third St.  
Farmington  
651-438-0250  
M-W noon-8 pm  
Th-Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun Closed

**Galaxie Library**  
14955 Galaxie Ave.  
Apple Valley  
952-891-7045  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun 1-5 pm

**Heritage Library**  
20085 Heritage Drive  
Lakeville  
952-891-0360  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun 1-5 pm

**Inver Glen Library**  
8098 Blaine Ave.  
Inver Grove Heights  
651-554-6840  
M-W noon-8 pm  
Th-Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun Closed

**Pleasant Hill Library**  
1490 S. Frontage Road  
Hastings  
651-438-0200  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun Summer Closed  
Sun Winter 1-5 pm

**Robert Trail Library**  
14395 S. Robert Trail  
Rosemount  
651-480-1200  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun 1-5 pm

**Wentworth Library**  
199 E. Wentworth Ave.  
West St. Paul  
651-554-6800  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun 1-5 pm

**Wescott Library**  
1340 Wescott Road  
Eagan  
651-450-2900  
M-Th 9 am-8 pm  
F, Sat 9 am-5 pm  
Sun 1-5 pm

**South St. Paul Library  
(Associate Library)**  
106 Third Ave. N.  
South St. Paul  
651-554-3240  
M, Th 9 am-8 pm  
T, W, F 9 am-6 pm  
Sat (Summer) Closed  
Sat (Winter) 10 am-4 pm  
Sun Closed

*Explore the possibilities*

