



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

October 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Fund Development Update as of October 2025
PURPOSE: For Receipt
PREPARED BY: Christine Walker, Christopher Weaver, Michael Ciccone, Lakshay Gaur
PRESENTED BY: Michael Ciccone

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Library Board receive this report for information purposes.

PURPOSE

To provide information about the 2025 strategies, accomplishments and successes of the Library's Fund Development program.

2025 FUND DEVELOPMENT

As of September 24, 2025, the Library's Fund Development program has raised \$538,039 to help support Rotary Reading Garden and Sherwood Branch capital renovations projects, enhance programs and services, collections, literacy, and lifelong learning.

A summary of the financial results for the Library's Fund Development program is included in Appendix A.

As of September 24, 2025, the Library expended \$533,748 in trust funds to support strategic initiatives including capital renovations, literacy programs, collections, and various other initiatives. The 2025 Trust Fund Report is included in Appendix B.

2025 CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Rotary Reading Garden Renovation

The Rotary Reading Garden Project began in the spring of 2025 and was completed on September 10, 2025, with a Garden Party for our friends and supporters. This exciting renovation has transformed the Garden into a fully accessible and vibrant multi-use community space that welcomes visitors of all ages and abilities and provided access to Dundas Place for better participation in community events and better access to Library programs.

Sherwood Branch Renovation

The Sherwood Branch renovation began in January and was completed Oct 4, 2025, marked by a Grand Opening community celebration. This project has enabled Sherwood to become a modern, fully accessible, and inspiring space that reflects the evolving needs of a growing and diverse community.

Across these two projects, more than 60 donors and prospective donors were approached and solicited for support. To date, 15 donors have confirmed their commitment, contributing a total of \$290,000 toward this important work.

Of note, three private foundations, one financial institution and a real estate company are currently considering proposals that, if confirmed, could generate an additional \$150,000 in funding.

In addition, approximately 30 donors and prospective donors have been actively engaged in cultivation discussions, laying the groundwork for future support of Library programs and any upcoming capital initiatives.

FALL 2025 CAMPAIGNS

Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP) – Will Power Campaign

In partnership with the CAGP, the Library once again is participating in the fall Will Power campaign. Will Power is a national public education campaign designed to inspire Canadians to think about charitable giving and consider leaving legacy gifts in their Wills. The campaign includes emails to our Library donors, and social media, with a focus on awareness.

Direct Mail & E-Appeal Fall Campaign

The Library will launch its Fall direct mail campaign in November 2025. The campaign will focus on supporting the R.E.A.D. Program. This program helps struggling and reluctant readers in grades 1-7 to gain the confidence and skills they need to success in school and life. With the guidance of trained volunteer reading partners, this seven-month program helps children by introducing them to a variety of reading materials, motivating them to read, strengthening their literacy skills, encouraging families to read together, and inspiring a love of reading.

Book for Every Child

A Book for Every Child is an annual campaign held during the holiday season to collect donations for children without books at home. This year's campaign will run from November 3 – December 13, 2025. Almost 40 schools and organizations representing communities with low literacy rates participate each year.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is an active movement in more than 80 countries, working to inspire generosity around the world. This year, Giving Tuesday is December 2, 2025, and provides an opportunity to follow up on our Fall Direct Mail and A Book for Every Child solicitations.

Canada Post Strike

Of the \$111,040 raised last year through the Direct Mail, Book for Every Child and Giving Tuesday Campaigns, approximately \$34,000, or 31%, was received in the form of cheque and cash. Most of these donations arrived via Canada Post, with a small number received through Library branches.

DONOR IMPACT

The Library is impacting our city and changing lives in many meaningful ways thanks to the generosity of our donors. Below are a few examples of donor impact:

- **Canadian Mental Health Association and the Transitional Case Worker program at LPL** - Visitors can meet with someone who can provide friendly conversation and connection to community wellness programs, wellness information, support agency referrals, resources related to mental health and addictions, housing, food security, physical health and wellness and financial matters. Supportive listening and crisis intervention for community members dealing with mental health challenges.
- **Summer R.E.A.D Program and Children's Summer Programming** – With support from the Canadian Summer Jobs program and donor funds, we were able to hire summer students to help foster a love of reading for children and youth and to use the Library as a reading bridge between school years. The program is offered in English and French and weekly sessions are in person or online for seven weeks in July and August. We had a total of 13 students to support Summer R.E.A.D and various summer programs across the branches. Branches participating include: Beacock, Cherryhill, Crouch, Masonville, Sherwood, Stoney Creek, East London, Jalna, Pond Mills, Byron, and Bostwick.

- **Healthy Snack Program** - makes possible healthy snacks in our branches for our Library patrons including children who may have missed meals and seniors on fixed incomes near the end of the month. This offering is a nice way for visitors to make connections with LPL staff.
- **Children and Youth Programs** - donor support allowed LPL to continue longstanding programs, innovative events and workshops for children and youth at library branches across the city. Our free in-person and online programs such as STEM, Music, and Art are inclusive programs that welcome children and youth of all backgrounds and ages.
- **Visiting Library Services** - thanks to the generous donor support, LPL was able to purchase 50 Envoy Connect Talking Book Players for homebound patrons who are blind or have low vision. This is very much appreciated as the Centre for Equitable Library Access is discontinuing the production of DAISY format books on disk. As a result many of our patrons will need to transition to new formats and devices to continue accessing reading materials. By supporting them through this shift, especially for those who are less familiar or comfortable with newer technologies, will be a key focus in the year ahead.

APPENDIX A: SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 FUND DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL RESULTS

Gifts by Source

Revenue Source	New Gifts + Pledges (NGP) 12/31/24	Received to Date (Cash) 09/24/25	Pledged to Date 09/24/25	Outstdg Pledges 9/24/25	New Gifts + Pledges (NGP) 09/24/25
Major Gifts (\$5,000+)	\$304,340	\$ 297,840	\$ 292,500	\$118,000	\$415,840
Leadership Gifts (\$1,000 - \$4,999)	\$34,250	\$ 27,510	\$6,800	\$2,800	\$30,310
Annual Gifts (\$1 - \$999)	\$133,851	\$ 72,655	\$ 30,469	\$8,754	\$81,409
Planned Gifts (Estates)	\$796,591	\$2,957	\$0	\$0	\$2,957
Dedication Gifts (Memorial, Tribute)	\$15,595	\$ 7,320	\$0	\$203	\$7,523
Special Events (Library Giving Day)	\$23,571	N/A	N/A		N/A
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,308,198	\$408,282	\$329,769	\$129,757	\$538,039

Trust Fund Expenses

Program / Project	Expended
A Book For Every Child	\$16,973
Collections	\$13,504
Library Strategic Initiatives (Highest Priority Needs)	\$104,202
Literacy & Programs	\$27,997
Sherwood Renovation	\$262,833
Mental Health Support (CMHA Grant)	\$86,000
Branches	\$84,428
Fundraising Fees	\$23,815
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$619,752

APPENDIX B: SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 TRUST FUND REPORT

(Year-To-Date ending September 24, 2025)

Note: funds donated to support staff development not included

SYSTEM-WIDE FUND	BALANCE
A Book For Every Child	\$10,483
Literacy & Programs	\$341,933
Collections	\$214,196
Direct Mail Campaigns	\$307,227
Highest Priority Needs	\$1,162,460
Grand Total	\$2,036,299
BRANCHES	
Beacock	\$16,647
Bostwick	\$32,333
Byron	\$28,959
Carson	\$4,160
Central	\$431,417
Cherryhill	\$35,440
Central Children's	\$187,198
Crouch	\$15,645
East London	\$ 6,813
Glanworth	\$1,389
Jalna	\$15,975
Lambeth	\$19,305
Landon	\$95,791
London Room	\$137,610
Masonville	\$35,835
Pond Mills	10,113
Sherwood	\$11,460
Stoney Creek	\$8,631
Visiting Library	\$74,001
Volunteer Services	\$4,835
Wolf Performance Hall	\$104,078
Grand Total	\$1,277,635
OTHER	
Trust Fund Supplement to 24-27 Oper Budget	\$750,000
Sherwood Renovation Project 24-25	\$662,965
TOTAL CURRENT BALANCE	\$4,726,898