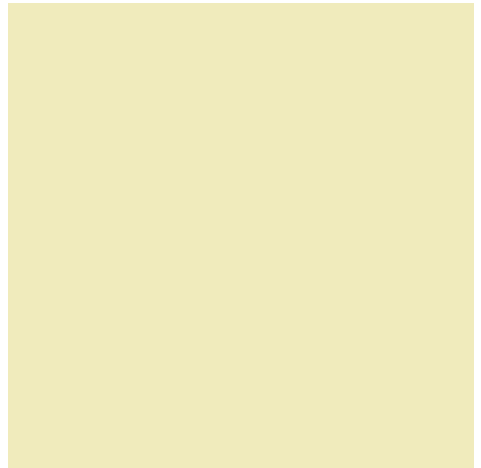
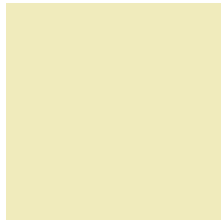


2018 Annual Report





Just a few of the Library programs Library Legacy Foundation funds:



Ready to Read

Building great learners starts with reading

“Too early” has no place in the formula when it comes to gauging the right time to begin nurturing children’s interest in reading. The Ready to Read program stresses how critical the years before kindergarten are for the development of children’s reading ability, and how the language and word skills a child is exposed to during that time period will play a significant role in how successful that child will be in school, and in life. The program promotes five activities that parents can do with their children to greatly improve their success: talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

Talk | Sing | Read | Write | Play

Ready to Read encourages parents and childcare providers to frequently talk with children in order to help them learn new words and to stimulate brain development. Singing improves a child’s capability to understand sounds within words, while reading together helps children become skilled readers. Parents are also urged to write out words to give children an understanding of letters and how they form sounds. Time for play is likewise important, as this is one of the main ways that children learn about the world.

Since its inception in April 2014, the Ready to Read program has provided more than 4,000 parents and childcare providers with free kits and training. In 2017, the program reached more than 6,000 parents and children. 600 families received in-depth training and a free preschool or kindergarten resource kit while another 800 received tools and tips such as the Busy Book and Kindergarten Skill Rings.

Planting the Seed to Read

Statistics show that when they enter kindergarten, nearly two-thirds of area students do not have the fundamental skills needed to learn how to read and write. With \$2 million in support from donors, the Library’s “Planting a Seed to Read” campaign was developed to address this deficiency. It is part of the Library’s overall Early Literacy Campaign which has the ambitious goal of improving the essential literacy skills of every child in the community.

“We know that in Lucas County, a lot of children are not arriving at school ready to learn and read, and that’s a big concern,” said Nancy Eames, youth services coordinator at the Library.

“One of the ways we address that is to show parents how to teach their children so those children are ready to read when they start school. Most kids won’t start reading until they are five or six, but they need a good foundation in place well before that age.”

She added that with locations in every corner of the community, the Library is able to offer support to families and get children started on building a foundation in reading.

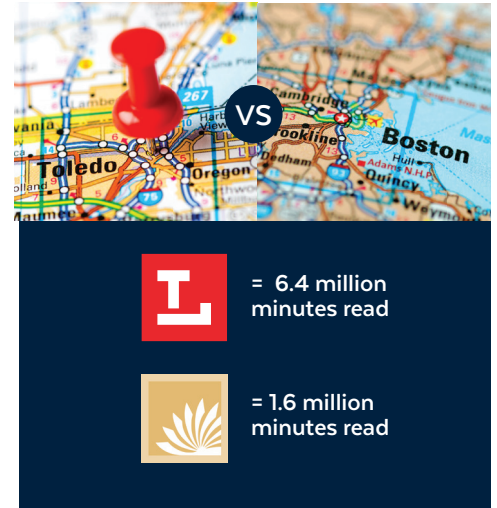
“Parents are children’s first teachers, so their role is very important,” Eames said. “We want them talking to their children, which helps build vocabulary. Engaging in conversations that expand their world knowledge is also very valuable. Children can gain a lot when parents sing to them, since singing slows down the words and lets the child hear the syllables.”



Homework Helper

The Library Legacy Foundation funds the Library’s Homework Helper program. During the school year, personalized assistance is provided at 13 Library locations on two - three afternoons per week. Children don’t need to register, they just visit the friendly,

professional staff who are hired for their ability to teach and inspire children in our community. Thanks for your support of this vital program!



Summer Reading Challenge

Our Customers rocked the Summer Reading Challenge!

With generous support from the Library Legacy Foundation, the Library’s Summer Reading Challenge works to prevent “summer slump” for students in our community. There is an increasing body of research that indicates that months-long summer breaks lead to a “summer slump,” where students forget some of what they learned over the previous school year. One study found students can lose up to two grade levels of reading skills due to summer reading loss by the time they reach sixth grade. With accessible challenges, strong community partnerships and engaging programs, the Library’s Summer Reading Challenge takes a proactive role in making sure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

For more information about the Library Legacy Foundation, contact:

Kathy Selking, Manager of Library Development

419.259.5123

kathy.selking@toledolibrary.org
toledolibrary.org/LLF

"The Library Legacy Foundation (the Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, which is a supporting organization for the Toledo Lucas County Library System. The Foundation's job is to provide funds to assist the Library in carrying out its mission. Fortunately, the Library's constituency is very supportive of the Library which is one of America's most popular and heavily used library systems. For this we can thank the Library administration and its dedicated staff. The Foundation, through its Board of Directors, works to make sure that the Library can ably carry out its duties for the benefit of our community. The Foundation Board consists of volunteers, using their personal time for the benefit of the Library and the greater Toledo Community. All who read this should consider being a donor to the Foundation or a volunteer in its many supportive activities. See you at the Library!" - *Frank Jacobs, Board President*

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Buehrer Group
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Friends of The Library
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HBM Architects
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