



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION

2026 IMPACT REPORT

FOUNDING BOARD CHAIR – IMPACT 2019 - 2026



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you so much for your incredible support of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation (AHMLF). You are truly the heart and soul of our work, and I've been deeply honored to serve as Board Chair for the past eight years.

The AHMLF began with a simple idea: to create a fund dedicated solely to ensuring the Arlington Heights Memorial Library (AHML) remains among the state's best libraries.

Over the past eight years, we've raised a total of **\$603,214** through donations and events. With these funds, we've expanded access to library services for all Arlington Heights residents and secured high-quality educational materials for all ages.

Since 2019, we raised funds for the commercial grade kitchen, sewing and art areas of the Makerplace. We've helped procure a new Bookmobile and secured lockers at Camelot and Heritage Parks to better serve residents on the north and south sides.

We've established a scholarship fund for D214 graduates pursuing careers in the trades and upgraded technology to better serve seniors. Additionally, we've fostered creativity and learning for all ages by helping outfit the Makerplace kitchen, as well as adding updated 3D printers to the Fabrication room. We improved Kids World with Everbright and set up a Maker Table for tweens.

The best part? Foundation-raised funds supplement library purchases, helping us minimize tax increases and improve resources without burdening those who can't afford them. Your continued support makes all of this possible, and we're excited for what's next!

It's been an amazing and rewarding eight years with the AHML Foundation, but to keep our mission vibrant and full of fresh energy, it's time for new leadership. I've been thinking about a succession plan for some time, and I will be leaving you in excellent hands. Once elected, in December, the Board will be delighted to introduce you to your new Board Chairman.

It has been an honor to serve as the Founding Board Chair, and I am so proud of what we have accomplished. In the following pages, you will see the impact of your support on our community this year and the return on your investment.

Thank you again for all your support!
Lauree Harp
Founder and Chair

NEW BOOKMOBILE ROLLS INTO TOWN

The Arlington Heights Memorial Library unveiled the new bookmobile this August, a milestone made possible by the generosity of foundation donors.

Together, donors contributed over **\$160,000** to fund the vehicle, ensuring library services continue to reach residents all over Arlington Heights for years to come.

The new vehicle replaces the 16-year-old bookmobile, which has become costly to maintain. The bookmobile is a lifeline for many seniors, people with disabilities, and residents without reliable transportation. Over the past five years, the bookmobile has served more than 100,000 visitors. Every gift made a significant impact, from spare change at the farmers markets to gifts of \$5,000 and more.

Special thanks to our major donors:

- Tom and Renee Schwingbeck
- Myrla and Thomas Brand
- The Davis Family
- Glueckert Funeral Home Ltd
- The Chicago Bears
- Village Bank and Trust
- John Fetcho
- Anisha Jogee and Sajid Patel
- Sheila Osgood



COURTESY OF TECHOPS SPECIALTY VEHICLES



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Our mission:

The Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation provides the Library with supplemental resources to promote lifelong learning opportunities.

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This is the fourth year the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation has had the honor of awarding four \$2,500 scholarships for education in the skilled trades.

Two scholarships were awarded from the Foundation and another one of our scholarships was awarded by the Moroney family, in honor of their late son, Jeffrey, who was a maker and a craftsman. A fourth scholarship was made possible by the Hartnett family, whose commitment to the skilled trades was cultivated throughout John's long career at Illinois Tool Works.

The 2026 winners include four graduates across District 214 schools. **Nikola Van De Mark**, winner of the Jeffrey P. Moroney Scholarship, is a student at John Hersey High School with plans to study aviation maintenance. **German Ramirez**, winner of the Hartnett Family Scholarship, is a Buffalo Grove High School senior who will continue his automotive technology education at Triton College this Fall. **Eric Cisneros** is a student at Elk Grove High School who will use the scholarship to continue his culinary training at Kendall College. **Savannah Manuel**, a Prospect High School student, is preparing to launch a career as an esthetician through Tricoci Beauty University.

"We're continuously impressed by the makers in our community, many of whom take advantage of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Makerplace. We're honored to encourage these young adults who are pursuing a career in the trades and appreciate the donations toward our scholarship fund," said Lauree Harp.

UPLIFTING WOMEN'S VOICES AT ANNUAL EVENT

In March, the AHML Foundation hosted its annual International Women's Day event, bringing together community members for an evening of storytelling, inspiration, and connection.

Led by keynote speaker Jenette Jurczyk of The She Said Project, attendees explored the power of sharing their stories and building meaningful connections with one another.

Jenette led an interactive experience designed to help attendees strengthen their communication toolbox and reflect on the power of storytelling. The event highlighted personal stories, while supporting the library Foundation.

Proceeds and participation help sustain the work of the Foundation, including programs that deepen engagement and expand access to library services.



Total spent since the AHML Foundation's inception:

\$603,214.15



100-YEAR CELEBRATION: PRESERVING THE PAST

As part of the library's 100th anniversary celebration, donor support helped bring two centennial projects together to commemorate the past and celebrate the future. The library put together a community time capsule and a book chronicling the history of the library.

Both of these initiatives invite residents to share their story and reflections, while creating lasting records of the library's impact on the Arlington Heights community.

Thanks to our donors, these legacy projects will preserve the history of the library and create meaningful pieces that extend beyond the celebration itself.

TOTAL 2026 AHML FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Cricut Machines	\$950
Bookmobile (2 nd Deposit)	\$50,000
Bookmobile (Final Deposit)	\$60,000
Lockers - Camelot & Heritage	\$1,315
Scholarship (2023, 2024, 2025)	\$22,862
Scholarship (2026)	\$11,000
Kids World Maker Table Supplies	\$127
Locker Branding Update	\$1,000
Time Capsule	\$2,825
Interactive Element for the Hub	\$15,000
Art Table Replacement	\$10,000
100 year celebration history Book	\$8,000

Total Foundation Donations \$183,079

UPGRADING THE MAKERPLACE

Since the Makerplace first opened its doors in 2021, its original tables have supported countless hours of creativity from painting and drawing to sewing and other hands-on art projects. After years of steady use, those tables were showing their wear.

This year, thanks to community support, we were able to replace them with tables built to handle the demands of a busy creative space.

This upgrade allows versatility and more reliable surfaces for makers of all ages to work, create, and explore. It's a small change with a big impact, ensuring the Makerplace continues to be a welcoming space for hands-on learning and artistic expression for years to come.

While the original tables had reached the end of their life at the Makerplace, they still had plenty of life left. Rather than sending them to a landfill, we donated them to a nonprofit organization in Wisconsin that provides programming and support for adults with mild to severe disabilities.

There, the tables are starting a new chapter, supporting activities, creativity, and connection for a community that will put them to good use.

This year, we also invested in new Cricut machines at the Makerplace. These replaced older models and provide improved precision, speed and compatibility for the makers in our community.

EXPANDING ACTIVITIES IN KID'S WORLD

A generous donation brought five new activities to Kids World for children to enjoy this year.

The items are:

- Kodo Kids Spectrum Light Table
- Light Lab Drawing Board
- Flight Lab
- LEGO Education: SPIKE Essential Set
- Rigamijig (Basic Builder Workshop and materials).

These interactive learning items allow children to discover and play. Housed in Kids World, the five newest items appear on a rotating basis due to the hands-on adult assistance needed. However, no library card is required to use them, so whether you are visiting us from across the street, a neighboring town, or across an ocean, these engaging opportunities are accessible to every child and child at heart.

All items are thanks to the Moroney family's impact and investment in the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Over the years, the Moroneys have invested in the library and Kids World specifically by providing funding for various items across the Library.



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