Dear Library Supporters,

We haven't seen you in nearly a year and we probably won't be able to see you anytime soon while the pandemic continues.

So, this Annual Report is our way of informing you of our activities in 2020 and thanking you for supporting the El Cerrito Library Foundation and helping to ensure that our library continues to thrive during these challenging times.

Thanks to your generosity, our El Cerrito library has been able to offer a wealth of family, business, and cultural programs, via distance technologies, that have been enjoyed by over twenty-five thousand persons this past year.

Our library brought us together in spirit even as the Covid pandemic forced us to stay apart physically. As a unifying community force it encouraged people of all ages to dream, learn, and be inspired. We could not have done it without your support.

In short, public funding makes our library possible: Gifts help it flourish.

Read on to learn about how your gifts have made our El Cerrito library the best it can be in difficult times.

Al Miller
President,
El Cerrito Library Foundation

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Food Education Anytime, Anywhere

The Charlie Cart Project, founded in 2015, set out to create an affordable, comprehensive food education program, giving kids the power to make healthy choices for life. The result is an all-in-one program — a kitchen on wheels and a full curriculum with program-tested recipes — connecting the dots between food, health and the environment. Now there are active Charlie Cart Projects in K-12 Schools, Farmers Markets, Libraries, Food Banks, and Higher Education sites throughout the United States. (See The Charlie Cart Project web site at (https://charliecart.org)

Food education anytime, anywhere. That's the purpose of The Charlie Cart Project, a non-profit organization located in Berkeley, CA, whose Mission reads;

"Shifting the food system from the ground up, by empowering communities with a portable, accessible culinary education program."

The El Cerrito Library’s Charlie Cart, funded by the El Cerrito Library Foundation and given the moniker “Sir Charlie” by library staff, arrived in early July 2020. Sir Charlie is a self-contained mobile cooking cart with a convection oven, stove top griddle, sink with gray water recycling, and 172 kitchen utensils. The cart is designed to handle programs of up to 30 participants.

During the Covid 19 restrictions, all programs featuring Sir Charlie were presented virtually. Weekly in-person programs are planned when the library is allowed to reopen and resume normal operations. Library staff will conduct weekly hands-on workshops with the kids showing them how to cook nutritious snacks and meals.

In addition, members of El Cerrito High School's Breakfast Club will use the Charlie Cart to show kids how to prepare a variety of nutritious snacks. Having the Charlie Cart will make it possible to have the kids (and their families) experiment with cooking and share nutrition information.

The library staff is looking forward to providing programs that will allow them to demonstrate cooking methods and healthy recipes for library patrons of all ages.
We've had to adjust our plans for the Charlie Cart at El Cerrito Library in response to public gathering mandates and the temporary suspension of any in-person library programs. However, we still have great plans to build our nutrition education workshops online.

The Charlie Cart will be used in a variety of community-based virtual events. We will conduct nutrition workshops for all ages throughout the years allowing our patrons to learn cooking techniques and nutritional options via the El Cerrito Library Facebook and Instagram pages. We also plan on featuring food science experiments that children and their families can repeat at home. In order to retain the community element of these programs, we intend to hand out grab & go style kits including some of the elements featured in the online videos and will encourage participants to share their results on our social media pages.

When the library resumes in-person programming, we plan on inviting local chefs to share their tricks of the trade in live demonstrations for all ages. Also, we plan on having a series of food cooking demonstrations featuring food from around the world led by local chefs and members of the community.

Note: You can watch one of the early El Cerrito Library Charlie Cart programs, *Home Made Apple Sauce*, on the EC Library Facebook page at https://tinyurl.com/ECLFCharlieCart
Thank You El Cerrito Library Foundation Donors!

* **Visionary:**
  All donors who gave $1,000 or more prior to the 2016 bond measure are marked with an asterisk.

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This Didn't Happen In 2020

This didn’t happen in 2020, but for those of you who might not have seen it yet, we wanted to be sure you all knew about the wonderful new sign welcoming all to our El Cerrito Library. This colorful upgrade to the old, rather dismal, hard to see sign was made possible by a grant from the El Cerrito Arts and Culture committee. The A&C Commission manages the City’s "In lieu of public Art" contribution developers pay if their project does not include a Public Art feature.

This grant was arranged by Heidi Goldstein, our Senior Community Library Manager.

Heidi Goldstein, Senior Community Library Manager in front of the El Cerrito Library

ECLF quarterly Financial Statements
https://eclibraryfoundation.org/financial-statements/
The El Cerrito Library’s Virtual 2020 Summer Book Club read the *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell. Library staff handed out one hundred free copies of the book that were provided by the El Cerrito Library foundation and Pegasus Books on Solano, Berkeley.

Library staff reported that, “Young patrons were so excited to read this selection, and not-so-young patrons fondly remember their first time with this California classic, and were happy to re-read it, this time with their own families.”

Two Virtual Book Club events were held in August, a discussion of the book and a live interaction with the Education Coordinator for the Channel Islands National Park to observe, and discuss archaeological discoveries made on San Nicholas Island, the actual island of the Blue Dolphins, and to learn more about the Lone Woman (Karana), the heroine of the book.

As a special add-on event to the 2020 Summer Book Group, the Library adopted a dolphin from The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC), and named him Baker D! The Library conducted a virtual event to learn all about Baker D via TMMC, which included learning about conservation and marine biology.

All in all, a very successful program in which 17 library patrons participated!

Foundation 2020 Community Events Curtailed by Covid 19

As part of our public outreach efforts, the El Cerrito Library Foundation (ECLF) participates in several community events each year. They are the City of El Cerrito Earth Day, the El Cerrito World One July 4th festival, the El Cerrito Senior Resource Fair, National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), and the El Cerrito Rotary Club’s Annual Sip and Savor event.

Because of the mandated Covid 19 Shelter-in-Place directive, the City of El Cerrito and the Rotary Club cancelled their events in 2020. Our normal participation in the NVRD event has consisted of staffing a table outside the library to provide voter registration information and assistance to library users on NVRD, the fourth Tuesday of every September.

In 2020, we changed our NVRD participation from tabling to posting a series of five information articles on the ECLF web site from late August through October helping readers to prepare for voting, encouraging Vote-by-Mail voting, and providing locations of local voting sites and secure ballot drop boxes. These posts can be seen at https://eclibraryfoundation.org/.
ECLF MISSION STATEMENT

The El Cerrito Library Foundation is a community-based, non-profit organization developing support for creating and maintaining a modern public library in El Cerrito that will meet the learning, cultural, and recreational needs for persons of all ages. We believe that a great community library cannot be created with public funding alone.

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Honorary Board Members:
Heidi Goldstein - Senior Community Library Mgr
Michael A. Fischer - EC Designated Library Comm.

The El Cerrito Library Foundation is a community-based 501(c)(3) organization. The Board normally met quarterly in January, April, July, and October in the 3rd floor Community Room of the El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Avenue. However, that practice ended when the State of California issued its March 19, 2020 Stay-at-Home Directive, and all subsequent meetings in 2020 were held via teleconference. Check https://eclibraryfoundation.org/ for any changes.

Front Door Service from Page 1

were then checked out to the patrons and due back to the library just like items they had selected themselves.

Not everyone who had an item on hold made an appointment and numerous patrons would ring our "hotel front desk" bell and notify us that they were at our front doors to pick up their holds. Sometimes they even asked for grab bags on the fly, which we happily supplied when we were able to do so!

As patrons weren't allowed into the library, they were obviously not using the self-check machines. Over the course of this 11-month period, El Cerrito Library staff checked out over 81,000 physical materials: that's an average of 7,424 items per month!

As a scrappy and strong team, El Cerrito Library staff proved their flexibility, creativity, and enthusiasm for helping their community. As the manager of this active community library, I'm proud to say that we rose to this challenge with humor and energy.

Note: To see a library staff video showing how our team made the Front Door Service work, go to: http://tinyurl.com/Adayatthelibrary.