



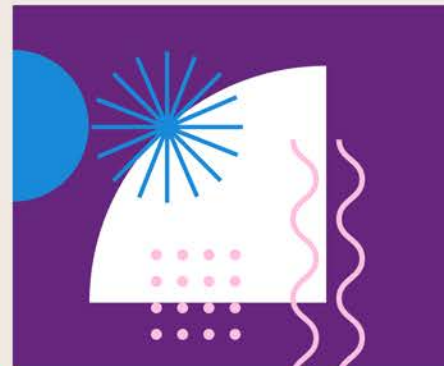
THE FORT WORTH
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Gratitude Report



2025



Message from the CEO

We are excited to share with you our **first Gratitude Report** showcasing the impact of your support. Every program we supported, every partnership we deepened, and every dollar we granted was a direct reflection of your unwavering commitment to our public libraries, ensuring they have the resources to continue to be welcoming gathering spaces for learning, exploration, growth, and connection across all 20 of your Fort Worth Public Libraries.

Thanks to your generosity, the Foundation granted over \$150,000 to support over 10,000 programs, services, and events that support early literacy, applying to college, art, music, culture, and much more. Together, we continue to invest in our libraries and the people they serve.

This transformative work is only possible because of you and our community of dedicated donors, passionate advocates, and unwavering champions who believe that libraries are powerful catalysts for opportunity.

While we know there is still so much more to do, I wanted to take a moment to simply say thank you. **Thank you** for your partnership, your trust, and for helping us shape what comes next for our wonderful city of Fort Worth.

With sincere gratitude,

Andrea L. Ash

President and CEO





**Dani
Rubio**

Celebrating Our Inaugural Scholarship Recipients!

For **16 years**, the Foundation's **LaunchPad College Application Mentoring program** has offered free, expert college application advising, proving a true game-changer for Fort Worth students. In **2025**, we expanded the program to include a **scholarship initiative**, providing even more support to LaunchPad participants.



**Mason
Roblow**

Congratulations to the inaugural recipients of the Harris Family LaunchPad Scholarship:



Mason Roblow

I.M. Terrell Academy for
STEAM and Visual Performing Arts High School



Dani Rubio

L.D. Bell High School

Meet the Scholars

Mason Roblow, now in his first semester at **Texas State University**, demonstrated strong leadership at Terrell as President of both the United Voices for Change and the Black Student Union, in addition to his role in Student Government and participation in choir.

On receiving the scholarship: "I felt grateful to be selected and was truly appreciative to have won the Harris Family scholarship."

Dani Rubio, currently attending the **University of Texas at Austin**, was highly engaged in civic and leadership programs. Her involvement included the National Honor Society, Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, Model United Nations, Junior State of America, and city government through the H.E.B. Chamber of Commerce's Youth in Government program.

On receiving the scholarship: "I was relieved and surprised, but mostly grateful to receive financial help for my first semester at UT in order to soak up college to the fullest."

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors who make these life-changing opportunities possible. **Because of your commitment**, students like Mason and Dani are able to realize their college dreams.





Amplifying Connection and Opportunity

The **Fort Worth Public Library's Amplify 817 program** fosters creativity, culture, and connection by providing a vital platform for emerging artists to reach new audiences.

This program was celebrated at the 2025 Amplify 817 Showcase on August 16th, which was a resounding success. Over 500 attendees packed Birdie's Social Club for an inspiring evening of performances from talented local acts, including **Grady Spencer, Cherry Mantis, Asa Ace, 88 Killa, Kendi Jean & The Velvet Smokeshow, and Tipps & Obermiller.**

Singer-songwriters Hillary Tipps and Steve Obermiller, married since 2012 and currently working on their third album, performed new songs at the event. For them, Amplify 817 is more than just a performance slot. Obermiller says, "Amplify 817 has been an incredible opportunity to meet other artists and even collaborate with them. Joining the curated list of artists has been an honor and increased our reach to listeners, which is opening doors for collaboration with our peers in the music community."

Obermiller also shared a deeper connection to the organization, noting his wife's lifelong love of words: "Hillary has a personal connection to the Fort Worth Public Library since childhood... Having grown up going to the Wedgwood Library every Saturday and getting a giant stack of books, she continues this tradition now when she goes to the East Regional Branch to check them out." The couple even uses the Libby app to enjoy audiobooks on tour, blending their musical and literary lives.

Your support for the Fort Worth Public Library Foundation directly funds impactful programs like Amplify 817. By contributing, you are providing artists with a career-building platform, giving families access to live music, and helping to shape a sound that is distinctively Fort Worth. Thank you for supporting the music.

A library is the **heart of our community**, offering much more than books. The Fort Worth Public Library is a vital community hub: a dynamic space where people of all ages gather to create, connect, and explore their passions.



Creating Community One Stitch at a Time

At the **Fort Worth Public Library East Regional** location, neighbors unwind one stitch at a time with the **Knit & Crochet Club**. Yarn lovers of all skill levels gather to stitch, connect, and donate their creations to those in need.

Norma, a member with a large family, recently crafted a beautiful prayer shawl to be donated to Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington. As she shared, "They send these shawls all over the world for people. They wrap our work in tissue and include a prayer; it looks beautiful." These shawls, styled differently for men and women, are sent by the church to wrap people in need with support.

The club also makes **lap blankets for a local hospice**, cutting and tying soft flannel fabric together. The communal spirit is strong, as member **Colleen** noted, "We all support each other here; we give emotional support to each other. I love the flexibility of the schedule too."

The Knit & Crochet Club has been meeting at the East Regional branch for years, with members like **Mary**, who started coming when she was 75 and is now 82. For Colleen, the library is a multi-generational experience; she reads with her grandchildren and calls the public library "the modern lyceum, where people gather, just like Aristotle did."

No matter your interests, you can find a club at a local library that connects you with neighbors who share your joy. **Donor support makes an immediate impact** in keeping Fort Worth a community of learners, dreamers, and doers.



Braxton's Book Brigade

ONE KINDERGARTENER'S 1000-BOOK MASTERPIECE



When young Braxton finished the **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** program, he celebrated his monumental achievement by creating a poster displaying the cover of every single book he read. He proudly brought his masterpiece to the **East Berry Library** to share it with story time friend, and library assistant, Mrs. Valerie.



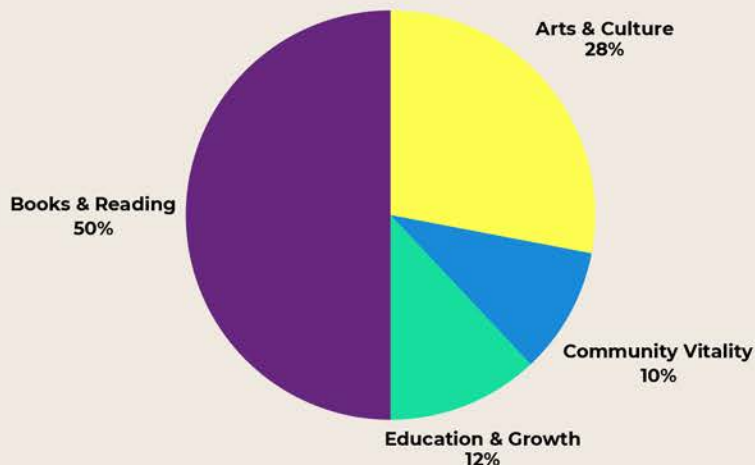
Braxton's story perfectly captures the excitement and dedication the program inspires. In 2024, he was one of 47 children to complete the challenge. That year, the program welcomed over 1,700 new participants who collectively read a remarkable 113,937 books. The momentum continues in 2025, with 988 participants having read 97,670 books as of the end of July.

Turning Support into Impact

LIBRARY SUPPORT BY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

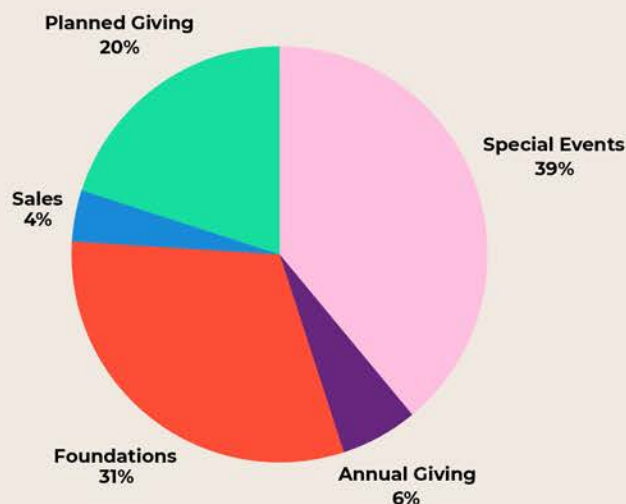
Every gift to the Foundation fuels programs that strengthen the Fort Worth Public Library's ability to serve our city. From January through August 2025, half of all funding directly supported Books & Reading, ensuring shelves stay full and accessible for all.

This chart shows how donor generosity is distributed across key Library priorities, illustrating the tangible reach of your giving.



FOUNDATION REVENUE BY SOURCE

Behind every successful program is a strong foundation of community. This year our funding came from a balanced mix of giving sources, such as The Cigar Smoker, and your generous giving rounded out our support, underscoring how every contribution, large or small, helps sustain vital programs year-round. This chart highlights the diverse and sustainable base of support that powers every story, song, and spark within the Fort Worth Public Library.





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Dr. Teri Blaisdell, LaunchPad Program Specialist

Thank You

Your support made all the difference! The work of the Library Foundation to fund new and innovative programs across our libraries would not be possible without every donor, volunteer, partner, patron, and advocate who worked with us. We are extremely grateful for you!



Be sure to follow us!

