

Douglas  
County  
Libraries  
Foundation



# 2024 DONOR SUMMARY





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## 2024 Annual Report

Message from our Executive Director, Amber DeBerry

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, we at the Douglas County Libraries Foundation (DCLF) are thankful for all that we have accomplished together. Last year was another year of growth, innovation, and community connection. Major accomplishments include surpassing annual fundraising goals, receiving larger family grants, and hosting another successful and entertaining gala. As always, these were made possible through the generosity and contributions of our supporters.

2024 DCLF highlights include:

- Securing new corporate sponsors for our annual gala and educational play area in Parker
- Increasing the number of grants by 44%
- Welcoming two new board members

As 2025 begins, we are excited to build on our momentum from the past year. We will continue to work to increase our endowment and fulfill our mission of delivering funding and resources to help sustain Douglas County Libraries (DCL) and positively impact our community members so they can grow and thrive.

In addition, the DCLF will continue its support of library events and services, such as supplying books to local children's hospitals and granting scholarships for community members needing extra support to attend Camp DCL.

The DCLF is led by a dedicated volunteer board. Their leadership continues to help build the Douglas County Libraries Foundation and deepen the impact libraries have in our community. We are grateful to our board members, donors, library trustees, staff, and volunteers, who dedicate countless hours and expertise to support the Foundation.

Thank you for standing with us and believing in elevating our community by inspiring a love of reading, discovery, and connection.

Regards,

Amber DeBerry

## Fundraising

### Fête des Fables Gala

Our Pinocchio-themed gala was the most successful gala in DCLF history, raising nearly \$120,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, a silent auction, and the very popular wine pull, yielding a profit of just more than \$70,000 after expenses. Ticket sales sold out and the Highlands Ranch Mansion was filled to capacity, with 250 guests who enjoyed an outside Italian market, a Gelato truck for dessert, and seeing and taking photos with Ferraris upon their arrival, plus many other activities.

### Colorado Gives Day

- Goal: \$70,000
- Total raised via Colorado Gives Day campaign (November 1-December 9): \$86,461
- Total year-end giving (November 1-December 31): \$104,145
- Number of donors: 605, including 122 first-time donors

“Happy to help support the library! Free books to check out anytime? How can I say how appreciative I am of that? No amount would be enough. Thank you for making books available, not only for entertainment, but to teach and guide us. I am so thankful for everyone who makes the library run well and fosters that love of reading.”  
– A Colorado Gives Day Donor

## Impact



### Scholarships

- 21 Camp DCL scholarships, totaling \$5,830
- 4 tickets to DCL Storybook Holiday events, totaling \$98
- 4 Career Online High School (COHS) scholarships, totaling \$5,000
- 6 Excel High School Scholarships, totaling \$6,000
- 41 individual GED test vouchers, totaling \$1,742
- 11 graduates from our GED and COHS programs

### Summer Reading Award Recipients

Each year, the DCLF awards \$500 to each of four K-12 schools (one at each level: elementary, middle, high, and other/charter) with the most summer reading registrations through the

program’s school contest, as a percentage of school enrollment. In addition, if the community reading goal is met, we award \$1,000 to a Douglas County nonprofit chosen by our summer reading committee. Recipients of the DCLF donation awards were Larkspur Elementary, Mountain Ridge Middle School, Thunder Ridge High School, Renaissance Secondary School, and Hawk Quest (nonprofit).

### Community Fundraisers

- 8 silent auction baskets, value totaling \$725

### Children’s Hospital Colorado (CHCO)

In 2024, the Foundation donated books to CHCO twice, supporting two separate causes. In September, and for our third time participating, we fulfilled a request for 100 books in support of CHCO’s participation in a worldwide read-a-thon for Babies with Books. Books were given to families whose babies were in the NICU. In the fourth quarter, DCLF donated 40 books and started a new relationship



with the Association of Volunteers Office toward a regular quarterly donation in 2025 of 50 books to support CHCO Highlands Ranch patients and their families.

### Operation Paperback

A service managed by DCL Volunteer Services.

- 616 books shipped
- 68 family recipients
- Shipped within the U.S. and abroad

### Used Book Donations from Volunteer Services

In 2024, DCL's Volunteer Services department and the Foundation gave 320 donated and new books to the Kiwanis Club of Castle Rock in support of South Elementary School's Trunk or Treat event. South Elementary is a Title 1 school in Douglas County, and its students and families appreciate receiving the books to start or grow their home libraries. We gave another 3,573 used books to 23 community nonprofits, Little Free Libraries, and government entities. Preference is given to local or Colorado-based organizations, with some support going abroad to help promote and support literacy.



## Supporting the Work of Douglas County Libraries

The DCLF grants money each year to Douglas County Libraries to support the incredible work of our libraries. With the help of these funds, DCL provided premium programming and services to more than 3.2 million visitors to our library locations and online last year. DCL offers an array of opportunities impacting youth, families, and adults in Douglas County.



DCL's journey with a family begins in Douglas County hospitals, with gift bags delivered for parents welcoming new additions to their families. In 2024, we delivered 5,775 Cuddle Up & Read gift bags. To further our impact, DCL joined the Douglas County Healthy Families Partnership, which provides even more resources to families receiving hospital services. Our gift bags are included in this larger package to provide a community's worth of support.

DCL Storytimes continue to support our youngest residents, to help them learn important early literacy skills and prepare them to be future readers. In 2024, more than 151,000 people attended Storytimes at our locations. Volunteers also provide

Storytimes in our communities for those unable to attend at our libraries. Through our Book Start program, trained volunteers provide Storytime to little ones in local daycares and preschools. In 2024, they reached more than 28,000 people.

For school-aged children and families, our libraries partner with and support Douglas County schools and students through school ID access to digital resources, book-themed theatrical assemblies, and trivia bowl-style competitions focused on books and literacy. In addition, participants of all ages in DCL's annual summer reading program logged nearly 11 million minutes of reading last year. With myriad book

clubs, lifelong learning events, and outreach, DCL provides for everyone, stretching beyond our walls to deliver services.

DCL was an affiliate for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL) for the second year in 2024. DPIL is a book-gifting program that mails free books directly to children from birth to age five. The program provides the gift of literacy for all children, inspires children to love books and reading, and supports parents and communities in fostering a child’s success. More than 8,000 Douglas County children are now registered and receiving new books at home every month.

Forest of Stories was back in 2024 and bigger than before, with 175 book-inspired trees located throughout the library’s seven branches and displayed for seven weeks. DCLF was once again the presenting sponsor of this wintertime tradition, offering a free cultural experience to bring shared enjoyment and wonder to the entire DCL community. The sponsorship included Foundation recognition on printed marketing materials, social media, advertising, marketing emails, and event signage.



## Other Noteworthy Activity

### Grants Received

- Awarded three competitive grants from Ent Credit Union, Walmart (Castle Rock), and Douglas County Community Foundation, totaling \$5,500
- Received five grants from community organizations, including Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, totaling \$3,750
- Received 26 grants from family foundations, totaling \$28,969

### Endowment

By the end of 2024, our endowment’s value was over \$200,000. DCLF celebrated individual donations designated for the endowment totaling \$765.

### Volunteer Contributions

In addition to monetary donors, DCL is fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer program. These individuals donate their time to support the vision of DCL and directly impact money earned for DCLF through our physical and online bookstores. Book sale services are managed by DCL Volunteer Services.

- 1,282 unique volunteers donated 27,720 hours to DCL
- Second Chapter Used Bookstore sales revenue: \$72,196
- Amazon Online book sales: 971 units, \$11,782.73

### DreamBooks Co.

Recycling books back into the hands of readers.

- 188,000 pounds of material diverted from landfills
- 24,681 units sold
- \$18,706.45 given back to DCLF

### King Soopers

- 130 participating households; \$4,642.73

## Recognizing Donors

2024 Supporters, \$5,000+



STERLING RANCH™  
COLORADO

Ewing Family Foundation

Family of Maureen 'AJ' Ramey

Howe Family

Sjostrom Family Fund

Terry Nolan

## 2024 Corporate, Community, Grants & Foundations Supporters

105 West Brewing Company  
5280 Exteriors  
A Line Boutique  
Arthur Murray Dance Studio  
Atomic Provisions  
Bevy's Liquor World  
Big 5 Sporting Goods  
Bill Knapp Compass Realty  
Biscuits & Berries Catering  
Black Rock Coffee Bar  
Blanchard Family Wines  
Blue Island Oyster Bar  
BOK Financial Services  
Boondocks Food & Fun  
Branch & Barrel Distilling  
Brown & Brown  
Butterfly Pavilion  
Canvas & Cocktails  
Carboy Winery  
Castle Pines Chamber of  
Commerce

Castle Pines Jewelers  
Castle Rock Collective  
Cherokee Ranch & Castle  
Foundation  
Chick-fil-A Castle Rock  
Chick-fil-A Highlands Ranch  
Town Center  
Chick-fil-A Parker  
Chipotle  
The Chocolate Therapist  
City of Castle Pines  
Clothes Mentor  
The Club at Pradera  
Clyfford Still Museum  
CEGR Law  
Colorado Ballet  
Colorado Gems  
Colorado Symphony  
Comedy Works  
Convict Coffee Company  
Copperfalls

CORE Electric Cooperative  
Cornzapoppin  
Costco  
The Cox Real Estate Group  
Cranelli's Italian Restaurant  
Davidsons Beer, Wine &  
Spirits  
Denver Art Museum  
Denver Museum of Nature &  
Science  
Denver Zoo  
Dignity Memorial Olinger  
Funeral Homes & Cemeteries  
Direct Edge Media  
Douglas County Community  
Foundation  
Douglas County Sheriff's  
Office  
Douglas Land Conservancy  
Downhill Brewing  
Dream Dinners Castle Rock



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The Drip Bar Greenwood Village  
Edible Beats  
Elizabetta  
Enstrom Toffee & Confectionery  
Ent Credit Union  
Evergood Adventure Wines  
Exotic Drives Denver  
Ferrari of Denver  
FirstBank  
FritziganKnits  
Glenmoor Country Club  
Gourmet Gift Baskets  
Great Divide Brewery & Roadhouse  
Greater Good  
Guiry's  
Hyland Hills Parks & Recreation  
In-N-Out Burger  
Jessica Pittman  
Kaiser Permanente  
Kendra Scott  
King Soopers (Kroger)  
Kiwanis Clubs of Castle Rock  
Kneaders Bakery & Cafe  
Kong Dog Toys  
Kroenke Sports & Entertainment  
Kunjani World Coffeehouse  
Links Golf Course

Lively Productions  
Living the Dream Brewing  
The Lodge Casino  
Lone Tree Arts  
Lone Tree Brewing Company  
Mici Italian  
Molly Brown House Museum  
Monarch Casino, Resort & Spa  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Natural Grocers  
Olive Juice Body Bar  
Once Upon a Dance  
OPN Architects  
Oriental Trading  
Out of Print Clothing  
Outlets at Castle Rock  
OverDrive, Inc.  
PACE Center  
Park Meadows Mall  
Parker Chamber of Commerce  
Parkside Promotions  
Peak Potential Chiropractic  
Playaway Products  
Print Partners  
Prost Brewing Company  
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers  
Repicci's Real Italian

Republic National  
Distributing Company  
ResaJeanne Jewelry  
RidgeGate Investments Inc.  
Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery  
Rotary Club of Parker  
Seasons 52  
Shake Shack  
Skin Essentials Medical Skin Care & Day Spa  
Sky Ridge Medical Center  
South Metro Fire Rescue  
Space Foundation Discovery Center  
Spectra Contract Flooring  
Spritz Pix Photography  
The Stanley Hotel  
Starbucks  
Stretch Lab  
Swallow Hill Music  
Tattered Cover Denver  
Timbuk Toys  
Trane Technologies  
Union An American Bistro  
Urban Air Adventure Park  
Urban Egg Eatery  
US Foods  
WhistlePig Whiskey  
Wings Over the Rockies  
Woodhouse Day Spa



## 2024 Individual Donors, \$1,000+

While we only list individual donors at \$1,000 and above in this report, DCLF acknowledges and appreciates support from all our donors at all levels. We are grateful for our more than 800 donors and supporters.

Joanne and Richard Akeroyd  
Megan Boespflug  
Margaret and Dale Brinker  
Suzanne and Rob Burkholder  
James and Jean Coates  
Paul Crawford  
Adam Sorkin and Kalli Gillman  
Johanna and Rowland Harden  
Dave Hlavac  
Beryl and Jay Jacobson  
David and Camille Johnson  
Leandra and Charles Koester  
Michael and Jo Ann Montoya  
Elizabeth Nevermann  
Susie Reynolds  
Anna Root  
Schlessman Family Foundation  
Jeff Stotler  
Ed Struzeki  
Melanie and Sean Tafaro

## Foundation Board 2024/2025

### Elaine McCain, Chair

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- Board Member since 2022.
- Retired from a 20-year career in nonprofit development and 16 years in corporate management. Also volunteers for Cancer League of Colorado, Creutzfeldt/Jakob Foundation, and Day of Caring for Breast Cancer Education and Awareness.
- “I have believed in and strongly supported libraries all my life. As a child I volunteered, then worked at both the Grand Junction City Library and high school library as a teenager. Libraries serve everyone in so many ways, and this is my way to serve my wonderful community of Douglas County, my home of 34 years. Our libraries continue to grow and serve magnificently, and I choose to be a part of that!”



### Linda Boyle, Vice Chair

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- Board Member since 2019.
- Retired from legal career in the telecom industry. Assisted with fundraising and donations for nonprofit organizations sponsored by previous employers.
- “I have been a frequent visitor to libraries from the time I learned to read. I grew up in a small town that was blessed with a Carnegie Library and librarians who wanted to share their knowledge of books. I worked at a university library in college, and later volunteered to help re-catalog books from Dewey Decimal to the Library of Congress system. I am thrilled to be able to serve Douglas County Libraries.”



### Krystie Baker

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- Board Member since 2019.
- Senior Vice President with Firstbank and board member of the Crisis Center.
- “Volunteering and being engaged with nonprofits has allowed me to pursue a passion for life’s little moments. Raising boys reminds you to slow down, be involved, teach them young, and go above and beyond in the areas you can control. My husband’s family included several librarians, and our boys love to read – there’s no better way to support this legacy and learning environment than being involved in the local library system.”



### Megan Boespflug

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- Board Member since 2024.
- Owner of Stiletto Communications, bringing over a decade of experience in marketing small-to-medium-sized businesses and nonprofits. Extensive experience in fundraising and volunteer work with Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, and a board member at the Lighthouse Family Resource Center.
- “I believe in the transformative power of libraries to inspire a love of reading, discovery, and connection within the community. Volunteering with the DCLF allows me to contribute to a cause that enriches lives and fosters lifelong learning. By supporting the Foundation, I help ensure that libraries continue to provide valuable resources and programs that positively impact community members, helping them grow and thrive.”



### Laureen Boll

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- Board Member since 2019.
- Founder and CEO of MeritFirst Solutions, and previous extensive experience in health and benefits. Serves as a state coordinator and chapter lead for the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism.
- “A library system is the backbone of a highly-functioning, literate society that is required to self-govern, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence.”



### Suzanne Burkholder

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- Appointed as DCL Board of Trustee Representative January 2025.
- Self-employed mediator and a previous business career in the Telecommunications field. Volunteers with the Better Business Bureau, City of Lone Tree’s Teen Court, and has fundraising experience with City of Lone Tree’s Arts Guild.
- “Throughout Douglas County, DCL is the trusted core of critical infrastructure both funded and relied upon by our fellow tax-paying citizens. DCL serves as the social adhesive that connects with and unifies our community. DCLF’s important work nurtures DCL as a central hub where our community comes together in library spaces and as sources of knowledge open to all. DCLF’s important work acts as a force multiplier to DCL in ways that surprise and delight community members, with efforts such as Forest of Stories – all in service to community.”



### Ron Cole

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- Board Member since 2022.
- Retired from career in U.S. Air Force and national security. Former Douglas County Libraries Board Trustee.
- “Libraries are the key to a successful city, and I hope my time will contribute to that success.”



## Shelly Humphreys

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- Board Member since 2017.
- Global telecommunications executive and strategic advisor. Actively involved in professional organizations, as well as Global Village Academy and Colorado-based Hālau Hi'ilani I Nā Hōkū Loa, and Hawai'i-based Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima.
- "I believe strong communities are built on access to knowledge, lifelong learning, and meaningful connections. The DCLF plays a critical role in funding programs and resources that ensure everyone – regardless of background or circumstance – has opportunities for growth, creativity, and discovery, both now and for future generations. Supporting the Foundation allows me to give back and help strengthen the impact of our libraries, keeping them essential hubs for education, innovation, and connection for years to come."



## Jessica Kallweit

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- DCL Board of Trustee Representative, 2023-2024.
- Worked in the legal industry, in domestic relations, criminal law, and litigation, and as owner of a freelance paralegal business. Previously worked with the Colorado Attorney General at the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office and as an adjunct professor at Arapahoe Community College.



## Rochelle Logan

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- Board Member since 2015.
- Retired from a career at Douglas County Libraries. Has served on many boards within the library community and PERA.
- "I have a passion for libraries. In particular, I love DCL! This library district has been my library, as I have lived in Highlands Ranch since 1992. Working for DCL was a dream come true for me, and watching it continue to grow and thrive is important to me. My Foundation Board work has been my small contribution to keeping DCL on top, as one of the best libraries in Colorado and the country."



## Rick O'Dell

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- New to Board January 2025.
- President of O'Dell Management Services and a career in commercial construction projects.
- "Having experienced firsthand the profound impact of Douglas County Libraries' diverse and innovative programs and services on our community, I'm eager to lend my support and collaborate with this dedicated team to help advance and evolve DCL's mission."



### Pamela Page

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- Board Member since 2024.
- Retired from careers in the medical and business management industries. Currently working as a senior tax analyst, and volunteers time to numerous organizations, with board positions on many.
- “I believe very strongly that it is our responsibility to support with time, money, and voice, those organizations which serve our community and depend on public support to provide the level of service, activities, and options we have learned to expect. Our libraries may be in danger of being restricted or inhibited in their ability to provide essential learning opportunities to all who seek them. I want to ensure that funding continues to flow into the DCLF, and that we continue to expand accessibility and offerings.”



### Dawn Vaughn

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- Board Member since 2024.
- Retired public school librarian and administrator. Former Douglas County Libraries Board Trustee.
- “I donate my time to Douglas County Libraries because I believe that libraries are the bedrock of a democratic society. They are places where anyone can access information without prejudice. Douglas County Libraries are vibrant, living, and inviting to everyone, and I feel privileged to support them in any way I can.”



### Louise Wood

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- Board Member since 2023.
- Employed by UBS Wealth Management. Former Douglas County Libraries Board Trustee. Active in her church.
- “I support the Douglas County Libraries Foundation because our libraries are a place where we all belong. The libraries serve everyone and are a space for all of us, regardless of our backgrounds or beliefs. We can all get information, discuss ideas, and find common ground at our extraordinary public libraries!”

