



**KDL delivers.**

**Kent District Library  
2017 Annual Report**





*2017 was a year of evolution. We honed and enhanced countless services, providing greater value while deepening relationships.*

**The past year has been a whirlwind!** Our strategic plan outlined 12 categories of priorities with dozens of specific actions. I'm proud to tell you that we have completed all of them. We have also exceeded many goals.

Libraries are most often thought of as a source for items that you can check out. While that is still a significant part of what we do, we are also engaging with people and communities in deeper and more meaningful ways. In some cases, such as with Community Reads (see the story on pages 6-7), programs have many layers and a very significant impact in the transformation of lives and communities.


There are also countless smaller initiatives that simply bring people together and put a smile on every face. The single common criteria in everything that we do is to help people to become better versions of themselves. This in turn helps communities to become better, too.

KDL partnered with Kelloggsville Public Schools to create a public library within the high school. Construction, planning, staffing and establishing a collection took place during 2017, with the library officially opening in January of 2018. This new library is open to the public outside of school hours and throughout the summer. It's the first partnership between a public library and school in the region. It was largely made possible by the generous support of the Steelcase Foundation.



Whenever there is an unmet need in our community, the KDL team is quick to respond with ideas, energy and results.  
**Time and time again, KDL delivers.**

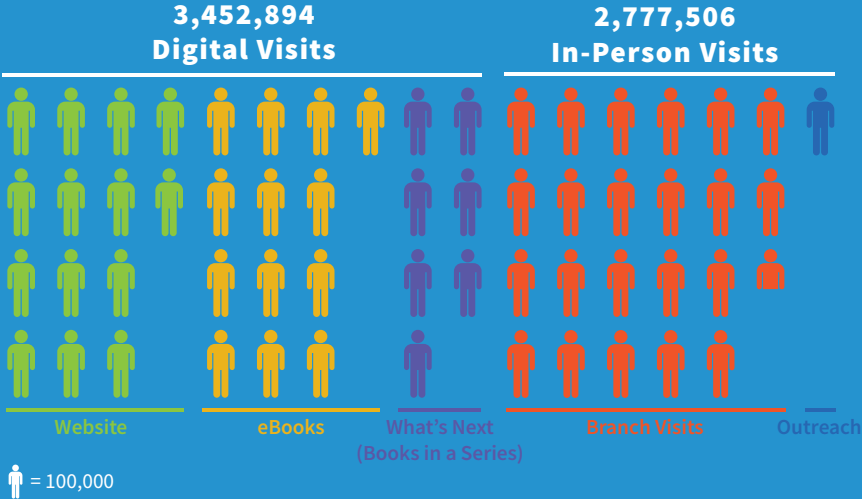
On behalf of everyone at KDL, thank you. We are looking forward to an even bigger, busier and brighter future with you!

  
Lance M. Werner  
Director

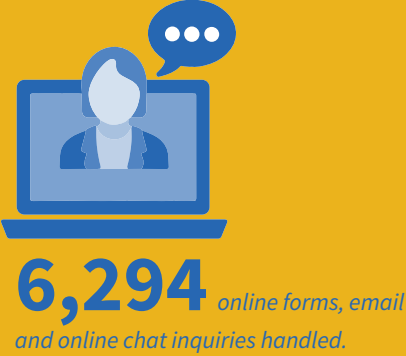
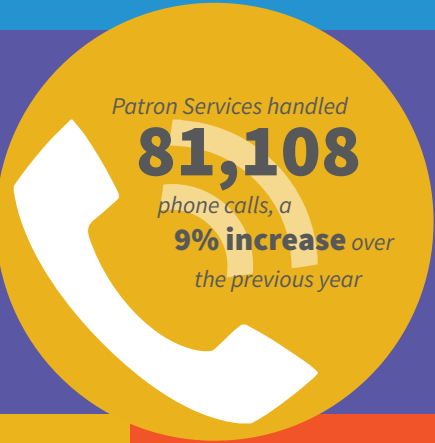




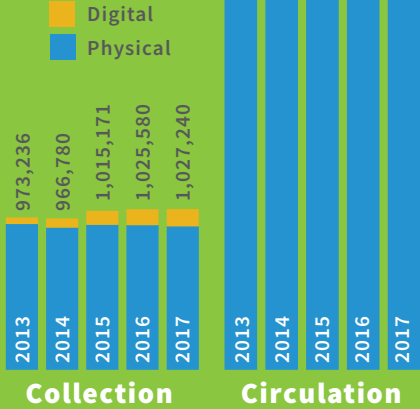
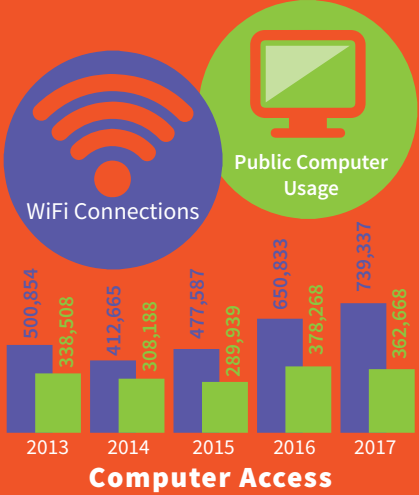
KDL delivers information.



Over the past five years, the size of the KDL collection grew by 6% while total circulation increased 43%



Read more in the KDL Fact Book at [kdl.org/2017FactBook](http://kdl.org/2017FactBook)







KDL delivers ideas.

Melanie Johnston, an English teacher at Wyoming High School, proudly shows copies of student-published books while explaining how the **KDL Community Reads program** is achieving success on “so many levels.”

The program started more than five years ago when Lori Holland, branch manager of Kent District Library’s Wyoming Branch, became determined to find a way to bring authors into classrooms to help inspire students. She worked with Melissa Schneider, media specialist at Wyoming High School, and others at KDL to bring best-selling authors of young adult books to the schools to speak with students and to provide more than 400 copies of the author’s book so each student could have one. The program includes the students authoring and publishing a book of their collected writings.



The primary goal of the program is to instill good reading and writing skills. The benefits of the program go beyond simply helping with literacy. Often it becomes a transformative experience for the students, authors, parents and guests who are involved.

Melanie’s class is one of several at Wyoming and Godwin Heights schools that starts each year by giving each student their own personal copy of a book, which serves as the cornerstone of the year’s study. “A lot of our kids have never had a book they can call their own,” Melanie explains. “They’re free to write in the pages as they read, but what’s really exciting is that as the books are handed out, I tell them that the author will be here at the end of the school year. They usually expect a quick result from whatever they’re asked to do, so this is a wonderful way to foster long-range goals.”

“KDL does an excellent job of selecting books that are relevant and pertinent to students’ lives,” Melanie explains. “Last year, our book was *All American Boys*, which is coauthored by Jason Reynolds, who is black, and Brendan Kiely, who is white. In the book, they tell stories from alternating perspectives, which helps students to see themselves and the perspectives of others.”

The book touches on issues of police and racial profiling. During the school year, Melanie invited police officers to join the classes. The students and police officers had constructive conversations about hard topics, and were able to do so without getting defensive or angry. The next summer, some of the students chose to attend the Grand Rapids Police Academy. Melanie describes how two of the students are now interested in a

career in law enforcement.

“They came away from the experience saying ‘I think I can help fix a problem in society by representing my race on the police force.’ It’s a transformative experience!”

*“They came away from the experience saying ‘I think I can help fix a problem in society.’ It’s a transformative experience!”*

Melanie sums it all up. “Our goal in high school is to help make things applicable to the real world. A lot of the students here are not going on to college, but go on to vocational schools. How can we foster a love and curiosity toward reading? A desire to continue to read? This program goes beyond that, helping young people to appreciate that they are represented in literature, that their voice is heard.”

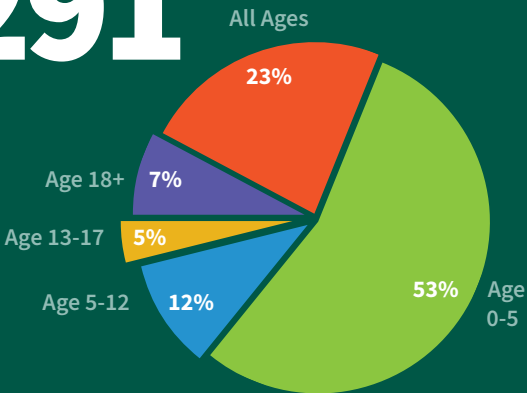




KDL delivers excitement.

264,291

participants at KDL programs, 10,392 more than the previous year



+10% checkouts of KDL Cruiser bikes (631 in 2017 vs. 576 in 2016)

+48% stories submitted to the Write Michigan Short Story Contest (899 in 2017 vs 608 in 2016)

More than 2,000 people attended the first SuperPartyWonderDay. This is a family-friendly event that features bands, beer, bikes and BBQ



15,469 people who completed Summer Reading, a 20% increase over the prior year

Age Groups: 0-24 mo. 2-10 years 11-17 years 18 and older

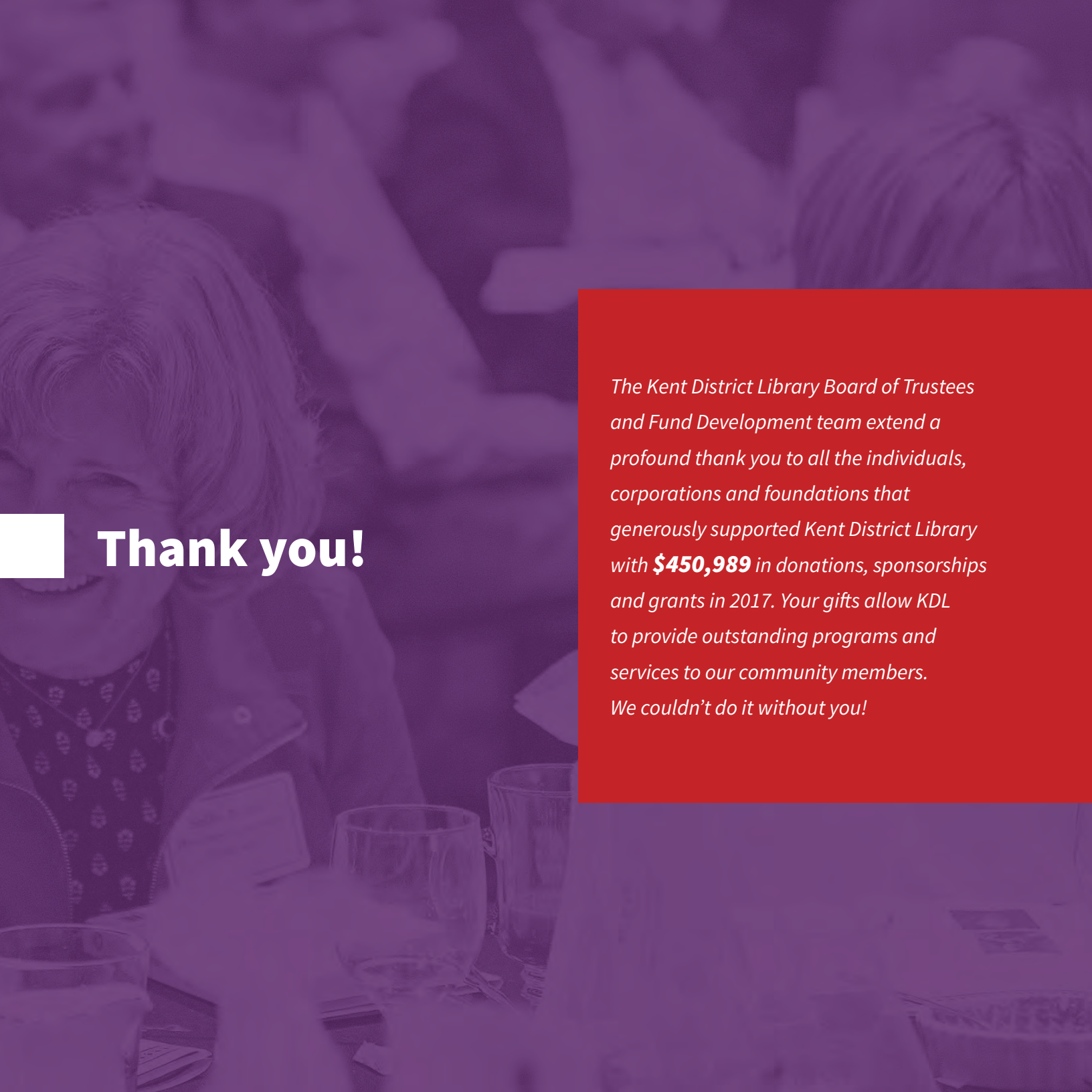


Two young girls are smiling and holding a large, dark-colored poster. The girl on the left is wearing a purple velvet collar and a blue and black checkered shirt. The girl on the right is wearing a red sweater. The poster they are holding has the text 'The Kent District Library is the Best KID.' written on it in various colors. The poster is decorated with many small, colorful paper clips and heart-shaped cutouts. The background is a blurred library setting with bookshelves.

**KDL makes a difference.**

*Girls Changing the World is a KDL Lab Experience that took place at the Tyrone Branch. Participants discovered the women scientists, mathematicians, artists, explorers, engineers and computer programmers behind some of the discoveries and inventions that changed our world.*





# Thank you!

*The Kent District Library Board of Trustees and Fund Development team extend a profound thank you to all the individuals, corporations and foundations that generously supported Kent District Library with **\$450,989** in donations, sponsorships and grants in 2017. Your gifts allow KDL to provide outstanding programs and services to our community members. We couldn't do it without you!*

*We are grateful to our sponsors and honorary committee members for funding our third annual Literary Libations Gala. We are humbled by and grateful for your support of our organization.*

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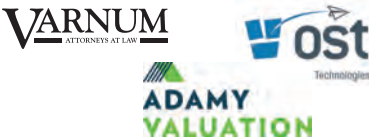
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A special thank you to Kim and Pam Gary for supporting our cocktail hour.

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

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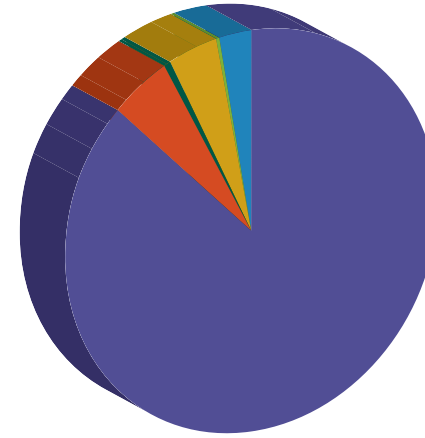
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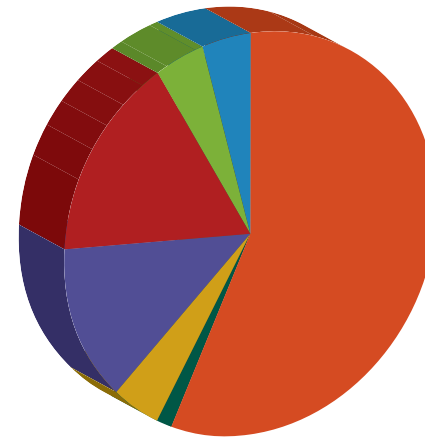
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2017 REVENUE		
	Tax Revenue	\$20,556,739
	State Sources	\$1,182,712
	Charges for Services	\$135,731
	Fines and Forfeitures	\$940,983
	Interest and Rentals	\$152,418
	Other Revenue	\$1,147,804
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,116,387</b>



2017 EXPENDITURES		
	Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$12,879,492
	Supplies	\$260,059
	Professional and Contractual Services	\$1,378,557
	Other Services and Charges	\$2,993,389
	Books and Materials	\$3,056,038
	Capital Outlay - Technology	\$306,294
	Capital Outlay - Office Equipment and Furniture	\$53,445
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,927,274</b>

Comprehensive annual financial reports are online at [kdl.org/about/policies](http://kdl.org/about/policies)





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