Our Current Programs & Initiatives

Your gifts promote literacy and building community for all ages through these programs:

- **Bridging the Digital Divide**
  Funds new computers for the Downtown Library Teen Center and supports data & annual software licenses for laptops & hotspot devices.

- **Interpretive Center Upgrades - Redwood Shores Library**
  Funds updates & improvements to the center, allowing children to learn about the SF Bay and its wetlands through interactive displays & games.

- **Makerspace**
  Supports data & annual software licenses for laptops & hotspot devices.
  Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

- **Free Books for Families**
  Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

- **Career Online High School in the Library**
  Provides reliable wireless Internet access for homework.

- **Redwood City Library Foundation**
  Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

- **Ex-Officio:**
  Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

- **Hawaii Makerspace**
  Supports data & annual software licenses for laptops & hotspot devices.

- **Community Volunteer**
  Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

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- **Free Books for Families**
  Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

A Message from the Redwood City Public Library Director

During these unprecedented times of public health crisis and sheltering in place, people’s lives have changed in countless ways, from children learning at home, to the closure of small businesses, to the strain on our healthcare system. As routines have been disrupted, people have realized what is important to them. On Sunday, March 15, the last day Redwood City libraries were open before the shelter-at-home order, it was simultaneously heartwarming and heartbreaking to see lines of people waiting their turn to enter the Downtown and Redwood Shores Libraries. At the mid-afternoon peak, people were waiting 45 minutes to get books and other library materials for their families “one last time” before the libraries would be closed for an unknown period. This community loves its libraries, and we are incredibly grateful for that love.

As we made the difficult decision to reduce library services, one of the huge worries we heard from the education community, the business community, and our most vulnerable residents was the loss of wifi access. One million people per year log into our wireless networks at the four libraries, and in the fall of 2017, with support from the Redwood City Library Foundation (RCLF), the library launched a program called Bridging the Digital Divide to allow home checkout of hotspots (personal wifi devices) to over 100 hotspots to help meet community demand. The devices themselves are not terribly expensive, but each one carries a monthly data plan, so the cost to purchase a hotspot and support it for a year is about $600 per device. While we are still raising funds for exciting new initiatives like the future Makerspace in the Library and enhancements to the Redwood Shores Library Interpretive Center, the need to improve access to the internet for students, including those with special needs and low-income residents, is profound and immediate. Your support for our Bridging the Digital Divide initiative truly changes people’s lives. Thank you very much, and take good care.

Sincerely,

Derek Wolfgram
Library Director

Please Support Our Community!

RCLF needs your help to raise $60,000 toward purchasing additional hotspot devices for immediate use.

Donate today on RCLF’s website (www.rclfdn.org) and make a big difference in our community!

The temporary loss of wifi in our public spaces brought into sharp relief how this need is so great. In April, we ordered an additional 100 hotspots to help meet community demand. We are still raising funds for exciting new initiatives like the future Makerspace in the Library and enhancements to the Redwood Shores Library Interpretive Center, the need to improve access to the internet for students, including those with special needs and low-income residents, is profound and immediate. Your support for our Bridging the Digital Divide initiative truly changes people’s lives. Thank you very much, and take good care.

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When the new hotspots are available, residents will be able to check them out at the Downtown Library and/or Fair Oaks Library (to be determined). These and other hotspots currently checked out will have a due date of June 30.

Many, Many Thanks

RCLF is proud to partner with Bothin Foundation and Saga Foundation in supporting the Makerspace in the Library program. Thank you for your generous grants!

Bothin Foundation: $30,000
Bothin Foundation has been a long-time partner since 2017, helping RCLF to address the most pressing needs of the community, such as youth development, bridging the digital divide, and assisting families who need it most.

Saga Foundation: $40,000
Saga Foundation, based in Menlo Park, is a private, independent, grant-making organization that partners with RCLF in helping underserved youth, providing safe spaces and development opportunities.

Our mission is to support the Redwood City Public Library in cultivating literacy, life-long learning, and community connections.
RCL's Unsung Hero of 2019

RCL was proud to nominate Ms. Kelsey Dubois as our 2019 Unsung Hero. Kelsey joined the Library Foundation’s board of directors in December 2016 and has contributed her significant skills and talents to the library and community ever since.

As the External Communications Manager, Kelsey was a key member of the Foundation’s rebranding effort, after which she implemented the committee’s recommendations by creating the Foundation’s new website and managing their marketing and outreach materials. Kelsey was also a committee member for the Foundation’s STEAM Fest on the Square, which grew to be one of the Bay Area’s largest Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math events.

Kelsey also serves on the Bay Area’s largest Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math events.

Kelsey holds a master’s degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Michigan and is Senior Electromechanical Engineer at San Carlos-based company, Dishcraft Robotics. Thank you, Kelsey, for touching all our lives with your talent, energy, professionalism, and hard work. Redwood City is a better place because of you.

$25,000 Grant Supports Digital Divide Program

Premia Capital, a real estate development company in Redwood City, has awarded a $25,000 grant to RCL. Founded in 2009, it remains 100% privately owned. Michael Halow, company CEO, believes his legacy should be to lead by example and work hard to make the community better for all its residents. Mike focuses on helping kids and lower income residents, and believes that supporting RCL’s Bridging the Digital Divide program, along with local sports, contributes to the mental and physical well-being of our community.

“J was inspired by many of the amazing and selfless people in the Redwood City community, including the true champions that serve on the Library Foundation Board and those on-site day to day. They work hard to bring this community together and make it a better place. I take my kids to the Redwood City Public Library all the time and I see how much it means to them and to the people of Redwood City. That’s how I became involved in many different ways. Thank you, the Redwood City Library, you are crushing it — keep doing your thing, and let’s keep pushing each other to make RWC the best town in America! Way more to do.” The Foundation is grateful for Premia Capital’s generous support.

Many thanks to our generous donors!

The following individuals, groups, and businesses contributed between January 1 and December 31 2019:

President John Blake

John Blake has always seen libraries as vital organs of their communities and uses professional libraries to provide the raw material for his day job. He joined the Foundation Board believing that libraries increasingly serve an educational function, providing access to technology and information and filling a gap left by government and other institutions. He sees libraries as temples of civilization, where we preserve and practice what is best in literature, art, and history, and, more recently, assure universal access to these treasures by promoting literacy.

In the Bay Area in particular, to the most fortunate, residents, the library is a convenience, one of many places they could get a book, music, or other material. For other, less affluent members of the community, the library provides basic necessities — tutors for family literacy, help for students to succeed in school, and computers and wifi hotspots for community use. John believes that libraries are “evolving into more than a place that houses books, and becoming a vital organ of their local community and the global community.” He leads the Foundation in supporting the Redwood City Library in this role.

John lives in Redwood City with his wife Daisy, who brings added value to our library. Kelsey holds a master’s degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Michigan and is Senior Electromechanical Engineer at San Carlos-based company, Dishcraft Robotics. Thank you, Kelsey, for touching all our lives with your talent, energy, professionalism, and hard work. Redwood City is a better place because of you.
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John Blackmore & Sheila Blackey
Marcel Chan
Sarah Cooperman
Stephanie Dole
Kathy & Harry Blackey
Chris & Alicia Beth
Jenny & Zachary Barnes
Activity Hero
Mary Walker & Mark Interrante
Andrea Pozo & Alberto Rodriguez
Kathi Petrick
Amreen Madhani
Kathy Strong
Diana Reddy
Fran Eastman & Edward Goodstein
Patrick Johnson
Sherry Marin
Elyse Gainor
Orland & Charmaine Elision
Friends of the Redwood City Library
D. Michael & Lorianna Kastrop
Kristopher Johnson
David & Rebecca Weekly
Shelley Masur
Steve & Maria Leaf
Andrea Ilnicki & Mark Lambert
Rick & Naomi Hunter
Barbara Hooper & Keith Sonberg
Sandra Moniz
Amrina Pelkowski
Jack & Della Nunes
Shelly Ritchie
Jessica Mirza
Henry Chen
Anna Riley
Derek & Robin Wolfgram
Kathy & Mark Lambrecht
Kathy & Harry Blackey
Michael & Michelle Guillon
Gina Thaler
Richard B. Beckett
Michael & Michelle Guillon
Garry Broussard
Kathy & Harry Blackey

$50,000+$9999

Anonymous
Shawn Broom & Bryer
Robert Carr & Elizabeth Hill
Diablo Valley Family Foundation, Ltd.
Fran Eastman & Edward Goodstein
Petra & Katharine Eastman
Lily Feng
Frida Congressional Church
Lance Fung
Lisa Hock-Dumanska
IBEW Local 617
Pete Norah & Yvette Prie
Kathleen Keberle
Rachel Callinger
James & Ann Kaiser
Elizabeth Meeks
Xuanh Nguyen
Optimist Club of Redwood City
Barbara & Jerry Pierucci
REACH Strategies
Redwood City Arts Commission
Redwood City Elks Lodge #1991
Redwood City Heritage Foundation
Karen & Frank Schwartz
Patricia A. & Michael Wells
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Carroll Family Charitable Foundation
Jim & Georgia McClure
Sims Metal Management
Sophia & Arthur Bohn Foundation
Starford Health Care
David & Rebecca Weekly

$20,000+$49,999

Susan & Greg Iverson
Kevin Berman
Lake & Kathy Forgus
Taliesin & Howard French
Anh Ha Ngo-Bowen & Edward Bowden
Tynne Harmony
Debbie Jones-Thomson
Stephen & Maria Leaf
Monte Mansir

$1,000+$4,999

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Shawn & Brandi Byers
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Carroll Family Charitable Foundation
Jim & Georgia McClure
Sims Metal Management
Sophia & Arthur Bohn Foundation
Starford Health Care
David & Rebecca Weekly

$500+$999

Anonymous
Bank of America Matching Gifts
Davis County Bank
Kelsey Dubois
Richard E. Gausser
Larry & Kathy Forgus
Taliesin & Howard French
Anh Ha Ngo-Bowen & Edward Bowden
Tynne Harmony
Debbie Jones-Thomson
Stephen & Maria Leaf
Monte Mansir

$500,000+$1,000,000

Sunlight Giving
$20,000+$49,999

Chin Zuckerberg Initiative CZ
Premia Capital, LLC
SAGA Foundation

$5,000+$19,999

Atkinson Foundation
Distinct Data Management, LLC
DPR Construction
Paula L. Gardner
Lane Partners
Peter & Paula Urselli Foundation
Port of Redwood City
San Francisco Foundation
Sears Regis Group of Northern CA
Scandling Family Foundation
Harvey Silverman
Wells Fargo Foundation

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Stephanie Dole
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Michael & Michelle Guillon
Garry Broussard
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$10,000+$19,999

Activity Hero
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Asha Hewett
Kenneth Ari
Jan Huyck
Edward & Donna Marie Baldwin
Jenny & Zachary Barnes
Reinza Barragan
Richard H. Berman
Richard & Joyce Baur
Bayshore Elite Gymnastics
Alyah Beals & Dani Gasparini
Chris & Alice Blish
Kathy & Harry Blackey
Keith & Elizabeth Blackey

$5,000+$9,999

Nancy Radcliffe
Diana Roddy
Katy Robinson
Donna Bough & Juan Raigoza
Kathryn Strong
Garri Garza
Jane & Paul Taylor
Daniel Faust & Katie Goetz
Donna Williams
Derek & Robin Wolfgram

$2,000+$9,999

Anonymous
David & Joanne Arata
Scott & Meredith Arment
Sahara Ayers
Diane Bau
Frank & Liza Bizzaro
Josh & Maria Blake
Janet & Milt Borgens
Box.org
Andrew Brampton
Henry Chen
Sandra Cooperman
Kit Fung & Rick Nordsten
Betty Garcia
Bernard & Michelle Guillon
Judith Hagedorn & James Kaysen
Giselle Hala
Richard Health Imperial
Carol Johnson
Douglas Kohnen
Sarah & Tony Latorra
Mark Le, Mon
Albert Lee
David Lement
Jill Van Mau
Sho & Min Lin
Diana Lomax
Jessica Manzi
Shelley Maxwell
Jeffrey More
Carol & Harvey Morris
Maureen Morley
Kathy Patrick
Point Foundation
Andrea Pizzo & Alberto Rodriguez
Sam Tran
Donald & Lily Schene
Sequoyah Elementary School
William Straye & Jenny Nettell
Margaret & Mark Interante
Paulina & Darius Wiles

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Anonymous
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Sunlight Giving
April 23 is National Library Giving Day

Show your support for the Redwood City Public Library by donating to the Redwood City Library Foundation on our website! www.rclfdn.org

Redwood City Library Foundation
1044 Middlefield Road • Redwood City, CA 94063
www.rclfdn.org • (650) 780-7045

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Funds upgrades & improvements to the center, allowing children to learn about the SF Bay and its wetlands through interactive displays & games.

Makerspace
Help us fund a space in the Downtown Library for patrons to “make things” using computers, printers, audio/video, and traditional arts & crafts supplies.

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Provides free children’s books in both Spanish and English to encourage reading at home.

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100 hotspots to help meet community demand. The devices themselves are not terribly expensive, but each one carries a monthly data plan, so the cost to purchase a hotspot and support it for a year is about $600 per device. While we are still raising funds for exciting new initiatives like the future Makerspace in the Library and enhancements to the Redwoods Shores Library Interpretive Center, the need to improve access to the internet for students, including those with special needs and low-income residents, is profound and immediate. Your support for our Bridging the Digital Divide initiative truly changes people’s lives.

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