

Shoutouts



Over **1 Million** Libby Checkouts!



We went on new adventures with county Librarian, **Cindy Chadwick**, as she visited libraries around Alameda County. Staff from Irvington, Fremont Main, and the Juvenile Justice Center libraries gave us a glimpse of their personal stories and experiences as librarians and their love of books. You can check out the series and learn more about the work they do at **@TheACLlibrary** on Youtube.

We are deeply grateful to the readers and learners who helped us reach over **1 million digital checkouts** last year. Our online library of over **90,000 eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines** continues to be available 24/7 for readers of all ages and interests through the Libby App.

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Fundraising & Volunteer Updates

2023 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH, partnerships, and generosity for ACLF. Look at what we've accomplished together!

Received **\$182,500** from individual donors in support of the Library's general operations and programs.

Raised **\$5,755** through our Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign.

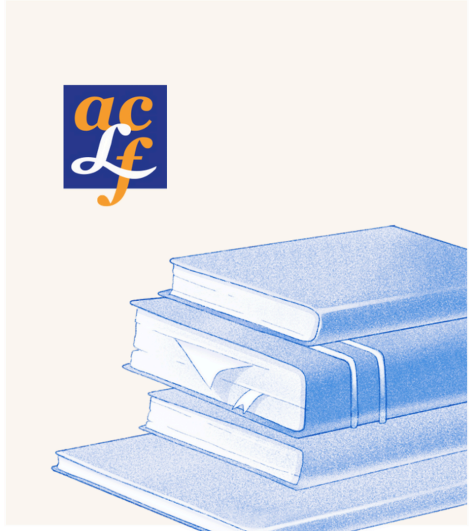
Provided **\$84,465** in support for AC Libraries' special projects.

Collaborated with **2,610** amazing and dedicated volunteers who devoted a total of **17,364.25** hours.

Thank you for your magical partnership in 2023. We are constantly on the lookout for new additions to our Board and growing our volunteer network. Feel free to reach out to the Foundation at **510-505-7077** or via email at **volunteers@aclf.org** to send Board membership inquiries or explore other volunteer opportunities. Here's to more in 2024!



2450 Stevenson Blvd,
Fremont, CA 94538



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End-of-Year Highlights

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Community begins here.



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 at <http://www.aclf.org/>.

Dear friends,

2023 WAS A YEAR FILLED WITH FRESH STARTS and exciting stories. Fueled by our shared passion for books, your Alameda County Library brought joy, inclusivity, and a sense of community to readers and learners of all backgrounds. We amplified the impact of our ongoing programs and started new ones from scratch, creating more impactful learning opportunities and treasured memories for library-goers.

The outpouring of love from our supporters and community grew this year and played a pivotal role in the success of our fundraising efforts, library services, and events. We had **1,241,108 library visits** and **91,512 people** attending all of the **2,946 events** that everyone worked hard for last year. It's a remarkable feat we should celebrate! We also created more ways to share updates through our internal newsletter and episodes of the "Cindy Visits" YouTube series.

We are truly grateful for all your effort and dedication this past year and we know that, together, we can do greater things in 2024. Our community is the key that unlocks the magic and freedom that books bring — thank you. We hope you enjoy reading our 2023 highlights.



TIONA SMITH-BRADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate



On August 25th, **Brian Guan** was named the 2023 Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate, and serving as his Vice-Laureate is **Sunwoo Eom**. As literary ambassadors, they are taking active roles in our community and using their creative and powerful voices to spark important conversations and foster civic engagement, social justice, and cultural awareness. For aspiring Youth Poet Laureates, **applications** will begin on **April 1st** so be sure to mark your calendars!

Two New Tool-Lending Libraries

Launched in time for Valentine's Day 2023, the *Tool-Lending Libraries* at Irvington and Centerville are the community's new resource for tinkering, repairing, planting, and creating. Irvington's **Makerspace Garage** offers various equipment such as 3D printers and laser cutters to build and create with, as well as tools for DIY projects and home, car, and phone repairs. Centerville has eco-friendly tools for the community's garden maintenance needs. With free and easy access to these tools, cost barriers are removed and communities have the opportunity to learn, build, restore, reuse and share resources, and embrace green practices that cultivate sustainable neighborhoods.

If you are an Alameda County Library cardholder, check out our **website** for more details on how to borrow our **collection**. There will be opportunities for the community to donate tools to Irvington and Centerville this 2024 — stay tuned for more details!

Mobile & Outreach Services



In 2023, *Poppy* and *Redwood*, our Mobile Library Fleet, went on **9,081 visits** countywide to ensure that library services reached those who needed them most. Thanks to our donors, we continued to bring the joy of learning to our community, one mobile library stop at a time.

Be sure to catch us this 2024 at <https://aclibrary.org/mobile>.

Giving Tuesday

2023 was a testament to the dynamic power of collective giving and kindness. Our profuse thanks to our staunch advocates and everyone who supported our fundraising campaigns! In November, we raised a total of **\$5,755** for *Giving Tuesday* alone. All your generous donations will enable AC Library to promote lifelong learning and expand our social projects for the most vulnerable members of our communities. Looking forward to further diversifying our collection of **1,036,045 books** and growing the **2,946 community-driven events** we hosted last year!

A Week of Literary Freedom

We continued to celebrate literary freedom by helping readers break barriers and grow intellectually through a **reading list** of challenged books that are readily available at our libraries.

Summer Nourishment Programs

FREE LUNCH MEALS, MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AND SEED LIBRARY

Last summer, the Newark Library distributed over **4,500 fresh meals** for children and youth in Alameda County, an endeavor to promote health and well-being for people of all ages! Props to the teams that led the following similar initiatives

Free Lunch Meals Our Mobile Library in Fremont Main distributed food packs to under-resourced families, bringing our social service initiatives closer to our most in-need community members.

Seed Sharing Library Gardening and seed-sharing programs continue in the Castro Valley Library. Alameda County residents can select up to five varieties of vegetable and flower seeds ready to flourish in their own yards. Cheers to this wonderful collaboration with *Forestr.org* that promotes food sustainability and permaculture practices in our community.

Hats off to everyone behind the huge success of these programs and here's to reaching more families this year with our nourishment programs!

Summer Adventure

The successful run of *Summer Adventure* from June 1st to August 15th was another highlight of 2023, having received **92% more submissions** than in 2022! People of all ages had a "Magical Journey" and found their way to meaningful self-discoveries and reflections. Let's take a peek once more at the wonderful **artwork** from the kids!



Viewpoint Video Project

In November, we filmed a series of short commercials for the *Viewpoint Project* to showcase AC Library's incredible work and impact. We thank the ACLF Board for supporting this project, and the *Viewpoint Project* for enabling us to share our mission with people across the US and around the world. Stay tuned for the reveal at [@TheACLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/@TheACLibrary) on Youtube.

AC Library SWAG Store

In October, ACLF unveiled its online *SWAG Store*, a retail platform where our AC library-themed merchandise is sold. It aims to augment our fundraising efforts, making sure that our network of libraries sustains impact on promoting lifelong learning and driving social justice initiatives. Huge congratulations to the whole AC SWAG team for designing wonderful products and managing the shop!



Collective Reading List Launch

We started our **Collective Reading List** to showcase the library staff's top book picks and current reads. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and upcoming emails, where we'll be unveiling these recommendations. Cheers to building a tapestry of shared reading experiences and discovering new literary gems together!

Clearer Communications

To share the latest goings-on across AC libraries, we've been working on more updates for our staff, community, and supporters. Each one will highlight **big achievements, standout programs**, and our **exceptional library staff** in short and exciting updates. We look forward to sharing more wonderful news from your Alameda County Libraries in the coming year!