

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a black shirt and jeans, stands on the left side of the image. He is holding an open book with a cartoon illustration of two owls on a branch. He is looking down at the book. In front of him, a group of young children are sitting on a colorful rug, looking up at him. The rug has numbers and cloud patterns. In the background, there is a whiteboard and a wooden cabinet. A large green circular graphic is on the right side of the image, containing the text "VIRGINIA BEACH loves VBPL" and a heart with an arrow.

# VIRGINIA BEACH *loves* VBPL ♥➔



**VIRGINIA BEACH**  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FY 2021**

[vblibraryfoundation.org](http://vblibraryfoundation.org)





**Your generosity helped Virginia Beach Library Foundation (VBLF) provide over \$75,000 in funding for programs that our community loves and resources that we need to thrive.**



**VBLF-funded programs:**

- Summer Reading Challenge
- "Virginian-Pilot" digital historical archive
- StoryWalks®
- Battle of the Books virtual author talks
- Bayside Special Services professional development
- Kempsville Teen Advisory Group charging station
- Orangeboy Savannah community engagement platform

After pivoting all programming to the virtual space at the beginning of the pandemic, Virginia Beach Public Library (VBPL) looked for innovative ways to reintroduce programs to the libraries in FY 21. One way to do that was to take the programs outside, and among the first outdoor youth programs this year were the StoryWalks®. Pages from youth storybooks were placed along a path and families were encouraged to read the story as they strolled. These StoryWalks® were the first programs to be funded from the VBLF's Sadler Early Literacy Endowment, which supports early literacy programs for youth ages 0-5 years.



**VBLF received several grants that funded many new programs and opportunities for the library.**

- ALA Library Census Equity Fund, *census awareness*
- Yiddish Book Center, *"Coming to America" Reading Groups for Public Libraries*
- VB Home Now, Inc., *Connection Kits*
- E. C. Wareheim Foundation, *Summer Reading Challenge*
- TowneBank Foundation, *outreach vehicles*
- Virginia Humanities/Hampton Roads Community Foundation, *Beneath the Surface initiative*

The annual Summer Reading Challenge is VBPL's largest and most popular program. Designed to combat the "summer slide," a phenomenon where students lose literacy skills over the summer months when they aren't engaged in daily school, the Summer Reading Challenge incentivizes reading for fun. Participants log their reading and win books and other prizes for their efforts. Nearly 8,000 youth and teens participated in the 2021 Summer Reading Challenge, and over 6,700 completed the program by reading and participating in challenge activities. VBLF's partial support of the Challenge provided books and other prizes for participants who achieved reading milestones throughout the eight-week program.



rangererin The @vbplibrary did it again! The girls checked out a book a few weeks ago called Plants Can't Sit Still and were thrilled to see the library make a StoryWalk out of it. Even better, they each got to take home a kit to plant a sunflower seed, and have been checking daily to see if progress has been made!

In the wake of one of the most challenging years in recent memory, VBLF wants to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us all to be more flexible and patient. It also caused many people to reconsider their priorities. VBPL's priority throughout the pandemic remained the same: to meet the needs of and provide the best possible service for our community.

In such a challenging year VBLF was heartened by the number of people who chose to make supporting the library one of their priorities. VBLF received a record number of gifts on behalf of the library and had more new donors last year than the total number of donors the previous year!

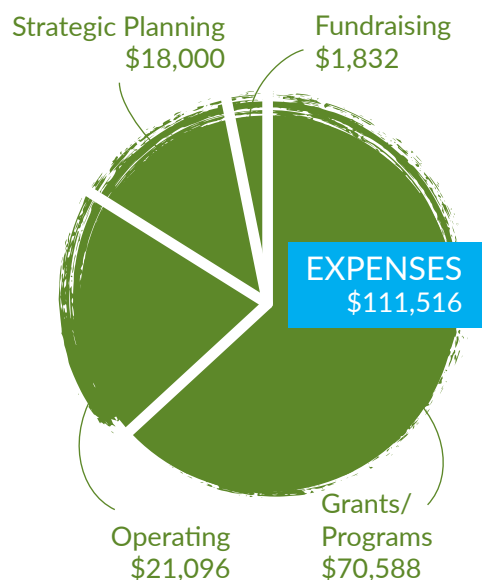
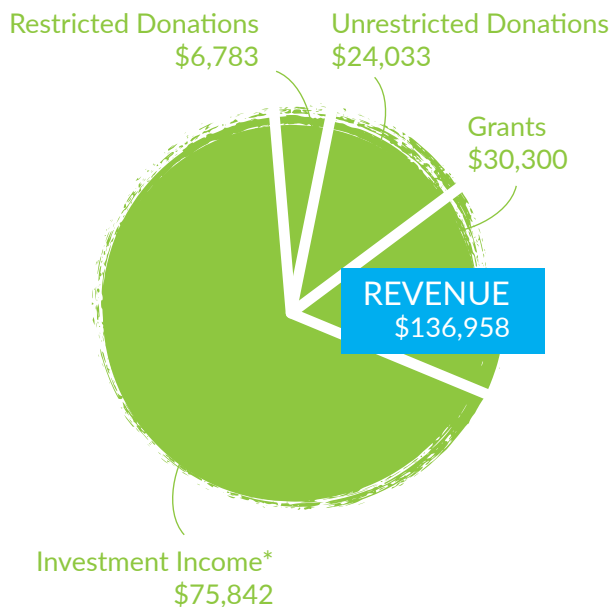
Thanks to you, VBPL provided more than 6,200 books for the Summer Reading Challenge and Stamped program participants to keep. Your generosity also funded an additional author talk for the Battle of the Books competition, benefitting nearly 300 fifth graders. These extras go a long way in sparking and sustaining a community of lifelong learners, and the VBLF Board of Directors is proud to help VBPL achieve its goals.



We know that during times of difficulty, members of our community come together to support each other. Your support for VBPL last year shows that you recognize the importance and impacts of the library in our community and value the materials and services provided. We are truly in this together, and hope that with library lovers like you on our side, we can continue helping VBPL provide unique and enriching opportunities for our community.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Krebs, Jr., *President &*  
Eva Poole, *Executive Director*

## FY 2021: BY THE NUMBERS



\*Investment income earned from assets held by UBS Financial Services increases endowment funds, which annually support library programs and resources.

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