

FY 2022
ANNUAL
REPORT



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

When you visit a prosperous, vibrant community, more often than not you will find a healthy, people-oriented library system. I strongly believe that to be the case for our community with the Dothan Houston County Library System (DHCLS), an incredible resource that is not only relevant but essential in today's world.

A great library system helps a community in many ways, but one that may appear less obvious is economic development. When people and businesses consider locating to an area, oftentimes they analyze opportunities that enhance quality of life. DHCLS offers so many opportunities for learning and cultural enrichment for our area. DHCLS also elevates local schools with engaging educational activities, such as the successful summer reading program and other events offered every week throughout the year. DHCLS programs are varied and plentiful, with many bridging standard-of-living gaps that economic developers agree are crucial to attract and retain residents in our community.

For many people, the library is the only place where they can access vital services at no cost, like computers and Wi-Fi. And while DHCLS helps lower-income residents by narrowing the social divides that they experience, the library also offers something for people in every walk of life, regardless of social status, race, age, or educational background.

I believe we should recognize and appreciate DHCLS, a true gem for our community, one that we all have the privilege of enjoying.



Brad Kimbro
Chair
Board of Trustees

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am incredibly proud to present the FY 2022 Annual Report for the Dothan Houston County Library System (DHCLS). This report only scratches the surface of our library's positive impact on the community, but I hope that you will be as proud as I am of the accomplishments highlighted within the next several pages.

Over the years, much of what we love about public libraries has remained the same. For example, our Summer Reading Program continues to be one of our most popular activities. We also still host story times throughout the year, our patrons still borrow thousands (yes, thousands) of books, and patrons still rely on us as a resource for essential technology, like public computers and Wi-Fi.

There are also a lot of new things to love. For example, our ebook collection continues to grow month after month, year after year. In addition to story times and crafts, our Youth Services staff now facilitate STEAM-based learning activities for local elementary school students. We've also built new partnerships with nonprofit organizations and educational institutions so that we can work together toward common goals as a community. And looking ahead, there will be even more to love, including our interactive gallery space at the Main Library, public Wi-Fi across all 200+ acres of Westgate Park, and our new Ashford Library.

I am incredibly grateful to our trustees, staff, donors, volunteers, and funding agencies for making the work that we do possible. Thanks to all of you, we can continue doing many of the same great things that we've done for decades, while also finding new and exciting ways to serve our diverse, dynamic, and growing community.



Christopher S. Warren
Director
Dothan Houston County Library System

ESSENTIAL STATISTICS

Beyond expectations

▶ 186,314 *items borrowed*

▶ 283,341 *visits*

▶ 566 *programs*

▶ 15,190 *program attendees*

124,271

PRINT BOOKS

43,622

EBOOKS

14,296

DVDS & AUDIOBOOKS

4,125

ALL OTHER ITEMS

265

ADULT PROGRAMS

227

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

64

YA PROGRAMS

10

GENERAL PROGRAMS

6,254

ADULT PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

4,894

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

744

YA PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

3,298

GENERAL PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

CIRCULATION

More than books

DHCLS is committed to providing our community with a diverse, dynamic collection of library materials in a variety of formats, including books, ebooks, audiobooks, movies, and television series.

Patrons can even check out tools and equipment from our Library of Things, practice growing plants with our Seed Library, and access local attractions through Connect Pass. We also have award-winning films available through Kanopy, job search assistance through JobNow, computer classes through TreeHouse, and interactive stories for children through TumbleBooks.

Stop by any of our locations or visit dhcls.org to learn more about all that we have to offer.

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

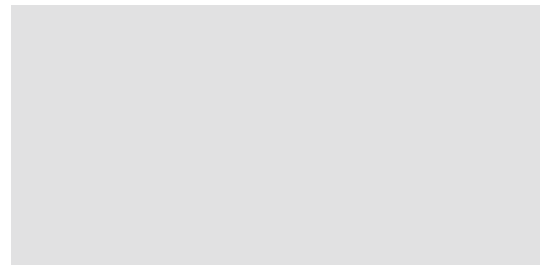
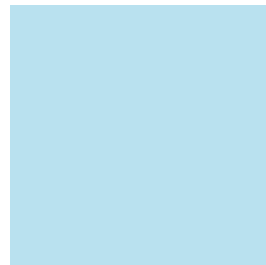
Beyond the library walls

Throughout the year, DHCLS hosts hundreds of exciting programs attended by thousands of children, teens, and adults. We have storytimes to help toddlers and preschoolers develop early literacy skills. Our Summer Reading Program encourages children and their favorite grown-ups to read in between school years. We even host classes and workshops to help people of all ages pursue personal goals, professional development, and lifelong learning. We also know how to have some fun, with trivia nights, a murder mystery theater, and even a coloring club for adults.

Some of our most impactful programs go beyond the library's walls and throughout our community. For example, through a partnership with the Selma Elementary School Bright Key Program, the library's Youth Services staff visit classrooms and facilitate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) activities. Through these monthly visits, students gain hands-on experience with computers, coding, robotics, three-dimensional drawing, and other 21st-century skills.

These programs matter because they help make our community more literate, more engaged, and more informed -- and best of all, there's no cost of admission. We hope you'll check out our calendar of activities, events, and programs at dhcls.org/events.





SUMMER READING PROGRAM

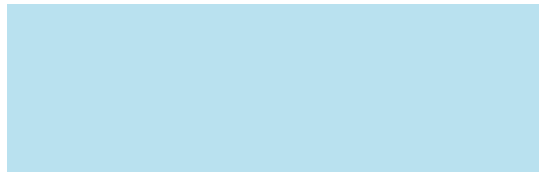
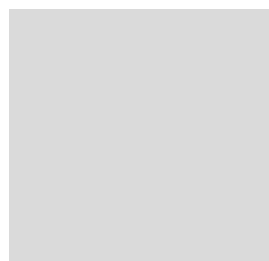
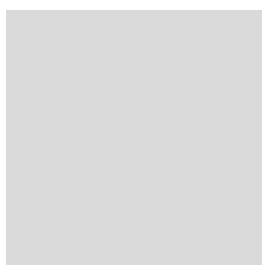
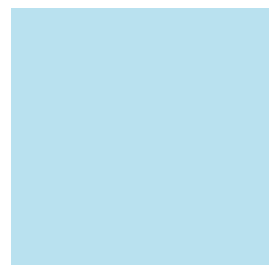
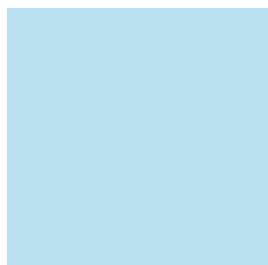
More than fun and games

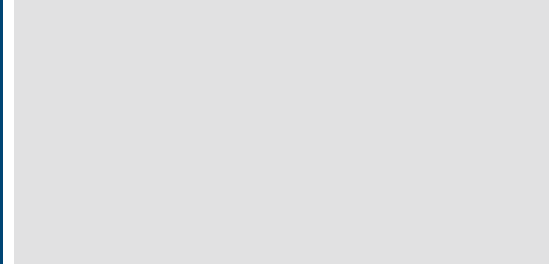
- ▶ 1,654 registrants
- ▶ 16,325 books read

The Summer Reading Program is a cornerstone of our efforts to support literacy and learning. During the summer months, we host activities that will get kids excited about books and about reading and that inspire them to be imaginative and curious. The summer of 2022, with the theme "Oceans of Possibilities," was no exception. We had magicians, balloon artists, animals, story times, and craft activities. In short, the library was anything but boring.

Just as important, research shows that serious learning happens when kids read for fun during the summer. In fact, children who don't read in between school years can lose up to three months of their reading skills, and it can take weeks during the following school year to catch up. Through the proven effectiveness of summer reading, public libraries positively impact school-age children and help ensure the success of students when they return to the classroom.

And the Summer Reading Program isn't just for kids! It's important for children of all ages to have "reading role models" – so we encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors to join in the fun.





LIBRARY MINI GOLF CLASSIC

More than just a good time

The Dothan Houston County Library System's inaugural Library Mini Golf Classic, presented by Mike Schmitz Automotive Group, was a resounding success, raising almost \$9,000 for the library's collections, early literacy programs, and community outreach activities.

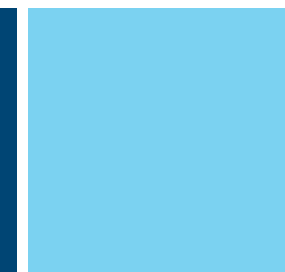
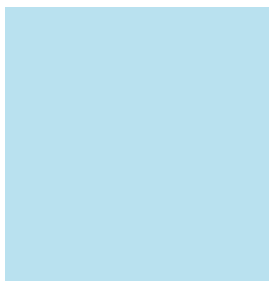
During our Saturday event, 80 people played 18 holes of miniature golf throughout the Main Library, while also enjoying beer, wine, and delicious appetizers from KBC. The event also included a silent auction, with over twenty items donated from local businesses and residents. The fun continued on Sunday with the Library Mini Golf Family Fun Day. Over 160 participants of all ages enjoyed our 18-hole miniature golf course, as well as food, drink, and refreshments from local food trucks.

The Library Mini Golf Classic was made possible through the support of several sponsors, including Mike Schmitz Automotive Group, U.S. Business Products, Scott and Everlie Bolton, and George and Laura Flowers. The event also relied on the hard work and dedication of the library's staff, trustees, and volunteers, who helped with planning, setting up, and managing the event throughout the weekend.

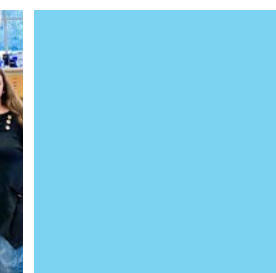
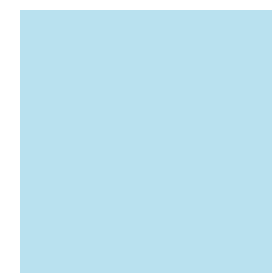
Mark your calendars for August 19 and 20, 2023, for our second annual Library Mini Golf Classic.



*Golf clubs? Check.
Beer, wine, and delicious food? Check.
An indoor 18-hole miniature golf course, and
a fun weekend for grown-ups and kids alike?
Check, check, check...*



DHCLS is fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers, the Friends of the Library, who support the library through fundraising, advocacy, and volunteer service.



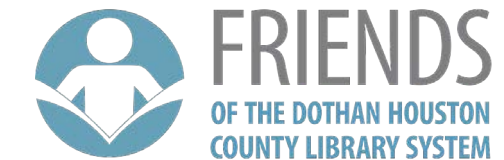
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Beyond book sales

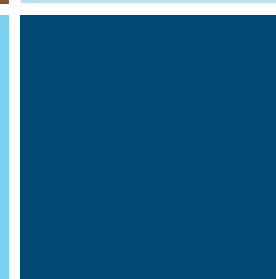
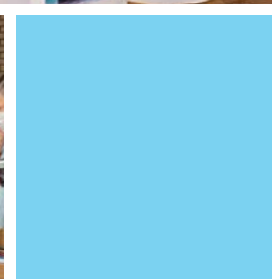
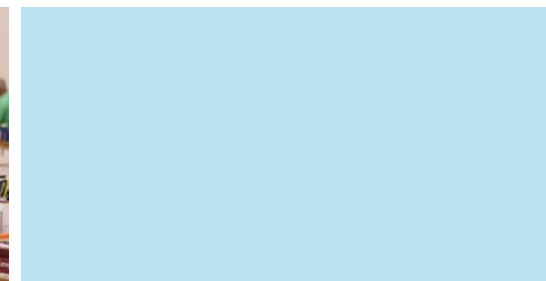
The Friends raise money through memberships, through semi-annual book sales (typically in the spring and fall), and through ongoing “mini book sales” at each library facility. The Friends also contribute their time, talent, and energy to various projects and partnerships throughout the community, all to support literacy and learning for residents of all ages.

In January 2022, the Friends donated \$42,000 to supplement the library’s budget for books, ebooks, and audiobooks, as well as facility improvements, technology upgrades, and literacy programs throughout the year.

For more information about the Friends or to join, visit dhcls.org/friends.



FRIENDS
OF THE DOTHAN HOUSTON
COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



DONORS

FY 2022

Gifts of \$5,000+

Cecile Jones (M)
Dothan Area Chamber
Foundation (A)

Gifts of \$2,000 - \$4,999

Mike Schmitz Automotive
Group (G)
Barbara Liddon (M)

Gifts of \$1,000 - \$1,999

Ashford Downtown
Redevelopment Authority (A)
Scott & Everlie Bolton (G)
George & Laura Flowers (G)
Paul Flowers
Delores R. Johannesen
U.S. Business Products (G)
Christopher Warren & Melissa
Voynich (G)(S)
Wiregrass Electric
Cooperative (G)

Gifts of \$500 - \$999

Lee Van & Ashley Carroll - Dothan
Endodontic Associates, P.C. (G)(R)(S)
Christy Keyton - Naomi & Olive (G)(S)
Five Star Credit Union (S)
Keller Williams Southeast Alabama
Realty - Vanita McLain (G)
Logistic Services of Alabama, LLC (G)

Gifts of \$200 - \$499

Automated Control Systems (G)
Lacy & Jill Brakefield (G)
Carole L. Johnson, M.D.
Dermatology (G)
Mark Dennis (G)
Donofro Architects (G)
Dove Family Foundation (G)
Downtown Books (G)
James & Alicia Etheredge
Julie George - SqHair Bands (G)
Gosselin Architecture (G)
Hearing Associates of Dothan (G)
Lewis & Alicia Humphreys (G)

George & Gloria Jeffcoat (G)
Houston County Farmers
Federation (S)
Howell Hardwood Flooring (G)
Sharon Kelley (G)
Larry Blumberg & Associates (G)
Lewis, Brackin, Flowers &
Johnson (G)
Michelle Lewis
Walter & Melanie Hill (G)
Fran LaMattina - Strategies for
Greatness (G)
Lewis Construction (G)
McCord Contract Floors (G)
MH Yoga Health Studio (G)
MidSouth Bank (G)
Barbara Minsky
Vimal Patel (G)
SmartBank (G)
Marie Stone
SunSouth Bank (G)
Dawn & Bob Theune (G)
Vision Center South (G)
Brenda Walker
Shawn & Ashli Wilkins (G)
Leir Williams (G)(S)
WTVY-TV (G)

Gifts of \$100 - \$199

Edwin C. Allen
William Beckett
Robert & Kathy Brogden
Charlotte Douglas
Davis Oil Company
Eve Fabbrini

Sigrid & David Gayle
Paul Goodson
James Grant
Elaine Helms
Andrew Hoekenga
Michael Lewis
Sue & Julian Mathison
McDaniel & Associates
Mark & Jamie Shertzer
Dianne Simms
Arlease Luke Smith
Lanelle P. Smith
Cindy & Pat Thomas
Susan Wallace
Jennifer Walworth
Myron Williams
Loretta Wright

Gifts of \$1 - \$99

Mary Saxon Adams
Millie Armstrong
Grace Barr
Jimmy & Carole Barrentine
Kelli Beaty
B.J. Seitner Bellinger
Sue Brown
Marion Chamblee
Bonnie Cotton
Debra Couch
Teresa Davis
Sue Shattuck Ellis
Lana Evans
Berna Dean Flanagan
Miriam B. Forrester
Hope Gamble

Manice Guillaume
Beth Harrison
John L. Hilson
Barbara Hudson
Ivy Jernigan
Dorothy Johnson
James Jordan
Jordan Kincer
Janice Cecelia King
Suzan Knight
Myra June Layton (A)
Dana-Marie Lemmer
Janis G. Lepley
Brenda Lindstrom
Mary T. Lummus
Cynthia Lumpkin
Roberta & Ed Marblestone
Fran McArthur
JoAnn McDonald
Ima Jean Nall
Keith & Laura Nall
Steven & Kimberly Nall
Madeline Nelson
Tyrone & Donna Parrish
Melanie Register
Sarena Richardson
Kaye & David Ritchie
Vivian Roach
Thomas Scott
Julie Shaw
Arlie Smith
Laura Stakelum
Reid & Kathy Underwood
Donna Voynich (S)
Florence Walker

In-Kind Support

Fun Zone Skate Center (S)
KBC on Foster (S)
Dothan Ice Cream Company (S)
Hissyfits Boutique (S)

A - Ashford Library Capital Campaign
G - Library Mini Golf Classic Sponsor
M - Malone Fund Donor
R - Recurring Donor
S - Summer Reading Program Sponsor

GRANTS & GIFTS

FY 2022



Davis Malone, CEO and President of MidSouth Bank, via the Ashford Downtown Redevelopment Authority

- ▶ The donation of the former MidSouth Bank IT Data Center, located at 301 5th Avenue, for the purpose of renovating the facility as the new Ashford Library.

Alabama Public Library Service

- ▶ An \$87,175 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) grant for the purpose of replacing desktops, monitors, and other essential technology.
- ▶ A \$45,000 Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for the purchase and installation of hardware for Wi-Fi in the Park, which will provide public wireless internet access across all 200+ acres of Westgate Park. (Project implementation anticipated for late 2022/early 2023.)
- ▶ In-kind support as a participant in the Reimagining School Readiness initiative, which provided training for Youth Service staff and resources for parents and caregivers to help their children develop early literacy skills.

Friends of the Library

- ▶ \$42,000 to support a variety of library improvements, initiatives, programs, resources, and services.

Covington Memorial Foundation

- ▶ A \$38,000 gift for library collections and early literacy programming throughout the year.

Daniel Foundation of Alabama

- ▶ \$25,000 for the installation of the INDEX, an interactive exhibit space at the Main Library. (Construction is slated to begin in late 2022 and should be completed in early 2023.)

Wiregrass Electric Cooperative

- ▶ A \$9,500 Operation Round-Up Grant for the replacement of HVAC components at the Main Library.

Alabama Humanities Alliance

- ▶ A \$5,000 Alabama Humanities Recovery Grant to support library marketing activities.

Wiregrass Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

- ▶ A \$3,000 Education Grant for the library's Junior Naturalist Program for teens.

Alabama Tourism Department

- ▶ A \$2,600 grant to support a literary keynote and to promote the value of DHCLS programs, resources, and services.

Catherine P. Howard Trust

- ▶ \$1,137 for educational materials and children's collections.

Digital Lift

- ▶ A \$1,000 grant to offset costs associated with implementing new software for human resources management and payroll.

FY 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

Revenue

Appropriations (City, County, & State)	\$ 1,342,443
Friends of the Library	\$ 42,000
Fines, Fees, & Services	\$ 115,189
Donations & Grants	\$ 177,565
Estate Revenue	\$ 39,137
Endowment Investment Income	\$ 30,000
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 12,058
TOTAL	\$ 1,758,392

Expenditures

Materials	\$ 198,158
Programs	\$ 47,556
Operations	\$ 338,886
Technology	\$ 131,353
Personnel	\$ 959,620
TOTAL	\$ 1,675,573

DHCLS conducts an official comprehensive audit of its yearly financials. The FY 2022 audit is in process and will be completed in January 2023.

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Christopher S. Warren
Director

Derrick Tiller
Main Library Manager

Kristin North
Youth Services Manager

Terah Harris
Deputy Director

Kaitlyn McAnulty
Westgate Branch Manager

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brad Kimbro, *Chair*

Everlie Bolton

Sharon Kelley

Dr. Ashli Wilkins, *Vice-Chair*

Ashley Carroll

Christy Keyton

Spencer Bienvenu, *Secretary*

James Etheredge

Delvick McKay

Ted Hall, *Treasurer*

Ted Fagan

Vanita McLain

Gloria Jeffcoat, *Immediate Past Chair*

Melanie Hill

Michele Patterson

“**LIBRARIES ARE
PLACES OF HOPE.**

— *Library Trustee*

MAIN LIBRARY

445 N. Oates Street
Dothan, AL 36303

WESTGATE BRANCH

535 Recreation Road
Dothan, AL 36303

ASHFORD BRANCH

305 6th Avenue
Ashford, AL 36312

BOOKMOBILE

dhcls.org/bookmobile
334.791.0160