

BOILERPLATE – SHORT VERSION:

Friends of Hennepin County Library is a passionate, active community of supporters —helping the Library fulfill its mission to nourish minds, transform lives, and build community.

BOILERPLATE – LONG VERSION:

Who are we?

A passionate, active community of Library supporters — dedicated to opening doors and minds to new worlds. Friends of the Hennepin County Library raise critically needed funds for books, materials, programs and technology, and present the highly regarded Pen Pals and Talk of the Stacks author series as well as numerous free cultural programs. We help the Library fulfill its mission to nourish minds, transform lives, and build community.

LOCAL – VERSION A:

NEW: Join one, help all.

With our new joint annual membership, when you become a Friend of HCL, you can become a Friend of your favorite local library — at no additional charge. Your membership supports book purchases, free programs and outreach right in your neighborhood — and throughout all 41 libraries in Hennepin County.

LOCAL – VERSION B:

Love your local library?

We'll help you share the love, system-wide. With our new streamlined membership program, you can join Friends of HCL and become a Friend of your local library, too.

Your Friends membership will support critical initiatives such as book purchases, programs and outreach services that benefit all 41 libraries — as well as your favorite library — all at the same time.

Simply choose your favorite library below, and we'll help you share the love.

[form]

FUNDRAISING — SHORTER VERSION:

Join the Friends of the Hennepin County Library and help change lives throughout our community.

The Friends of the Hennepin County Library is a passionate, active community of supporters for our Library, dedicated to opening doors and minds to new worlds. We raise critically needed funds for books, materials, programs and technology, and present the highly regarded Pen Pals and Talk of the Stacks author series as well as numerous free cultural programs.

Your support makes a difference for *everyone* who uses the Library's extraordinary services and resources. Last year, a staggering 5.8 million people visited the Library, checked out more than 17.5 million items and attended more than 210,000 free programs. This wouldn't be possible without dedicated supporters like you.

Strong libraries strengthen our community. Join the Friends today.

FUNDRAISING — MEDIUM-LENGTH VERSION:

Why join the Friends?

Quite simply, because your support makes a tangible difference for everyone who uses our Library's extraordinary services and resources.

Your low-cost membership in Friends of HCL supports:

- *Reading* — Acquiring books, digitizing media, and creating special collections in music, art, and Minnesota history
- *Graduating* — Developing classes, digital learning labs, and coordinating Homework Hub
- *Engaging* — Serving immigrants, seniors, and those in correctional facilities
- *Working* — Fostering job and small business programs, supporting job search for immigrants
- *Learning* — Promoting early literacy efforts and spaces

Libraries open minds and open doors.

Let's keep growing our libraries' rich diversity of resources and programming for generations to come. Join the Friends of HCL today.

FUNDRAISING — LONGER VERSION:

Why join the Friends?

Quite simply, because your support makes a tangible difference for everyone who uses our Library's extraordinary services and resources.

Libraries change lives. Every day, we see young people helped and transformed through the critically needed Homework Hub. The littlest library users who learn the joy of reading through early literacy programs. New Americans who find job opportunities through the support of librarians. Seniors who find community and belonging in their local library.

Libraries change entire communities. They provide safe, open spaces for *everyone* to learn, read, and access information so vitally needed in our fast-paced world.

Libraries are the hubs of a community. **This is proven by the dramatic increases in HCL usage last year:**

- **5.8 million visited the Library**
- **21.4 million visits to the HCL website, an increase of 1.5 million**
- **18.3 million items checked out, an increase of nearly 1 million**
- **Outreach services at 93 sites, including senior housing and correctional facilities**
- **200,000 participants at free programs**

With record-breaking use comes the increasing need for private support. Government funding can only go so far.