



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION

# Impact Report

## AHML Foundation Founded in 2018

Total spent since inception:  
**\$243,576.95**

The Arlington Heights Memorial Library serves  
**77,676 residents.**

### A Letter from the Founder and Chair

*As I begin another year leading the Board of Directors for the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation, I felt it was important to pause and thank you, our loyal supporters, for everything you've done to support the library, the Makerplace, and the Foundation over the last three years.*

You've donated a tremendous amount of your time, money, and resources — all of which have been poured back into this incredible community. You've helped us create Arlington Heights Makerplace — a communal area where makers can grow and learn together. Your support has been instrumental in helping make necessary upgrades and improvements to one of the best libraries in the state, ensuring the library is a safe and educational space for everyone. And you've helped launch a new scholarship fund, providing funds for young people interested in the trades. An education that could fuel a successful career in our community. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you!

As most of you know, the Foundation provides resources and advocacy to strengthen and sustain the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Our focus areas include youth and family, senior services, our scholarships for the trades,

and, of course, the Makerplace. Over the last three years, you've helped the Foundation raise nearly a quarter of a million dollars, which has gone toward improving our community spaces and programs without the need to raise our taxes. In case you didn't know, these supplemental funds that the Foundation provides increase access and expand learning opportunities for more residents while keeping taxes stable. Over the past 13 years, the library has requested a 0% levy (increase in taxes), with only one (1%) slight increase in 2018.

Thanks to you, we can improve our community resources without burdening those who can't afford it. I am so grateful that you're making Arlington Heights a better place to live and learn.

Though I do not have enough space to tell you about every project we've worked on in the past three years, I would like to share a few stories in the coming pages. I hope they leave you feeling uplifted and inspired by the impact you've had on our community.

*Thanks to your support, we raised funds to equip Makerplace with the necessary tools and equipment.*



Now that Makerplace is complete, we look to future projects to expand learning opportunities, increase library access and promote engagement in our community. Thank you for your crucial role in helping us achieve this success.

*Thank you,*



**Lauree Harp**  
Founder and Chair

Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation

# Coming in 2024

Visit our website after the first of the year to see what we will be offering in 2024  
[www.ahmlfoundation.org](http://www.ahmlfoundation.org)

Empowered Women  
A unique event to celebrate National Women's Day

March 8th

Date night; Just the 2 of us.  
Enjoy cooking dinner with your special someone.

January 19



500 N. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-5910  
[info@ahmlfoundation.org](mailto:info@ahmlfoundation.org)  
[ahmlfoundation.org](http://ahmlfoundation.org)



500 N. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-5910



## Enhancing learning opportunities for children

Children are our future, and the library has a long history of nurturing the citizens of tomorrow. Over the last three years, the Foundation has supported several library projects to make Kids' World a more inclusive and educational space. This fall, we are adding a baby garden and custom play stand to Kids' World, providing a safe space for infants and early walkers to learn and explore with their caretakers. We are also adding a maker cart for 5- 9-year-olds and a maker table for tweens to encourage creative play. Perhaps most exciting is the forthcoming addition of an interactive Everbright wall. This modern reimagining of the beloved Lite Brite classic is a larger-than-life light display that offers inclusive and accessible play opportunities for people of all abilities. The Everbright wall will be installed later this fall and will be a must-do library attraction for families for years to come.



## Improving Access for All Residents

Did you know that Arlington Heights covers 16 square miles and is over 7 miles long? For residents on the far north and south sides, getting to the library to pick up a book can be time-consuming and difficult. This is especially true post-Covid, when some residents want to limit personal interactions. Thanks to community support, the Foundation is helping to fund a pilot program for automated pickup lockers. These lockers would provide residents 24/7 access to the items residents have selected to place on hold for pickup any time, day or night, without having to come into the library building. A gift from Gallagher Insurance generously funds the new pick-up lockers, while the foundation will cover part of the cost of the protective enclosure.



The initial pilot will last 3-6 months, with lockers located just outside the library to allow staff to work out logistics. Assuming the pilot is successful, a locker unit will be installed on the north and south sides of Arlington Heights. Exact locations will be determined in partnership with the Arlington Heights Park District and will utilize existing community park buildings.

### Board of Directors

Mimi Cooper  
Chris Darrow  
JoAnne Gunderson  
Lauree Harp  
John Hartnett  
Sharon Johlie  
Frank Lee  
Gary McClung  
Carolyn Nopar  
Renee Schwingbeck

### Advisory Team

Jim Bristol  
Chris Dungan  
John Glueckert Jr.  
Danielle Kuhn  
Michael Mulder  
Sajid Patel  
Michael Sidor

## Our mission:

*The Foundation is organized under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code to raise money and community awareness in support of the library's services and programs. The Foundation pursues financing and in-kind services to supplement the library so additional avenues of learning can be achieved.*

## Makerplace Memories

So far, much of our resources have gone toward the launch of the Makerplace. Thanks to donors like you, the Foundation was able to fund nearly 20% of this 1.4 million dollar project. We hope you're enjoying the space you helped build, like some of our star makers.

*"I'm a big fan of Makerplace in Arlington Heights... I've created cute, customized wedding gifts that are very affordable for anyone wanting to customize something without going to Etsy."*  
- Janet Meinheit

*"The Makerplace gives a younger generation a chance to try different things, and the community ownership really brings people together. It's a great source of referrals and friendships for hobbyists and business owners alike."*  
- Katy Dickman

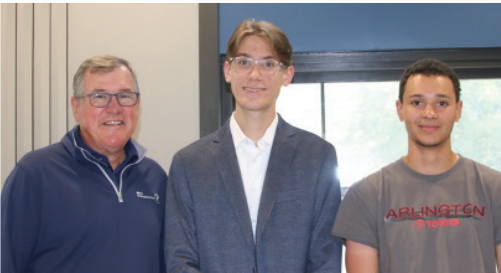
*"The Makerplace will be a great resource for community members looking to try their hand at new mediums."*  
- Char Padovani

## The Foundation makes secondary education more accessible.

To encourage more young people to turn their passion for making into a career, the Foundation offered two \$2,500 scholarships this year to Arlington Heights makers. Anthony Corsentino and Jake Nikolai, both 2023 John Hersey High School graduates, received the 2023 scholarships. These scholarships were open to District 214 High School Graduates and residents 17 to 25 years of age who are interested in pursuing a career in the skilled trades that require advanced training other than a four-year bachelor's degree, such as plumbing, carpentry, electrical, HVAC, machining, or welding.

Trade school provides opportunities to prepare for rewarding careers without the significant cost of a four-year degree. Graduates of trade school are able to start earning sooner. And without the debt of a four-year education, they can funnel their earnings back into the community. Given the high number of District 214 students who come back to Arlington Heights to settle down, these scholarships are an investment in the future of our village.

scholarship this coming year. We will begin accepting applications for the 2024 scholarship on January 1st of next



Thanks to the support of donors like you and the friends and family of the late Arlington Heights resident and maker Jeffrey P. Moroney, we have raised enough funds to continue offering the

year, helping even more area residents become contributing members of our communities. Go to our website at [ahmlfoundation.org](http://ahmlfoundation.org) for more details on how to apply.

## Giving back got fun

Though the Foundation has worked hard over the last three years, we've also had some fun. We hosted several community events to raise funds, introduce residents to the library and Makerplace, and boost community engagement. From our Makerplace grand opening to our Spring into Salads and batch cooking classes to our seven-course Chef's dinner event that raised \$20,000 for our scholarship program, we've enjoyed spending time with our friends, donors, and neighbors.

