



## **Friends & Foundation, St. Helena Public Library A Case for Support**

### **Our Library**

The St. Helena Public Library is a stand-alone, municipal facility serving over 10,000 individuals annually. The library is a department of the City of St. Helena. Our library is a world-class institution that consistently receives state and national awards. In 2014, it was the first library in California to be named one of two finalists for Best Small Library in America, an award sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and presented by the national publication *Library Journal*.

The St. Helena Public Library is a community anchor that is a welcoming place for everyone, providing print and digital books, CDs, DVDs, meeting spaces, access to specialized databases and instruction on how to use new technologies. The many free educational and cultural programs supported by grants from Friends & Foundation offer lifelong learning opportunities and fun for children and adults. These programs include early literacy, homework help, art exhibits, music and dance programs, lecture series, Makers Club, Let's Lego, and drop-in craft activities for the whole family.

***According to California State Library, a public research institution, St. Helena Public Library had the highest circulation per capita in the State, and nearly four times more library visits than the state average in 2013-14, the most recent years for which data is available.***

	<b>Library visits per capita</b>	<b>Circulation per capita</b>
<b>St. Helena Public Library</b>	20.19	52.67
<b>State average</b>	5.97	7.93

### **Library Funding Sources**

A library of this caliber requires both public and private funds to deliver the quality of programming and services it offers. Jointly, the City of St. Helena and Friends & Foundation provide the funds necessary to keep our library vibrant and relevant.

In fiscal year 2015-16, our library received 88 percent of its \$1,074,675 budget from municipal funding sources to cover full-time salaries and facilities. Friends & Foundation provided the remaining 12%, a grant of \$125,000, to purchase books and other materials, to support the library's outstanding educational and cultural programs, and to pay part-time salaries. Traditionally, Friends & Foundation grants were earmarked for

library enhancements only and not intended to support staff. However, the board understood last year that without these funds, library hours would have been drastically cut due to the City's financial situation.

Our vision is that the library's operations are fully funded by the city of St. Helena and Friends & Foundation provides additional funding for enhancements. In the meantime, we remain committed to working with the library director and the City to support the library in a way that best meets the needs of our library community.

### **Investing in Our Library's Future**

The mission of Friends & Foundation is to enhance the resources and services our library through fundraising and advocacy. Community support is essential in order for Friends & Foundation to continue providing grants to our library to help keep it an active, vital force offering access to education and technology for all. Please visit [www.SupportSHLibrary.org](http://www.SupportSHLibrary.org) to make a tax-deductible donation today or to learn how you can include the library in your estate plan.

***“At a time of information overload and growing gaps between digital ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’, the roles for dynamic and engaged libraries are growing. Though their skills and the technologies they use may be changing, they have never been more valuable to people of all ages, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds.”***

***--Sari Feldman, American Library Association President***

