



# Our Story

## Year in Review

## 2023-2024

There is a lot to report as this past year has been filled with new and exciting additions to the Library.

If you've been in the Library over the past year, you may have noticed some changes in the building. We installed a "Welcome" sign behind the Patron Services Desk in 27 different languages. Just across the Patron Services Desk, we now have a smartShelf where patrons can return Library materials and have them removed from their account in real-time. We also acquired a 3D printer for patrons to print all sorts of items from fun to functional; you can see what's printing now near the Patron Services Desk. Our collection of materials has expanded as well, with new items added to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. This includes a Beyond Books collection which consists of various tools, technology, and games; an Essential Films collection comprised of staff-selected classics; Adult Book Boxes, which have a new theme with every release; and new databases/resources including LinkedIn Learning, Scholastic Teachables, and more.



On the programming front, we offered hundreds of programs for patrons of all ages and saw thousands in attendance. Some of our most popular and well-attended events included Mini Golf in the Library, Petting Zoo, Caramel Apple Decorating, and the Summer Reading Kickoff, to name a few. If you missed any of these, don't worry - we have plenty of exciting programs to look forward to in the future, so check out our event calendar and keep an eye out for our bimonthly newsletter.



Outside of the Library building, we've made additional strides in our efforts to be more present in the community. You may have seen the Library at the Hills Farmer's Market, where staff provided information about our services, and most recently, started offering Library card registration. To support our endeavors with local business partnerships, you'll find pop-up movie libraries at Strange Brew Cafe in Palos Hills and Vito & Nicks II in Hickory Hills, in what we call a "Little Free Blockbuster." Included are film favorites, both new and old, that have been withdrawn from the Library collection so there's no Library card needed.

I can't forget to mention some other noteworthy occasions throughout the year. We held our very first School Supply Drive in partnership with the Hills Chamber of Commerce, resulting in 50 backpacks complete with classroom supplies being handed out to students. Fast forward to the spring in April 2024, we celebrated National Library Week. Our creative staff came up with some neat ideas to engage with visitors this week, resulting in patrons sharing why they love the Library and what they are currently reading. And as we neared the end of our fiscal year in June, we dubbed June 18 as Patron Appreciation Day to celebrate the support our wonderful community has given us year in and year out. We celebrated with treats all day long to show our appreciation.



At the time of this publication, we are finalizing our next Strategic Plan, set to begin in 2025. We have spent much of the year listening to the needs and interests of the community, staff, and Board of Trustees to inform and guide the process. We are now identifying our goals and priorities for the coming years, so stay tuned for further updates.



Jane Jenkins

Jane Jenkins, Library Director

Finally, I thank our community, staff, and Board of Trustees for their ongoing support.

We hope to see you soon!

# Green Hills Public Library District By the Numbers 2023-2024



231,665

Total  
Collection

65,006

Total Physical  
Collection

99,237

Patron  
Visits

12,000

Program  
Participation

15,140

Library  
Cardholders

6,610

Reference  
Transactions

252,216

Computer &  
Internet  
Sessions

15,365

Database  
Usage



What Our  
Community is  
Saying About  
GHPLD:

"Disability  
friendly &  
inclusive"

**"THIS PLACE IS A  
BOREDOM BUSTER!"**

*"Staff are very  
polite! ❤️"*

*"...everyone is  
so kind and  
welcoming"*

**"IT'S A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FILLED  
WITH RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES!!"**

**"Green Hills is the best  
library! Great Staff and  
collection :)"**

**"THEY ARE SO  
KIND!! ❤️"**

**"It's super cool 😊"**