

ON THE GO. 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



KDL
Kent District Library

Information. Ideas. *Excitement!*



To the Friends of KDL:

Patrons were on the go last year – and that meant we were, too.

Kent District Library reached a record number of residents in 2016, with more than 8,187,785 engagements – and a growing number of them electronically. In fact, more than 80 percent of patrons connected with us on a mobile device.

We deployed books to soldiers from Kent County in the Middle East who had to build more shelves after running out of space. We sent books to farmers markets around the region, making it fast and easy for patrons to check out books. We even set up a free KDL library at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, ensuring that no one would have to fly without something great to read.

Our electronic resources have grown to be some of our most popular offerings, which is a real testament to our goal of reaching people wherever they are. Last year, patrons accessed our digital resources a record 1,215,187 times, a jump of almost 11 percent over the previous year.

The bridges we built during 2016 have paved the way for exploration. Whether it's creating rural hotspots for patrons who might not otherwise have access to the Internet or lending technology that transforms the newest bestseller into Braille, KDL looks to connect patrons with ideas and information that transports them.

One of the things I really love about KDL is the way ideas and innovation arrive. It's never just top down, but can come from anywhere in the organization. One of our employees came up with the idea of providing library books to elementary students to brighten their bus rides home. Parents – and bus drivers – are thanking us for that ah-ha moment that is encouraging children to read more.

A library is the great equalizer in any community. Anything that KDL can do to touch the lives of our patrons and assist them in moving further down the road, we are on it.

Looking forward to great things in partnership with you in 2017,

Lance M. Werner
Director

A DIGITAL REVOLUTION

1,215,187
DIGITAL CIRCULATION

*eAudiobooks, eBooks, eMagazines,
eMovies, eMusic, eVideogames*

KDL utilizes technology to keep moving people forward, and now the KDL staff can help you check out library books or get a library card from anywhere. MobileCirc allows library staff the flexibility to set up library services away from the library — all while you're on the go.

Rural Hotspots

KDL helps patrons from rural locations stay connected by offering free wireless Internet hot spots to Alto, Lowell, Nelson Township/Sand Lake, Spencer Township, Tyrone Township and, new for 2017, the Caledonia branch. A Verizon Jetpack 4G LTE can be checked out for up to three weeks, along with an iPad, to give patrons free internet access. Easy to use, the Jetpacks allow patrons who might have difficulty accessing the internet an opportunity to improve their digital skills.



3,537,857
WEBSITE VISITS
13% increase

Did you know more than 80 percent of cardholders are accessing KDL on their phones? Thanks to our new website, patrons can connect to one of the largest digital collections in the country, featuring eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming or downloadable movies, music, games and even a digital comic book collection – right at their fingertips. Many are even using the Bookmyne app, available on iTunes and Google Play stores, as a convenient way to see our complete library catalog.





OUT & ABOUT

GO PACKS

Want to learn to knit? Play disc golf? Try out the Legend of Zelda?

Get up and go with KDL's GO! Packs

Starting in 2017, all 18 branches will offer GO! Packs, each one carefully curated with educational tools and entertaining activities for all ages that encourage patrons to explore new things. The program is designed for children, teens and adults who want to try something new. We also offer GO! Packs for Spanish-language speakers. This great idea originated with one of our staff members and was funded by a 2016 KDL Innovation Award.



KDL CRUISERS LAUNCHES



567 CHECKOUTS
175 MILES OF KENT COUNTY TRAILS

Next time you check out a book, you can check out a bicycle, too! Breezer Uptown EX eight-speed bicycles were introduced in 2016 to give patrons an opportunity to experience cycling and are now available at nine of our locations with program enhancements expected for 2017, including more universal-style bikes and trail maps.

The KDL Service and Meeting Center was the first KDL location to be designated a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Business by the League of American Bicyclists for our great commitment to bicycle safety and education. Public and employee access to bicycles via the KDL Cruisers Program and our proximity to the White Pine Trail State Park helped KDL become the only library on the League's list of Bicycle Friendly Businesses. Staff support of bicycle culture and healthy, sustainable alternatives to single occupancy vehicles is evidenced by our winning the Active Commute Week Challenge as an organization for Most Active Trips per Employee in the greater Grand Rapids area.



5,790
MARKET VISITORS

FARMERS MARKET

This past summer, patrons had the opportunity to buy local and eat local at the Kentwood Farmers Market, hosted in the branch's parking lot. KDL not only provided a space for residents to shop locally, but also facilitated special family activities and crafts. Health and nutrition programs were offered to patrons alongside locally grown fresh produce. Making healthy choices accessible to the community is another way KDL is moving people forward. KDL's Farmers Market locations also included Ada, Byron Twp., Caledonia, Grandville, Plainfield, Metro Health Wyoming and Rockford.

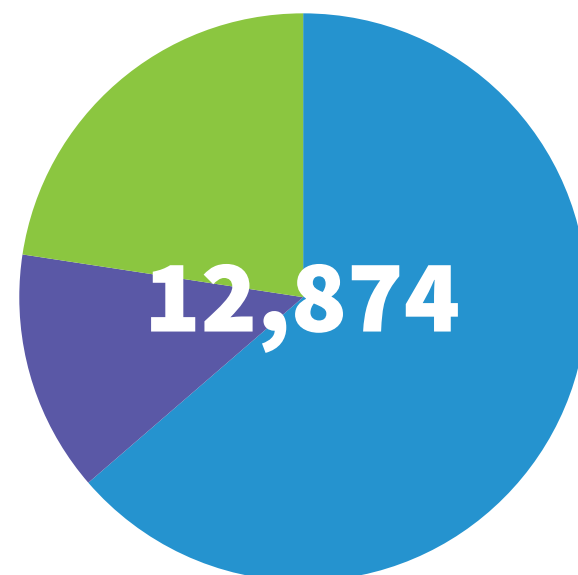
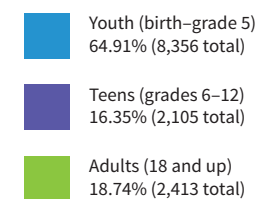


BY THE NUMBERS

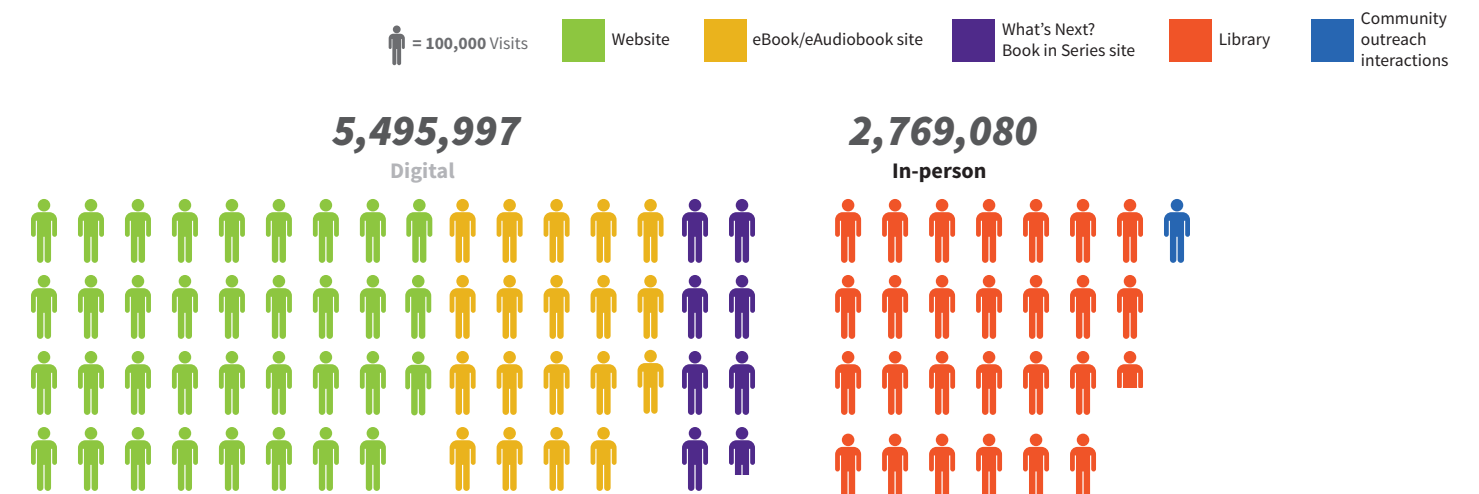
Circulation



Summer Reading Completers



Visits



**10,000
BOOKS DELIVERED
TO THE AIRPORT**



KDL has partnered with the Gerald R. Ford International Airport to bring free books to travelers on the go. Operating on the 'take one, leave one' system, KDL gives passengers the opportunity to pick up something new to read and leave a book they've already finished at no charge. Shelves are located on both airport concourses and include adult, teen, children's and multi-language books. Many donations were kindly provided by the Friends of the Cascade Library.

KDL Free Library at the Airport



International Tour

The Wyoming Branch of KDL hosted a tour of disability rights representatives from eight Middle East and Northern African countries who heard about our program through a Disability Advocates of Kent County award we received in 2015. The tour demonstrated KDL's commitment to moving people forward by creating an inclusive environment and accessible spaces for community members who are disabled. The tour was made possible through a partnership with Colleagues International and the U.S. Department of State.

AROUND THE WORLD

**400
BOOKS SENT
TO SOLDIERS**

Books Deployed to Middle East

KDL was proud to support our troops stationed in the Middle East by sending shipments of books and audiobooks. In fact, last year the 1-182nd Field Artillery Regiment – which includes many members from Kent County – more than doubled its library, prompting troops to make new shelves to house their growing collection. As military personnel transition, the books are left for new troops to enjoy. Sgt. Lovegrove of the 1-182nd Field Artillery Regiment is happy that KDL's commitment to keep people moving forward is having a positive impact across the world.



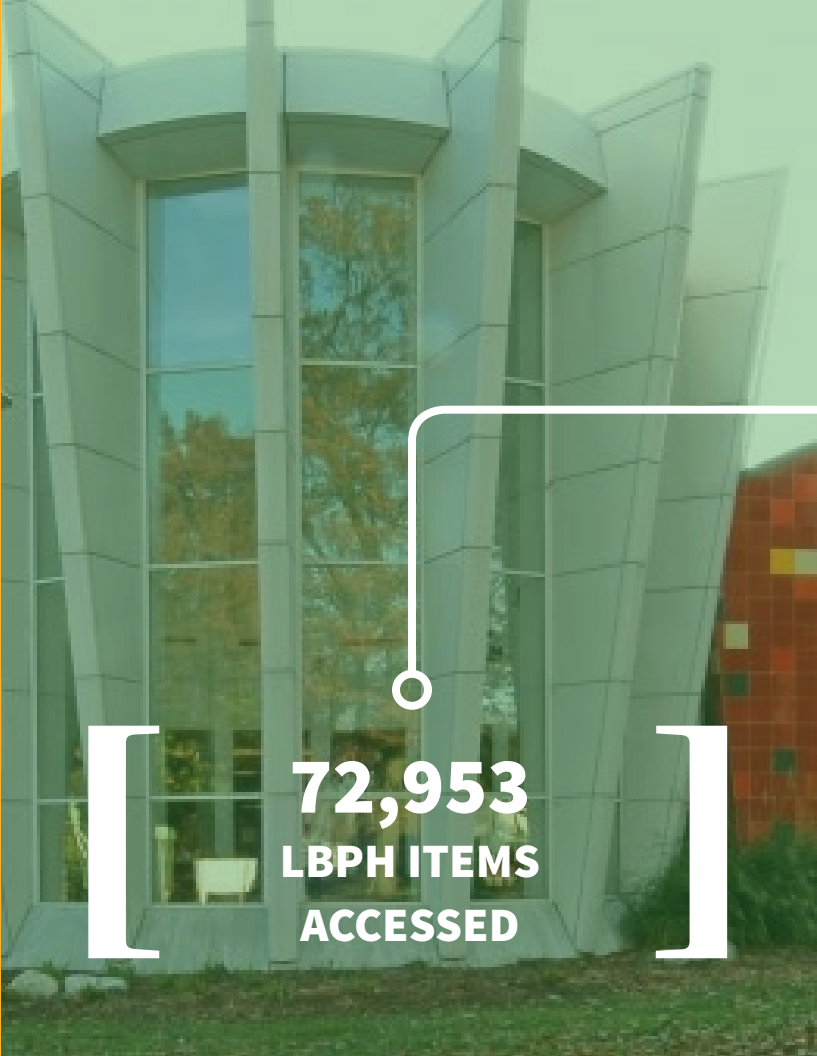


250
BOOKS GIVEN TO
KIDS ON 9 BUSES



KDL Books
on the **Bus**

Did you know that the average elementary school student will spend one hour on the bus each day? KDL partnered with Zinser Elementary School in Kenowa Hills to make the ride to and from school more compelling by tucking books for them to discover on the bus. Another program that originated with a great staff idea, this was funded by a 2016 KDL Innovation Award. With a rotating book selection, students always have new material to encourage reading and to make their bus ride a positive experience.



72,953
LBPH ITEMS
ACCESSED

LBPH



Kent District Library's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was recognized by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for outstanding service to readers who are visually or physically disabled. In one year, KDL served 1,029 patrons, circulated 49,037 books or movies, and 17,387 magazines as well as adaptive technology to enhance patrons' experience and help them explore new worlds. KDL advocates for its LBPH patrons in the community through outreach and education programs.



59,365
STUDENTS ATTENDED
PROGRAMS

School Partnerships

KDL partners with several schools in the County to bring fun, educational activities to students. KDL librarians have become recognizable fixtures in the schools, encouraging kids to explore the library after the school bell rings. Sports camps, music and science labs, literary talks and crafts are just some of programs KDL offers community students and serve as entry points to the library, instilling a lifelong love of learning and exploration.

SENIOR OUTREACH

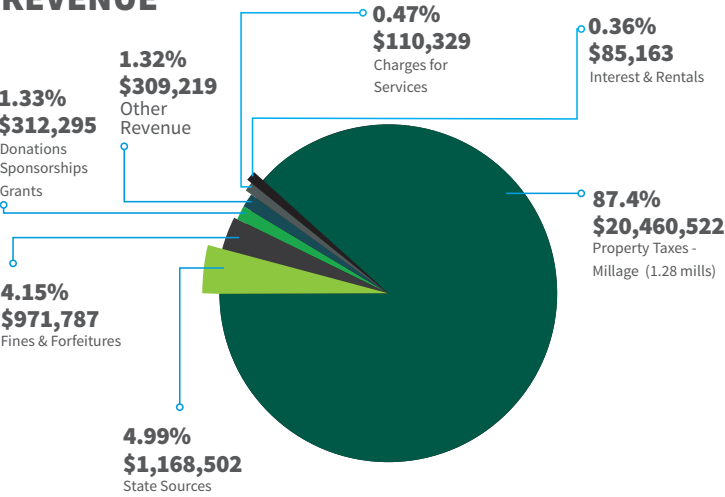
Been to a good book club lately? You might have to visit one of the area's senior living facilities to get in on the action. KDL has partnered with senior living and resources centers to give residents access to music, movies and iPads, as well as mentally stimulating programs such as one-on-one tech tutoring, book discussions, crafting and a lecture series.



2,653
SENIORS ATTENDED
PROGRAMS

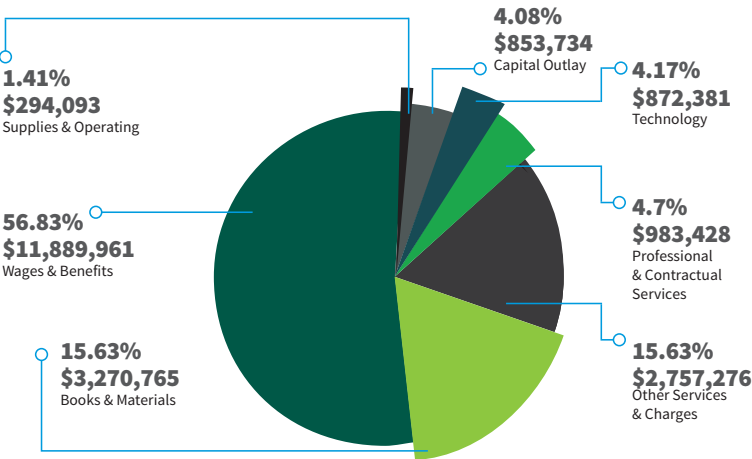
2016 Summary of Financial Information

REVENUE



REVENUE	
Property Taxes - Millage (1.28 mills)	20,460,522
State Sources	1,168,502
Fines & Forefeitures	971,787
Donations, Sponsorships, Grants	312,295
Other Revenue	309,219
Charges for Services	110,329
Interest & Rentals	85,163
TOTAL REVENUE	\$23,417,818

EXPENDITURES



EXPENDITURES	
Wages & Benefits	11,889,961
Books & Materials	3,270,765
Other Services & Charges	2,757,276
Professional & Contractual Services	983,428
Technology	872,381
Capital Outlay	853,734
Supplies & Operating	294,093
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$20,921,638
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	5,476,648
Fund Balance - Nonspendable (Prepays)	(262,438)
Fund Balance - Restricted	(54,183)
Fund Balance - Committed (Capital Projects)	(2,815,300)
Fund Balance - Assigned	(278,546)
Excess Revenues over Expenditures	2,496,173
TOTAL UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$4,562,354

OUR DONORS

The Kent District Library Board of Trustees and Fund Development Board extend a profound thank you to all the individuals, corporations and foundations that generously provided more than \$280,000 in support to Kent District Library in 2016. Your gifts allow KDL to provide outstanding programs and services to our community members! Thank you; we couldn't do it without you.



A huge thank you to our sponsors, honorary committee members and everyone who made our Second Annual Literary Libations Gala a success. We are humbled by, and grateful for, your support of our organization.

**PRESENTING
SPONSOR**



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**RECOMMENDED READS
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Meijer*

**BOOKPLATE
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A special thank you to The Gary Family Foundation and Alliance Beverage for supporting our cocktail hour.

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Thanks to these founding members of KDL's Page Turners Club that provide sustaining monthly donations to support KDL programs and services.



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We gratefully acknowledge those gifts given to KDL from January 1 – December 31, 2016. We also salute the many donors who chose to remain anonymous for their generosity.

♥ Indicates 3-year consecutive donation
◆ Indicates gift to the endowment

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♥ Indicates 3-year consecutive donation

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(In Memory of June Lang)
Edmund Pollastrello
Brad and Mary Potter
(In Memory of Jack Delaat)
Stan and Jan Powers
(In Memory of Luci King) ♥
Ruth Reickard
(In Memory of W. Paul Blakeslee)
Pamela Roobaert
(In Memory of Alfred M. Despres)
Jud and Peggy Ross ♥
Emma Rostic
Pat Ryan
(In Memory of June Lang)
Filip and Josephine Sanders
Keith and Kathleen Schaltz
(In Memory of Alfred Fred Despres)
Robert and Judith Schimm
(In Memory of Jane Longcore)
Harold and Janet Schuling
(In Memory of Lucille Elders) ♥
Karl and Amy Siebert
(In Memory of Alfred F. Despres)
Janet Simpson
Ray and Carol Stevens
John and LeAnn Strobridge
(In Memory of W. Paul Blakeslee)
Shirley Switek ♥
Deborah Thornton
(In Memory of Jean Whittier)
Elizabeth Timmer
(In Memory of Jack Delaat)
Lois E. Waldecker ♥
Don and Sandy Williams
(In Honor of Trevor Zuidema)
Woodwind Condominium Association
(In Memory of Joyce Decker and Alfred Fred Despres)
Scott and Sylvia Wormmeester ♥



LOOKING AHEAD



WE'RE BRINGING BACK THE BOOKMOBILE!

We are pleased to announce that we have received a \$208,000 grant from the Steelcase Foundation to design and offer a bookmobile to the KDL community.

This mobile library will enable KDL to bring our services and programming to Kent County residents who can't travel to one of our 18 branches on a regular basis. When it hits the streets in winter 2018, it will be equipped with a vast assortment of collection materials for both children and adults.

The bookmobile, which will take 6-9 months to craft, will also be outfitted with Wi-Fi, a video screen, a computer, printer and modular shelves. The vehicle will also be handicapped accessible and will offer security features.

One of our goals in offering the bookmobile is to increase reading proficiency in third grade students. In 2016, 50 percent of Kent County third graders were not proficient in English language arts.

Stay tuned over the coming months for more information and updates on this exciting new program!

\$208,000
GRANT FROM
STEELCASE FOUNDATION

Connect with us.

kdl.org // facebook // twitter // instagram // goodreads // pinterest



KDL
Kent District Library

616-784-2007

18 locations, 1 convenient phone number