

Dear friends,

2020 was a challenging year, as we all navigated our way through uncertainties and unusual times. While it has been a long period of uncertainty, we continue to find inspiration and hope in the spirit of our fellowship. With that, as we enter a new year, we are celebrating the kindness and camaraderie that brought light and comfort to each of us.

One thing that 2020 showed us is that when a community comes together, our solidarity can open up limitless possibilities for innovation. Your generosity—and that of many individuals, businesses, and foundations—helped make our services possible for 500,000 Alameda County residents, inspiring new and creative ways to read and learn while at home. Even while physically apart, we remained connected in recognition of our diversity and common humanity.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we're excited to continue on this journey with you. Together, we will bring more books, digital resources, and services to all members of our community so that everyone can lead vibrant, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Your belief and support for the transformative power of the Alameda County Library keep us moving forward—thank you!

Sincerest gratitude,

Tiona Smith
Executive Director



Brighten your day with these heartwarming shoutouts from our community!

"To all superhero librarians, we are so grateful and thankful for your tireless work and dedication. You perfectly strive to provide the best attention to all the library fans. We love you and miss visiting [the] library. Keep smiling, stay safe and we will see you all soon. There is lots that you have done for me."

"You guys are awesome! My kids are always excited to eat their lunches and read their books! Thank you for giving them something to look forward to. I'm so grateful."

KEEPING UP LIBRARY SERVICES AMID COVID-19

When COVID-19 hit, our libraries quickly innovated ways to bring learning into the homes of our community. Library staff have been hard at work, offering online services via live chat, curating reading lists, maintaining 24/7 access to the catalogues, and offering appointment-based, no contact pickup services so members can bring home physical books.

With the Alameda County Library Foundation's (ACLF) support, our libraries also added new eMaterials for all members, such as Chinese language eBooks and eAudiobooks, access to Acorn TV and The Great Courses, and a subscription to ReadyRosie so families can learn and bond at home.

GRAB AND GO KITS pack a wealth of family fun in small packages! A \$20,000 award from the Foundation helped us provide children and families with **hundreds of library bags** filled with books and nifty arts and crafts supplies for them to enjoy together.

KIND, CONNECTED SUMMER was the theme for our 2020 summer reading game that helped kids maintain good reading habits and brought the joy of learning at home. For 10 weeks online, our members completed various reading challenges to win fun prizes, and shared their reflections and artworks from their Kindness Journals with our online community.

- 1,353** Total entries
- 251** Winners
- 900+** Stories, photos, and artworks shared from Kindness Journals
- 500+** Reflection responses shared in the weekly entries



HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING PROGRAM IN UNION CITY was piloted in early August and we can't wait to launch the 2021 program. Exciting things are in store for the summer—we're eyeing book distribution in May, along with six unique book talks hosted by the Union City Teen Advisory Board from June to August, with a potential tie-in with Summer Reading Game 2021. Stay tuned...

50 Students participated

LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY IN 2020 took a grab-and-go approach, serving healthy packed meals for kids and their caregivers. Kids also picked up library bags with a free book, arts and crafts kits, and educational supplies for distance learning. We're happy to hear the kits have helped our community: a dad displaced due to the Santa Cruz fire said the meals were practically all he and his son had, while a mother of four said the school lunches were so small that her boys needed more food and the meals we served were more satisfying. Thanks to the Foundation's additional investment and the heartwarming response from our community, the distribution of children's meals and emergency grocery bags will continue to run through 2021.

- 300** Lunches distributed daily for kids and caregivers
- 150** Emergency grocery bags given out

MALAKA GHARIB BOOK GIVEAWAY at the Newark Library gave away books by author and artist Malaka Gharib. Her first widely published book, *I Was Their American Dream*, is a critically-acclaimed graphic memoir about her experiences growing up as a Filipino-Egyptian-American.

100 Books distributed

Meet Poppy, One of Our New Mobile Libraries!



MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES bring the library to our community. We acquired two brand new mobile libraries—Poppy and Redwood—to bring books and resources to residents who are not able to access their local branches, such as older adults, individuals living in care facilities, and those in the county's underserved communities. Through curated book bundles, a diverse collection of age-appropriate resources in English and Spanish, welcome cards, and no-contact pickup of books, our pop-up library on wheels encourages members to get into the habit of reading. Poppy is already making the rounds at elementary schools and a low-income housing facility. More stops are en route!

- 16,043** Books and resources checked out in total
- 12,472+** Library members reached
- 13** Visits to 3 sites conducted
- 30+** Grab-and-go kits distributed to 20 families
- 36** New welcome cards distributed

As part of our commitment to racial and social equity, we're proud to share the Alameda County Library team is actively working for **JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI)**. Our JEDI teams will soon hold training sessions to inspire courageous conversations on equity as we move forward in our vision to be kind, connected humans. Stay tuned for updates!

The **NEWARK LIBRARY** is now 89% complete, and it's on track for completion by spring 2021. We're excited for this modern library building and to see the new space for innovation buzz into life. To support this huge capital project, the Foundation's fundraising efforts are ongoing. To date, we've raised approximately 40% of our goal in donations and pledges from committed partners and sponsors.



LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER!

Innovating enrichment programs, creating new opportunities for learning, and coming together as a community—these defined our impact in 2020

- Acquired **312** new donors
- Awarded **\$196,550** in opportunity grants to the Library
- Raised over **\$9,000** in our Library Giving Day & Giving Tuesday fundraising campaigns



HELP US PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING FOR THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY.

The mission of the Alameda County Library Foundation is to provide critical support to public libraries in the Alameda County Library system, resulting in all people in our communities having access to knowledge in all of its forms. We raise revenue in support of library programs, facilities, and services that promote traditional and digital literacy, encourage educational achievement and lifelong learning, and address opportunity gaps in the communities we serve. Help us promote lifelong learning for the Alameda County community. Find out how you can support our work on <http://www.acclf.org/>.

CONTACT DETAILS

