



Foundation Board members, Library employees, Glen Ellyn Chamber Board members, Foundation supporters, and local dignitaries gathered for The Workshop ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house.

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Glen Ellyn Library Foundation
400 Duane Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
gepl.org/foundation

Makerspace Opens to Rave Reviews

After several years of fundraising, researching, and planning, the Library's new makerspace, The Workshop, opened to visitors in September. The Foundation contributed \$100,000, raised at The Silver Ball in April 2023. The Workshop, located on the 2nd floor of the Library, features equipment including a laser engraver, 3D printer, embroidery machine, and Cricut® machine. Cardholders 13 and older can book makerspace equipment. Maker program attendees have made custom mugs, key chains, coin purses, and vinyl stickers. For more information or to book equipment, please visit gepl.org/makerspace.

2024 Highlights

- The Foundation received \$27,000 in donations from 48 donors and disbursed \$25,000 to the Library.
- More than 2,000 readers participated in the Library's Summer Reading Program and the Foundation donated \$1,000 to the community partner, Ten Thousand Villages.
- The Foundation collaborated with the Friends of the Library to host a donor appreciation event to kick off the World on the Move Exhibit in July.
- The Foundation collaborated with the Library and the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce on the makerspace ribbon-cutting ceremony in September, with many local and state-level dignitaries and Library supporters in attendance.

Foundation Donates Money for Lockers



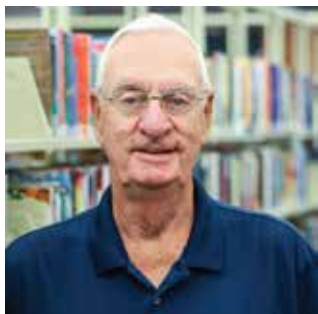
In February 2023, the Library installed 15 lockers inside the Glen Ellyn Police Department to allow cardholders to place holds and retrieve items any time—day or night. This service proved so popular that Library Director Dawn Bussey asked the Foundation Board to provide funds for 24 additional lockers. The Board voted to contribute \$17,500 for the additional lockers, its largest contribution in 2024. Statistics show the money was well spent: There were 1,095 locker deliveries in 2024, nearly double the number in 2023. Library items can also be returned in the book drop located at the east end of the parking lot at 65 S. Park. To learn more about the lockers, please visit gepl.org/65-s-park-lockers.

Glen Ellyn Public Library Trustee Erin Miklo picks up materials from the Library lockers at 65 S. Park.

SUPPORTING OUR LIBRARY: THE ROLE OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation raises money to enhance the Library's programs and offerings beyond taxpayer funding. The Foundation focuses on projects that provide innovative learning, technology, and outreach. Since it was founded in 1998, the Foundation has contributed funds to many of the Library's most popular programs and amenities, including The Workshop, the locker expansion, The Cafe, and the outreach van. A complete list of projects supported by the Foundation is available at gepl.org/foundation.

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW: MERRILL RAJECK



Merrill Rajeck, a retired independent investment advisor, has served as the Treasurer of the Foundation for 25 years, making him the longest-serving Board member. A fourth generation Glen Ellynite, Merrill's family has lived in town since the 1860s! He met his wife, Jan, while in high school, and they raised their three children in Glen Ellyn.

Merrill has seen the Library grow from a mid-sized brick building at the corner of Park and Crescent to the Library of today. Merrill remembers going to the Library for books, newspapers, and magazines. "Today's Library is much more," said Merrill, "It is a valuable resource providing diverse community information."

Besides serving on the Foundation Board, Merrill is a 30-year member of the Glen Ellyn Rotary Club. He enjoys current events and investing, and stays active playing golf, swimming, biking, and walking.



BOARD CHANGES

The Foundation thanked Board members Jim Meyers and Keith Mote for their time and service and welcomed new Board members Monica Wallace and Shawn Roberts (pictured above).



Library Director Dawn Bussey, Foundation Vice President Peter Cooper, John Nevins, and Lisa Nevins tour the outreach van.

TOURING THE LIBRARY

The Foundation has contributed funds to some of the Library's most exciting projects, and supporters are encouraged to see their donations in action. Recently, Library Director Dawn Bussey, Foundation Vice President Peter Cooper, and Foundation Development Officer Carrie Gowans accompanied John and Lisa Nevins on a tour of the Library and the "Anywhere" outreach van. "The Library Foundation has done an incredible job," said John, "We were impressed at what the Glen Ellyn Library has to offer for all ages of our community. We feel very good about how our contributions have landed." If you would like a tour, please email Carrie Gowans at foundation@gepl.org.

WAYS TO DONATE

Donations may be made by/through:

1. Check payable to the Glen Ellyn Library Foundation mailed to Glen Ellyn Library Foundation, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
2. Credit Card: Visit gepl.org/foundation to make a secure donation via PayPal.
3. Donor-Advised Funds, family charitable foundations and employer matching gifts
4. Long-term appreciated assets, which could incur substantial income tax benefits and may result in a deduction of up to 100% of the gift.

Learn more at gepl.org/foundation or email Carrie Gowans, Development Officer, at foundation@gepl.org

The Glen Ellyn Library Foundation, established in 1998, is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of community members and non-voting representatives.

