



The Jefferson County Library Foundation's mission is to support and enrich the capabilities, resources and services of Jefferson County Public Library through fundraising and advocacy efforts that benefit our diverse community.

Jefferson County Library Foundation Board 2021

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Multiple photos courtesy Steve Hostetler Photography

Letter from JCLF President





Welcome to the Jefferson County Library Foundation's (JCLF) 2020 Annual Report!

This past year has been a unique one in the 55-year history of our nonprofit organization. Along with our global community, JCLF has had to weather the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, first through the closure of our offices and warehouse operation in March, followed by the slow reopening phase in late June, and where our staff and volunteers had to become mindful of social distancing, wearing facial coverings and frequent hand sanitizing.

Although we faced some setbacks, including the cancellation of our spring **2020 Whale of a Used Book Sale** and the postponement of our new fundraising series, "Authors in the Afternoon," it turned out that there were many positive highlights to the year.

Even in the dark days of the pandemic, JCLF was able to host a pop-up tent sale on the front lawn of a neighboring business, the Brass Armadillo Antique Mall in Wheat Ridge. We raised over \$7,000 through that two-day event. We also revised the structure of our fall Whale of a Used Book Sale—extending the days and the hours of the sale and limiting indoor attendance—and still we were able to attract more than 1,700 shoppers at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds October 14-18. As a big plus, this event generated more than \$47,000.

One of the biggest high points of the year was the opening of our Foundation's first used book store! Whale's Tale Books & Gifts opened on Black Friday, November 27, 2020, at Colorado Mills Mall. This was initially a temporary venue for our winter holiday sales, but due to the success of this popular little shop, JCLF has signed a longer term lease on the property, and since that time, our Whale's Tale has proven to be a real money maker month after month.

Beyond our organizational successes, our Foundation was proud to continue providing key funding for various Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) programs, in spite of the pandemic. Over the year, our fundraising efforts brought in \$179,635 to help support the following programs and projects:

- The annual **Explore Summer Reading** challenge, where more than 18,000 Jeffco residents participated in this eight-week reading and literacy program
- Two Early Childhood Literacy programs—1000 Books Before Kindergarten and Babies First Books
- · And special funding to help JCPL create the **Discover Together: Outdoor Adventure Space** at **Belmar Library**.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express our gratitude to the Foundation staff, the dozens of dedicated JCLF volunteers, plus our donors, sponsors and Friends of the Library, for helping us provide thousands of dollars in support of our county Library.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Ana Rojas-Artica

President, Board of Directors

Jefferson County Library Foundation

Our 2020 Supported Programs

Explore Summer Reading

"I liked that there were many activities to choose from, and it wasn't just logging reading hours. It prompted me to get involved with friends and family over books, and that's always a good thing."

Summer is a busy time of year for families, and (minus a global pandemic) that typically means enjoying vacations, summer camps, sporting events, picnics, festivals, outdoor concerts and more. One important part of summer is sometimes missing, and that is reading!

When children and teens don't read during the annual summer vacation time, they often lose important literacy skills. When that happens, those students have a more difficult time studying and learning once school resumes each fall. This is something academics have recognized for many years, and they call it the "summer slide."

That's why Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) hosts a popular summertime program that not only promotes reading and literacy for children and adolescents, it also encourages parents, grandparents and guardians to set a positive example by serving as reading "role models."



In 2020, JCPL selected the theme **Imagine Your Story** and—even though the Library was unable to host its usual in-library events and activities due to COVID-19—more than 18,000 Jeffco residents participated!

Due to social distancing requirements and limitations on the number of in-person activities, 2020 program participants were offered many other ways to keep up their enthusiasm for reading during this eightweek summer program.

Here are some of those activities:

- · Write or draw in a journal.
- · Play a board game or do a puzzle.
- · Plant something
- · Build with Legos, blocks, or spaghetti and marshmallows.
- · Attend an online concert.
- · Perform a random act of kindness.

Even though the 2020 Summer Challenge was hampered by coronavirus, participants remained happy with the program, as proven by these comments:



"I loved the range of activities! Best year yet! Much more

engaging for adults, and easier to combine with children's and teen activities! I was also much better able to see how the library is not just a place for books, but a community center that is changing with technology and how people live their lives. Just great! I hope ya'll do it again next year!"

"I liked that it was open to all ages, as my kids like seeing their older sister and me do it too."

"Great creative ideas for when we were all quarantined! This was the best summer reading program ever."

In order to engage entire schools in the reading effort, JCPL continued on with its successful School Contest where area schools competed for cash prizes for the schools that had the most students finishing the eight-week program. Our Foundation supplied the prize monies—\$800 to each of five Jefferson County schools—and those funds could then be used to purchase books for the winning schools' libraries.

Here are the 2020 school winners:

- · Preschool—Kyffin Preschool
- · Elementary School—Devinny Elementary School
- · Middle School—Oberon Junior High School
- · High School—Wheat Ridge High School
- · Charter & Multi-Level School—Excel Academy

We are deeply grateful to the following sponsors for their support of this special literacy-focused initiative: FirstBank, Lakeside Amusement Park, Ent Credit Union, the Kerr Foundation, the Kettering Family

Foundation, Elitch Gardens, and Noodles & Co. *

Early Childhood Literacy

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Reading 1,000 books before a child enters kindergarten may sound like a lot, but this program has a proven success record in helping little ones gain pre-reading skills even before they start school. That's why JCPL continues to host the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, which is available at all ten Jeffco library locations as well as the bookmobile.



The program goal is to encourage small children (ages 0-5) to reach age-appropriate reading-and learning-readiness levels before they enter kindergarten. As a bonus, the program provides ongoing support, resources and guidance for parents, grandparents and caregivers as they participate in this early literacy initiative.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten continues to be a popular early literacy initiative because it is highly motivating, easy to follow, and extremely flexible. Above all, the program is FREE to our Library patrons!

Here's how it works. Parents or guardians choose a book or a story to read to their child (some choose to read the same story many times), and they keep an account of the readings by logging in the readings on a hardcopy sheet given to participants via the Library, or through an online portal. Story times at the branch library locations also count toward the goal of 1,000 books read.

We are grateful that many of our funders supported this Early Childhood Literacy program in 2020, including: the Buell Foundation, Clarence Laguardia Foundation, Melvin & Elaine Wolf Foundation, Costco, MDU Resources Foundation, and the Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation.

Babies First Books

In this year-round, specialized program, facilitated by JCPL, new mothers and fathers throughout Jefferson County are given a book of nursery rhymes (either in English or Spanish) with the purpose of helping to promote literacy skills through sound, language and the interaction between parent and child. Babies First Books aims not only to encourage early childhood reading skills, but also to engage new and first-time parents in becoming their child's primary teachers in this effort.

The program launched several years ago, and JCLF recognizes the value of continuing this Early Childhood Literacy program for the educational and cognitive advantages it provides growing children. In addition, it strengthens the natural bonds between newborns and their parents and caregivers.

During its beginning phase, 1,700 books in English and Spanish were distributed in person to parents and caregivers of Jeffco babies over more than 20 different dates at 14 different organizations and their events. These books were hybrids of (1) educational pamphlets to parents on the importance of reading to young children, (2) illustrated rhyme books to read aloud, and (3) gentle advertising for community libraries as family resources.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the materials were distributed in person at the following organizations by JCPL staff or via staff at the following agencies: Jeffco Women Infants & Children (WIC) clinics (Arvada, Lakewood and Edgewater); Metro Community Provider Network Clinics; Jefferson County Head Start; Boot Camp for New Dads at Lutheran Medical Center; Survival for New Moms at Lutheran Medical Center; Lakewood Early Head Start; Teen Moms class at McClain Community High School; Lutheran Medical Center Birth Center; and JCPL's

Raise A Reader literacy events.

JCLF is thankful to the Steve and Laurie Potash Family Foundation (Believe in Reading) and the Clarence Laguardia Foundation for supporting Babies First Books in 2020!



Special Projects

Discover Together: Outdoor Adventure Space at Belmar Library

Fred Rogers, one of the icons of early learning and children's television, once remarked: "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning."

JCPL has taken that sentiment to heart, and thanks to support from JCLF and these major donors – MWH Funding, the Socrates Foundation and Allison Brigham and her late father, Warren Roeske – JCLF



Willow Dome play space.

was able to acquire more than \$45,000 in 2020, monies that will help fund a new outdoor learning project at the Belmar Library in Lakewood.

This will be the Discover
Together: Outdoor
Adventure Space modeled
after a similar project
that was completed at
the Standley Lake Library
in 2019. The Outdoor
Adventure Space is an out-

of-doors, natural playscape for children and families that is meant to inspire curious minds, encourage family interaction and attract more and more patrons to the Library and its free Library services.

Studies show that from an early age, play is important to a child's learning. And it isn't just physical. Play can involve cognitive, imaginative, creative, emotional and social aspects of development. Soon JCPL will have the opportunity to promote these skills within a unique and professionally-designed outdoor educational and



Log steppers—'serious' play!

experiential environment. Similar to the pilot project at Standley Lake Library, the Belmar site may include amenities such as: a willow dome; fairy stumps; benches; outdoor musical instruments; a sensory garden; log steppers; a balance log; a log tunnel; and an insect "hotel" and nests.

Belmar Library's **Discover Together: Outdoor Adventure Space** will be dedicated to the memory of Allison Brigham's parents, **Shirley M. and Warren A. Roeske.** **

Naming Rights at Belmar Library



Belmar Library's new entrance.

Belmar Library in Lakewood underwent a huge \$6.3 million renovation beginning in September 2019 and was completed in late spring 2020. However, and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the grand reopening of the facility was delayed, due to health and safety measures that kept the library closed to the public for several months except for curbside pickup of books and media materials.

In 2020, three more donors stepped up to help support this branch JCPL location by contributing funds toward naming rights for specific library amenities.

We appreciate this show of support by these major contributors:

Bank of Colorado—\$5,000 for the small meeting room

Melvin & Elaine Wolf Foundation—\$5,000 for audio/visual section of the Children's Library

Fransen Pittman—\$1,000 for a bike rack.







The Melvin & Elaine Wolf Foundation, Inc.

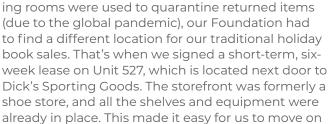
Special Projects

Whale's Tale Books & Gifts

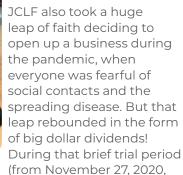
On Black Friday (November 27, 2020), our Foundation launched an exciting new fundraising endeavor—our Whale's Tale Books & Gifts shop located at Colorado

Mills Mall in Lakewood.

At that time, and because all JCPL branch location meet-



in and test the retail market by opening up a used bookstore operation.





Holiday items on display.

to January 17, 2021), the Foundation raised more than \$28,000. After that, JCLF's Board of Directors decided to extend the lease, and the Foundation signed a contract that will keep us at the Mall through February 2022.

While Whale's Tale has given us a new outlet and greater visibility for selling our used books, we are also finding a broader market for our used CDs, DVDs and especially our vinyl records. Along with repurposed items, JCLF sells new products and gift items, such as greeting cards, scarves, handbags, jewelry, stuffed animals, and themed gift baskets. The latter items are cleverly created by our stellar volunteers Mickey Lytle and Sandy Kramer, who designed nearly 100 gift baskets for our winter holiday sales.

Whale's Tale Books & Gifts is open seven days a week, and it is staffed by dedicated volunteers who are recruited, trained and scheduled by the Foundation's Volunteer & Friends Coordinator Kirstin Kraig. **

Whale of a Used Book Sale



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JCLF was forced to cancel our spring 2020 Whale of a Used Book Sale, however we did forge ahead for the fall event held from Wednesday evening, Oct. 14, through Sunday afternoon, Oct. 18, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden, CO. And because of the pandemic, our fall sale looked a lot different than usual

For starters, we extended our public sales days from Thursday through Sunday, and JCLF had to implement the 50-shoppers-at-a-time rule to comply with our county's health and safety mandates at that time. That health protocol limited in-person attendance at indoor events, plus we had to enforce social distancing, frequent hand sanitizing and the wearing of face coverings for staff, volunteers and shoppers alike.

In addition, and for the first time in our Whale Sale history, JCLF also implemented a pre-paid, online (or on the phone) reservation system where patrons paid \$5 to shop for 50 minutes, and then had another 10 minutes for check-out. At the end of each hour, we cleared the room for the next group to enter the exhibit halls, and the clock started again at the top of each hour. Shoppers were able to reserve more than one hour of shopping time at \$5 per additional hour, and several came back to the sale at different times on multiple days.

As a bonus, and as a show of our gratitude, shoppers with reservations received a free book, CD or DVD for each hour they reserved. We did welcome walk-ins with no reservation or entry fee, and these individuals were allowed to join the sale when other shoppers left and space became available in the exhibit halls.

We were pleased that—despite all the new health precautions—nearly 1,700 individuals were able to attend this five-day shopping spree, which began with Friends Preview Night and concluded with JCLF's popular Bag Day where patrons could purchase a bag of books and other media for just \$8 per grocery-sized bag.

The result? Even with fewer shoppers able to attend the event, JCLF still raised over \$47,000.

More than 100 volunteers helped us manage this huge fall sale, which was overseen by our event planner, **Deborah Deal**, vice president of JCLF's Board of Directors. **

Special Events

Jeffco International Women's Day

JCLF was proud to be one of the recipients—along with Porchlight Family Justice Center—of the



5th Annual Jeffco International Women's Day workshop series and luncheon that was held at Baldoria on the Water in Lakewood on March 6. The 2020 event generated a cash award of \$4,000, which was split between the two nonprofits.

The room was jam packed with more than 200 women and men from throughout the county who joined in to help celebrate some of the amazing accomplishments of women in Jeffco. The occasion was also a time to recognize two special females who were nominated by their peers and lauded for their contributions to our community.

Former Golden Mayor Marjorie Sloan was recognized with the "Shattered Glass" award. As only the second female to tackle the role as Golden's mayor, this honor was a fitting tribute. Wendy Johnson accepted the "Volunteer of the Year" honors due to her unflagging involvement in the Golden Back-pack Program.

During the luncheon, guests enjoyed a presentation by keynote speaker Heidi Ganahl, an entrepreneur and founder of the wildly successful Camp Bow Wow pet care centers. Prior to the luncheon, attendees were welcome to participate in on-site workshops that focused on women's health and cyber security.

Jeffco International Women's Day was launched five years ago by Deborah Deal, CEO of IX Power Foundation and a JCLF Board member. *



and The Little Bear fundraiser from taking place! JCLF Executive Director Jo Schantz (center) proudly accepts a check from Marie Lynch (L) and Diane

Florschuetz. These two are part of the Mountain Metro Association of Realtors that hosts this annual benefit. Proceeds from the event are designated for Conifer and Evergreen Libraries. **



Friends of the Library 2020 Annual Meeting

For many years, JCLF has continued the tradition of hosting a Friends Annual meeting, which typically includes a catered meal, a keynote presentation by a noted author, a book signing, and a chance to meet with the guest author—all while sharing the occasion with fellow Friends of the Jefferson County Public Library.

In 2020 we were pleased to have Tiffany Quay Tyson, a local Colorado author, as our keynote speaker at the Friends Annual Meeting on Friday, March 13, at the Wheat Ridge Rec Center in Wheat Ridge.



Tiffany **Quay Tyson**

Tiffany Quay Tyson is the author of two novels, The Past is Never and Three Rivers. The native of Mississippi has also received the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction, the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction, and the Mississippi Author Award as selected by the Mississippi Library Association. Beyond her novel writing, she is also the recipient of two Heartland Emmy Awards including one for

writing for a children's public television program. Tiffany is a faculty member at Denver's Lighthouse Writers Workshop and the Lighthouse Young Writers Program.

Sponsors of the luncheon event included: Remax/Divito Dream Makers, Avenida Partners, Bonfire Burritos, Empty Shelves, Foothills Vision Center and the Taurus Fund. *

Our First Tent Sale at the Brass Armadillo Antique Mall

OUR SUMMER TENT SALE WAS A HIT! Because 2020 indoor events were discouraged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and because we were unable to produce our spring Whale of



a Used Book Sale, JCLF switched gears and hosted a summer tent sale on August 20 and 21 on the lawn in front of the Brass Armadillo Antique Mall in Wheat Ridge. We were pleased that this small sale circulated hundreds of books, CDs, DVDs and audio books back into the hands of quarantined readers, plus it generated more than \$7,000!

We are grateful to **Dave Simonson**, manager of the Brass Armadillo Antique Mall, for allowing us to use this property for our first-time sale.

The tent sale was organized by JCLF's Volunteer & Friends Coordinator Kirstin Kraig who orchestrated a small army of 28 valiant volunteers to make this twoday fundraiser a success.**

Volunteer Efforts

JCLF could not function without the 200+ volunteers who donate many hours of their time to help us all year round. Our volunteers take on many

important roles.
Some volunteers
serve on our special
event committees
and assist with
administrative
tasks in our front
office. Some work
at the Foundation
warehouse where
they accept



Whale's Tale Books & Gifts Volunteers

donations from the public and then scan, sort, price and box up books for our various book sales. They are the friendly faces that assist shoppers and booklovers at our **Whale's Tale Books & Gifts** shop in Colorado Mills Mall, and some serve on our Board of Directors

and act as Board advisors.

Even though our office and ware-house complex was closed from March 15, 2020, through the end of June 2020 (due to the pandemic), once JCLF could slowly and safely reopen, our volunteers put in many hours to assist us.



Fall 2020 Whale Sale Volunteers

In 2020, these dedicated volunteers:

- Provided 3,656 hours of service throughout the year—an actual dollar value of \$107,852*
- Helped us raise more than \$47,000 at our Fall Whale of a Used Book Sale
- Assisted us in providing funding for the Library's Summer Challenge, Early Childhood Literacy and STEM/STEAM programs that were available throughout the county
- And helped generate more than \$19,000 in 2020 at Whale's Tale Books & Gifts shop.

JCLF is proud to acknowledge and thank our many volunteers! *

*The Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, values each volunteer hour at \$29.50.

Volunteer Appreciation 2020

Althouah COVID-19 prevented us from gathering in person for our annual Volunteer Appreciation event on July 24th, nearly 30 guests did log onto the Zoom virtual platform to help us celebrate and honor our





Warehouse and Office Volunteers

many JCLF volunteers. Our guests heard words of congratulations from JCPL Executive Director **Donna Walker** and were also lauded by JCLF's Board President **Ana Rojas-Artica**.

Our 2020 honorees included:

Volunteer Leadership Award **Doug Pratt**

Volunteer of the Year Award Ron Proulx

Elena Joyce Grissom Lifetime Achievement Award Mickey Lytle

OUR NEW FRIENDS COUNCIL

In early 2020, JCLF recruited a new slate of members to establish a revised Friends Council. As our Foundation recovers from the effects of COVID-19, these Friends Council members will be helping our Foundation with advocacy and fundraising for the Library, and will work as a core advisory committee.

Here is our 2020 Friends Council:

Tyrenny Hidy, Chair

Doug Pratt, Vice Chair

Kay Rowland, Secretary

Laura Kepler, Member at Large

Mickey Lytle, Member at Large

Kirstin Kraig, JCLF Representative



2020 Annual Donors

We extend our sincere appreciation to our major contributors, without whom many of our programs would not be possible.

Major Donors (\$500 and above)

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DiVito Dream Makers RE/MAX

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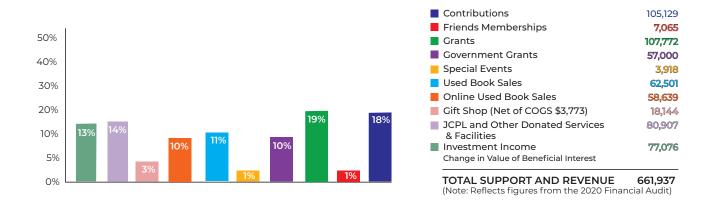
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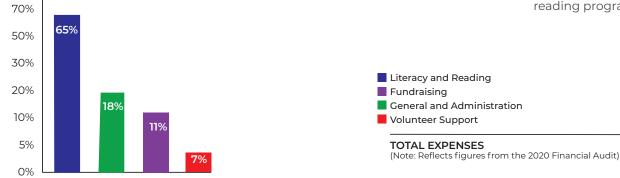
REVENUE Summary of 2020 Support and Revenue

Jane Thompson



EXPENSE Summary of 2019 Expenses

Sixty-five percent of the Foundation's expenses support direct literacy and reading programming.



383,229

103,778

40,355

591,393

64,031



Support the possibilities.
Support the possibilities.
Support the possibilities.
Support the possibilities.



Jefferson County Library Foundation 10790 W. 50th Avenue, Suite 200 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 303.403.5075

jeffclf.org

