

### FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATHEE RHODE

2018 was a year to remember! Our long-awaited renovation and expansion to add a Children's Library began January 2 and continued through 2018. The LML Transformation Team continued planning for the expansion and transformation of the library space, meeting regularly to make decisions with the community's needs in mind.

The Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative (LCLC) formed with libraries in Lehigh and Carbon Counties to share resources and offer a common library card to residents.

I invite you to come to the Lower Macungie Library to receive your free LCLC card to access our in-house collection, digital collection and streaming opportunities. See you in the Library!

*Kathee Rhode*

Despite construction, limited space and extreme temperatures, we were able to continue to support the PA Forward Program by addressing the five literacies (Basic, Information, Civic and Social, Health and Financial Literacy) through:

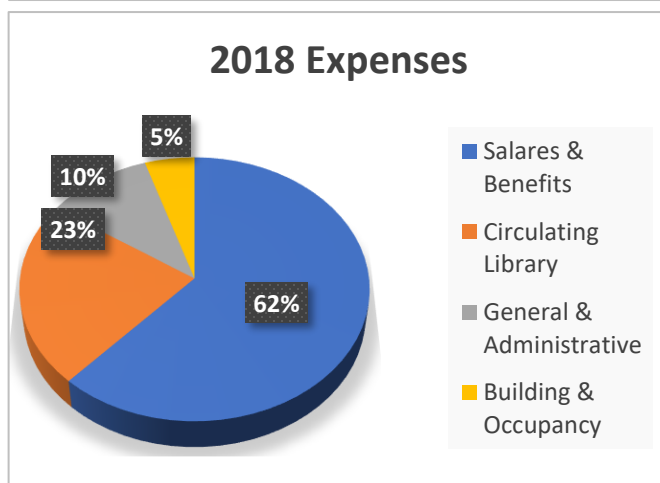
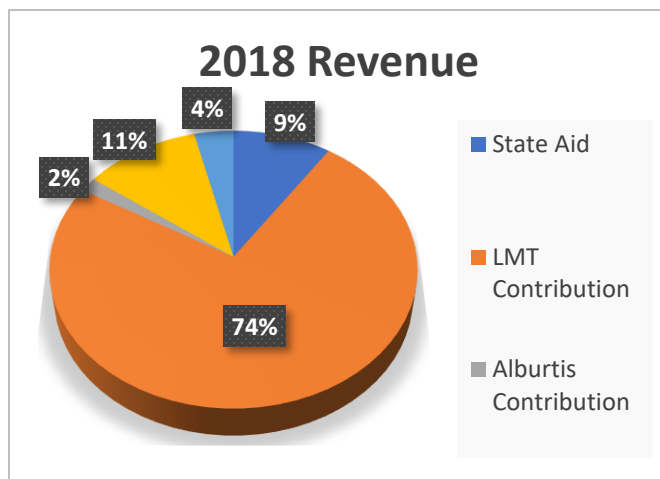
- **Library Material Use/Circulation**
  - 77,786 items from the children's collection
  - 165,320 items from the adult collection
  - 25,054 electronic materials
- **Programs**
  - 12,069 children attended 273 programs
  - 224 young adults attended 25 programs
  - 2,419 adults attended 75 programs
- **Technology**
  - The community logged 9,181 sessions on the public computers
  - There were 11,640 sessions using our wireless
  - Three laptops were available (and continue to be) to borrow for inhouse use
  - Staff provided one-on-one help with devices

During 2018 the preparation for the public phase of the **Campaign to Transform Lower Macungie Library** began. Volunteers hosted gatherings of friends and neighbors so information about LML could be shared. Those attending the gatherings were impressed with the services provided. It became clear that the Library was the best kept secret in the Township.

At the 2018 Cherries, Chocolate & Jazz event, the campaign was publicly announced. A goal of \$250,000 was set. 50% of the goal was achieved by the end of 2018. Monies raised from the Campaign funded the new furniture and shelving. The construction of the 4,400 square foot addition which houses the Children's Library and renovations in the existing library were funded through a Keystone Grant of \$500,000 and matched by Lower Macungie Township.

**We thought you might like to know....**

- ✓ 117,120 visited the Library in 2018
- ✓ Over 4,000 reference questions were answered
- ✓ We are open 2,964 hours a year (not to mention our virtual branch which is open 24/7 at [www.lowermaclib.org](http://www.lowermaclib.org))
- ✓ We have 13 staff members of whom seven are full-time and 6 part-time
- ✓ Seven staff hold Master's Degrees in Library Science and one holds an MBA



*Thank you to Lower Macungie Township and the Borough of Alburtis for their generous financial support. A special thank you to the many donors who participated in our fundraising events, The Campaign to Transform Lower Macungie Library, those who remembered loved ones through our Dedicated Book Program and who responded to our mailings. Because of your generosity, we can and will encourage children to read, provide teens with a safe place to meet and grow academically and engage adults of all ages through books, programs, classes and community activities.*

## **2018 Donor List**

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