

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Building Community Beyond the Numbers



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This has been a wonderful year of growth for the Library. I have now completed an exciting full first year in Highwood after coming on board in February 2019. During this past year, I enjoyed meeting the community, launching new partnerships, collaborating with local organizations and businesses, trying out all the delicious restaurants in town, and learning what makes this city great.

Of any institution, libraries are our best hope for full community inclusivity. They allow everyone, men, women, and children, regardless of ethnicity, income, language, gender, or age, to have access to the wide world of knowledge in a “judgement-free” zone.

Highwood is a diverse community with unique needs, based on multiculturalism and the prevalence of trade skill jobs, such as our thriving culinary scene. And the library has become an asset to our diverse community and their successful futures by offering free and inclusive literacy programs, learning resources, and fun.

In this past year, we have seen many success stories come out of our programs and services. This year, we have 26 students in our GED class, and five are only one test away from obtaining their GED. We also have many students working towards becoming naturalized United States citizens, and in February, one student passed the test to become a U.S. citizen and was excited to vote for the very first time in the primaries. We also launched a successful 2020 Census campaign, in partnership with the City of Highwood, RAILS, and IDHS, to communicate the importance of the Census for our community, especially the hard-to-count population.

The Library’s team is committed to exploring new worlds through our collections and programs. My top priority is to maintain the outstanding library services the community has grown to expect, while offering even more impactful programming and resources that improve and transform lives. We hope to continue being a trusted third place where everyone can feel comfortable to exchange ideas, enjoy free time, and build relationships.

This year has demonstrated the impact that the Highwood Public Library has on the community it serves. We will continue to be here for you, as we have been for over 40 years, as always, ready to adapt to your needs, your wants, and your futures.

Carmen Patlan
Executive Director



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lucy Hospodarsky - President
Laurie Lenzini - Vice-President
Nora Loreda - Treasurer
Catherine Regalado - Secretary

Bertha Chavez
Barbara Cizek
Janell Cleland
Diana Joren
Patricia Lenzini

Carmen Patlan—Executive Director

1 EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Early childhood learning is the basic building block of success in life. The Highwood Public Library boosts early learning and strengthens K-12 school learning by empowering parents and caregivers as their children's first teachers and helping young children develop the skills they need to advance cognitive development.

Important activities like letter and number recognition, color identification, sequencing, and sight words are a focus in library programs that highlight imaginative play, gross and fine motor skills, and technology.

3,163
CHILDREN
ATTENDED
PROGRAMS

Storytimes
Craftimes
Coding 4 Kids
Homework Help
Halloween Fest
Día del Niño
Girls Step2It
Money Smart Classes
Zumbini
Music For Life

Summer Book Club
Summer Reading Program
Halloween Trick or Treat
K9 Reading Program
Mad Hatters Interactive Reading
Spring & Winter Programs
Sugar Skull Decorating
Easter Egg Decorating
Grupo Folklorics

2 YOUNG ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Young adults need and deserve services and programs tailored to address their unique educational, informational, cultural, and leisure time needs.

Teens are living in an environment filled with mobile technology. They can find and download music, movies, and personal or academic reading materials from anywhere, not just at the library. Yet many teens do not have the skills or access to use the technology available to them.

At the Highwood Public Library, young adults can grow in a caring, nurturing, and respectful environment; develop new ways of learning and expression; and use the library's resources to study, read, write, socialize, and gain the confidence and skills to be successful in school and work.

863
YOUNG ADULTS
ATTENDED
PROGRAMS

Robotics Club
Homework Help
SAT/ACT Practice Testing
Comic & Art Club
Manga & Anime Club

Summer Reading Program
Board Game Nights
Youth/Tween Advisory
Learning Partners
TikTok Club



3 ADULT LEARNING CENTER

For adults, the Highwood Public Library is a place where the community comes together in a meaningful way. Where ideas are exchanged, relationships are built, and learning is accessible.

Librarians not only lend books, they also assist in navigating the healthcare system, help with housing and employment needs, and more. Individual and group tutoring is available to match all skill levels while daytime and evening classes adapt to adult schedules. Adults visit the library for reading materials, free programs, print and digital resources, access to technology, literacy help, and fun.

**3,606
ADULTS
ATTENDED
PROGRAMS**

Book Club
Computer Classes
Spanish GED Classes
Current Events
Sherlock Holmes Club
Zumba
Yoga
Baby & Me

Spanish Literacy/Leamos
Citizenship Classes
Arts and Crafts
Cradles to Crayons
Conversation ESL
Prenatal Program for Expectant Parents
Legal Aid Presentations

HIGHWOOD BY THE NUMBERS



8,896



UP 4%

Physical Material Checkouts

UP 21%



31,547

Library Visits



7,632



UP 86%

Adult and Children Program Attendees

UP 8%



3,470

Active Library Cards



3,746



UP 47%

Computer Uses

UP 245%



297

Meeting Room Uses



194,153 Computer Hours

641 Digital Checkouts



\$119,400
IN GRANTS
AWARDED TO
THE LIBRARY

Thanks to our community partners, grant funding allows the Library to create and increase much needed programming:

Anonymous
First Bank of Highland Park
Grainger

Gorter Family Foundation
Highland Park Community Foundation
Per Capita
RAILS

\$97,000
IN GRANTS
AWARDED TO
THE FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY

Thanks to our community partners, grant funding through the Friends of the Library is raised for future construction, renovation, and programming:

Abbott
Chicago Community Trust
Eddie Goldman

Andy and Cindy Hamilton
Schreiber Family Foundation
Steans Family Foundation
And many generous individual donors

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

For the first time in the Library's history, a 501(c)(3) status was successfully implemented to create a fundraising arm of the Library via the Friends of the Highwood Public Library group.

Within this past first year, the Friends recruited eight board members and finalized their mission statement and logo. They set up Quickbooks to track financial information, Little Green Light to track donor information, Google documents for internal communication, and Facebook and LinkedIn pages to spread awareness.

Currently, the Friends group has raised over \$97,000 for the Highwood Public Library. This money was raised via memberships, individual donors, grants, and book sales. Using mostly personal contacts in their fundraising efforts, they also hosted a two-day book sale and have permanent books for sale in the Library and at Beermiscuous, a local beer cafe.

Looking ahead to the next year, the Friends will be transitioning into the next phase of their fundraising strategy, which includes finalizing their website, their fundraising literature, and purchasing marketing material. They will be working on a general mailing to all Highwood residents, business/corporation sponsorships, and the Highwood Public Library's capital campaign.



MISSION

- Support the Highwood Public Library
- Focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs
- Promote the welfare and growth of the Library
- Receive and encourage gifts and bequests to the Library





Thanks to you, the Highwood Public Library has made great advances in providing educational support, information needs, engaging services, and inspiring collections. Together we will continue to enrich, empower, and make a difference in the Highwood community. Thank you for your support.

