

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The District of Columbia Public Library Foundation (DCPLF) is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization working exclusively for the betterment of the District of Columbia Public Library. Charitable contributions received by the Foundation augment inadequate taxpayer dollars and provide the Library with additional resources for materials, services, programs and equipment. However, Foundation support does not pay for operating expenses that the city government is required to provide.

In 2003, the Foundation increased its efforts to help the Library:

- Improve and promote literacy for all ages;
- Expand the materials collection while preserving and providing access to special collections;
- Strengthen its capacity to offer basic technological tools throughout the system;
- Augment rebuilding efforts by providing equipment, goods and services not covered through the budget for capital construction.

In a first-of-its-kind effort, the Foundation distributed over \$130,000 to fund some of the most critical needs within the library system—needs that cannot be met through public funds. The Foundation's newly-created grants process allowed library employees to compete for grants of up to \$7,500 to produce or enhance programs, build collections or improve technology. Almost \$73,000 in grants was awarded to 14 projects.

The popular *Summer Quest* reading program returned, introducing a record 10,700 District children to the joys of summer reading with books, storytelling and entertainment. *Holla' Back @ DCPL*, created to encourage teen readers, enrolled 845 its first summer! The Foundation also celebrated the opening of e-BIC, a collaborative Business Information Center designed for small business development and support for emerging and established entrepreneurs.

During 2003, the Foundation expanded its staff to include a part-time Executive Director, established a permanent office within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library and broadened its base of community and financial support.

The Foundation's goal is to work with friends and supporters to build the best possible library system for the District of Columbia—one that addresses the needs, vitality and diversity of its patrons.

Nancy Peters Register
President

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2003 GRANTS

ADULT LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER

\$5,100 for *Let's Speak English*, a six-week, summer ESL (English as a Second Language) conversation group to provide 120 adults the opportunity to develop and/or enhance their ability to speak and understand English.

AUDIOVISUAL DIVISION

\$3,500 to rebuild and update the Alice Hagermeyer ASL (American Sign Language) Video Collection for hard of hearing customers with 100 new and replacement videos.

BOOKS PLUS, THE LIBRARY STORE

\$7,500 to purchase an automated Point-of-Sale System to generate additional revenue from the newly-reopened library store.

CLEVELAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

\$7,500 to research, establish and maintain a special interest collection of books and resources to serve Cleveland Park parents and teachers.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT COLLECTIONS

\$7,500 to upgrade the woefully out-of-date collection in the area of science projects, improving the Library's service to school-aged customers, grades 1-8, at MLK and 17 community libraries.

COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES

\$7,500 to support the expansion of *DC Reads to Babies*, an emergent literacy program that seeks to educate new mothers who are economically deprived and hard to reach so that they will begin building early reading skills in their children.

GEORGETOWN NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

\$1,173.26 to conduct a creative writing contest for children and young adults using the process of constructing and illustrating a book.

MUSIC AND RECREATION DIVISION/ PERIODICALS DIVISION

\$6,400 to make online periodical indexes and databases more accessible to users of the periodicals collection at MLK by putting public computers on a mini-network.

POPULAR LIBRARY DIVISION AND EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS OFFICE

\$7,500 to support *Exploring Latino Authors: Novelas Contemporáneas*, four public bilingual programs to encourage reading and discussion of literature by Latino authors born or living in the United States.

POPULAR LIBRARY DIVISION

\$1,000 to support *Edward P. Jones: A Reading*, a presentation by a local African-American author reading from his novel, *The Known World*.

SOCIOLOGY, EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT DIVISION

\$7,500 to purchase the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

TAKOMA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

\$421 to provide book baskets to encourage elementary school teachers to participate in the school loan program and to provide classroom lesson plans/activities for classes visiting the Library.

TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

\$7,500 to assist high school or GED graduates who are interested in careers in Allied Health fields by providing basic reference literature and online resources.

WASHINGTONIANA DIVISION

\$2,400 to purchase a dedicated computer to provide ready access to research-related Internet web-sites and/or databases.

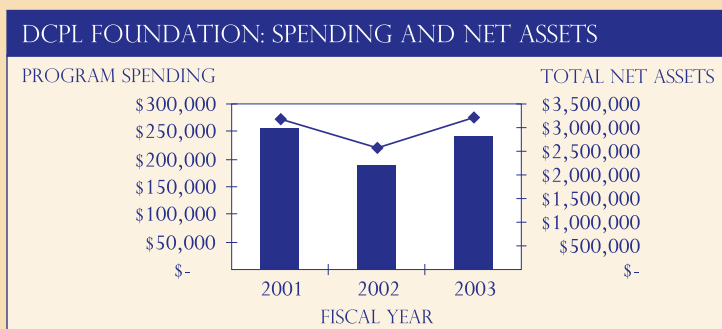


In 2003, the D.C. Public Library Foundation awarded nearly \$73,000 in grant money to fund projects specifically geared toward improving the Library's ability to do outreach and provide better programs and services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2003, the D.C. Public Library Foundation generated over \$542,000 in revenue and expended just over \$309,000. Of this amount, over 78 percent or \$243,000 was spent on programs and services at the D.C. Public Library. This level of spending is consistent with recent years of spending on behalf of the Library. In the last three years, the Foundation has spent \$687,000 on library programs and services.

During 2003, the Foundation's revenue recovered from the prior year due to improvement in investment income. This improvement means that Foundation net assets are virtually the same as three years ago. Given the dramatic movement of the investment markets in the past, this performance is notable.



Thus, while the Foundation has a substantial amount to enhance library programs and services, it has maintained its investment principle, ensuring that Foundation support can continue in the years to come.

District of Columbia Public Library Foundation, Inc.

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