



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

June 25, 2026

SUBJECT: Fund Development Update for June 2026
PURPOSE: For Receipt
PREPARED BY: Christine Walker, Chris Weaver, Michael Ciccone
PRESENTED BY: Michael Ciccone

RECOMMENDATION

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

PURPOSE

To provide information about the strategies, accomplishments and successes of the London Public Library's (Library) Fund Development program, including an update on fundraising in 2025 and highlight success to date in 2026.

2025 and 2026 FUND DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, Library's Fund Development program raised \$877,578 to help support the 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 Library's Fund Development program in 2025, is shown in Appendix A.

In 2025 the Library expended \$717,283 in trust to support capital renovations, literacy, programs, collections, education, and other initiatives. A summary of trust fund expenses is shown in Appendix B.

As of April 30, 2026, Library's Fund Development program has raised \$379,565 to help support programs and services, collections, literacy, and lifelong learning. (Of note, since May 1, 2026, an additional \$226,350 has been pledged -- these

additional funds do not appear in the above total raised). A summary of the financial results for Library's Fund Development program as of April 30, 2026, is shown in Appendix C.

As of April 30, 2026, the Library expended \$151,287 in trust funds to support capital renovations, literacy, programs, collections, education, and other initiatives. A summary of trust fund expenses is shown in Appendix D. The 2026 Trust Fund Report Summary, as of April 30, 2026, is shown in Appendix E.

2025 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Across the two capital renovation projects, the Rotary Reading Garden and Sherwood Branch Library, more than 60 donors and prospective donors were approached and solicited for support and 18 donors contributed a total of \$328,830 toward this important work. In addition, approximately 30 donors and prospective donors have been actively engaged in cultivation discussions and ongoing updates, laying the groundwork for future support.

FALL 2025 ANNUAL GIVING APPEALS

Will Power, Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP)

In partnership with CAGP, the Library continued its participation in the 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 2025 campaign included letter solicitations and email appeals to past Library donors, and stories and promotion across communication channels including newsletters and social media posts.

From this appeal, six individuals responded that they had already included the Library in their wills or that they were in the process of making these arrangements. The Library now has 16 legacy donors, and approximately \$680,000 in legacy gifts expected sometime in the future. In the last five years, nearly \$1 million in estate gifts has been received.

READ Direct Mail, Book for Every Child, Giving Tuesday

The Library launched its READ Direct Mail, Book for Every Child and Giving Tuesday appeals in November 2025. These appeals raised \$173,500 from 1,332 donor gifts with revenue up 33% over 2024. The growth came from more donor participation and higher giving amounts. Overall, donors responded positively to the appeals and the results demonstrate good donor engagement, trust and confidence in the Library.

2026 Spring Library Giving Day Direct Mail

The Library launched its spring direct mail appeal on Library Giving Day, April 1, 2026. The campaign is a concept dedicated to growing philanthropic support for libraries across the country. The focus this year was on highest priority needs and engaged annual individual giving and monthly giving donors throughout the month of April. The appeal raised \$38,480 in donations from 448 donors, an increase in revenue of 25% from 2025.

DONOR IMPACT

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

- The READ program (Reading Enjoyment and Development) has been helping struggling and reluctant readers since 1977. More than 1500 children have benefitted from the free, one-on-one reading help provided by our volunteers. Donor contributions last fall helped children to discover the joy of reading and to build literacy skills that open doors for a lifetime. LPL was able to offer Families READ Together workshops in January for children in grades 1-3 who are struggling or reluctant readers. Created by our own Library team to address increased demand and wait lists for the READ program, these workshops help parents and children learn strategies to build reading skills and a love of reading at home through engaging, hands-on activities. Each family also received a Families READ together resource bag to use and enjoy at home.
- Book for Every Child is the Library's annual holiday appeal, and this program gives brand new age-appropriate books to children who might not otherwise have one to read and treasure. Donor contributions help Library staff purchase new books including multilingual books and respond to other special reading needs. In 2025, more than 7,000 books were delivered to children across the community, sparking imagination, curiosity, and a lifelong love of reading.
- The Canadian Mental Health and the Transitional (CMHA) Case Worker program at LPL continues to make an impact in our community. 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.

APPENDIX A: 2025 FUND DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BY SOURCE

Revenue Source	2024	2025 Received	2025 Outstanding	2025 Total
Major Gifts (\$5K+)	\$1,000,091	\$494,497	\$100,000	\$594,497
Leadership Gifts (\$1K - \$4,999)	\$42,332	\$62,028	\$0	\$62,028
Annual Gifts (\$1 - \$999)	\$162,762	\$186,522	\$0	\$186,522
Recurring Gifts	\$26,332	\$34,531	\$0	\$34,531
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,231,517	\$777,577	\$100,000	\$877,577

APPENDIX B: 2025 LPL TRUST FUND EXPENSES BY PROGRAM/PROJECT

Program/Project	Expended
Book For Every Child	\$20,858
Collections	\$15,614
Rotary Reading Garden Renovation	\$36,628
General Specified Purposes	\$85,779
Library Strategic Initiatives (HPN)	\$5,037
Literacy & Learning	\$7,547
Mental Health Support	\$86,000
Programs	\$32,110
Sherwood Branch Renovation	\$427,710
Fundraising Fees	\$53,401
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$770,684

APPENDIX C: 2026 YTD FUND DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BY SOURCE (April 30, 2026)

Revenue Source	2026 YTD	2026 Outstanding	2026 Total
Major Gifts (\$5K+)	\$ 168,244	\$114,667	\$282,911
Leadership Gifts (\$1K - \$4,999)	\$ 9,707	0	\$9,707
Annual Gifts (\$1 - \$999)	\$ 44,726	0	\$44,726
Recurring Gifts	\$ 12,944	\$29,277	\$42,221
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 235,621	\$143,944	\$379,565

APPENDIX D: 2026 LPL TRUST FUND EXPENSES BY PROGRAM/PROJECT

Program / Project	Expended
Collections	\$5,498
Education	\$25,143
Rotary Reading Garden Renovation	\$45,849
Library Strategic Initiatives (HPN)	\$1,455
Literacy & Learning	\$17,725
Mental Health Support	\$21,500
Branches	\$15,603
Fundraising Fees	\$18,515
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$151,288



APPENDIX E: 2026 TRUST FUND REPORT SUMMARY

SYSTEM-WIDE FUND	BALANCE
Book For Every Child	\$39,190
Education	\$302,776
Literacy & Programs	\$416,622
Collections	\$433,081
Direct Mail Campaigns	\$451,183
Highest Priority Needs	\$1,745,427
Grand Total	\$3,388,279
BRANCHES	BALANCE
Beacock	\$21,070
Bostwick	\$33,733
Byron	\$37,120
Carson	\$4,887
Central	\$487,338
Cherryhill	\$45,762
Central Children's	\$187,198
Crouch	\$19,772
East London	\$8,948
Glanworth	\$1,945
Jalna	\$18,883
Lambeth	\$46,918
Landon	\$114,070
London Room	\$137,829
Masonville	\$46,355
Pond Mills	\$11,238
Sherwood	\$43,173
Stoney Creek	\$9,780
Visiting Library	\$69,638
Volunteer Services	\$3,580
Wolf Performance Hall	\$101,341
Grand Total	\$1,450,578
TOTAL CURRENT BALANCE	\$4,838,857