

Bernardsville Library Foundation Donation Form

YES, I/we want to help meet the current alarming shortfall in municipal funding for our Library. Please accept my tax-deductible donation in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Bernardsville Library Foundation

Credit card number _____ Expires (MM/YY) _____

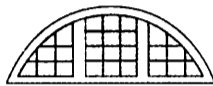
Signature _____

If you prefer, credit card donations may be made online at www.bernardsvillelibrary.org/foundation

To discuss giving a donation to our Endowment for longer term support, please provide your phone number here: _____

Please return to Bernardsville Library Foundation, 1 Anderson Hill Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.

You will receive a letter confirming your donation to the Foundation (a 501(c)(3) charitable organization) as tax-deductible.



BERNARDSVILLE

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Dear Neighbor,

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life". Henry Ward Beecher.

It is very important to recognize the people and institutions that make our lives in Bernardsville better... and our Public Library is the cornerstone of that list.

I have found that my grandchildren love the family programs in the Children's Corner, story times, and the motivating summer reading programs and the excitement of winter camp. We all can enjoy readings by well-known authors; popular classes in yoga, computers, meditation, and crafts; as well as gallery shows, music on Sundays and informative sessions on Medicare, Social Security, and more. A happy place for kids, projects, art shows and varied activities, but then I also turn to the library in times of emergencies, like Sandy and this winter's nor'easters, and find a warm supportive safe haven.

On average, a resident of our town visits the Library 21 times a year. We have 5,801 registered resident patrons. Last year we had 155,753 visits, and 172,661 items were borrowed. Our Library has a prestigious 4-star rating from the *Library Journal*, a point of pride. It is a busy center for all in our community.

**But we simply can't take our Library's valuable offerings for granted!
It is a "free" library to our citizens for the use of all it offers, however, it is not free to operate.**

Funding from our Borough Council exceeds the requirement mandated by the state, but that funding had not increased since 2008 until this year. Although the taxes have increased 43% since that time, the borough bases its contributions to the library on property values which have declined. The library is grateful that this year's town budget has included a 2.56% increase for 2018 which may allow the library to recapture its regular operating hours later this spring. However, recognizing the inflationary pressures of the budget lines of the library is very important to continuing full and excellent service. The long-term effects of the lack of increased funding has still left the library with an alarming shortfall to the operating budget for 2018. As a result, the Foundation must raise \$75,000 for this year in order to guarantee all services. The "most important place in our town" needs YOU to remember and appreciate its value to you, your family, and the community.

Several residents have agreed to help us reach this goal: Drs. Neill and Julia Johnson offer \$5,000 with a dollar-for-dollar challenge match for any size donation you make. An additional anonymous donor has offered a second \$2,500 matching grant for gifts of \$500 or more.

We need our library to continue its high level of service to residents, and we need YOU to guarantee that happens. Support our community's #1 cultural resource...and see the benefit of your tax deductible donation double with these matching grants.

Please send in your tax-deductible donation today – in whatever amount you can.

Thank you,

Leslie Brown-Witt