The East Norwalk Association Library
serving the community since 1915

“LIBRARIES STORE THE ENERGY THAT FUELS THE IMAGINATION. THEY OPEN UP WINDOWS TO THE WORLD AND INSPIRE US TO EXPLORE AND ACHIEVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE. LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES FOR THE BETTER.” —SIDNEY SHELDON
Annual Report- July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018

I am excited to present the Library’s annual report. During this past fiscal year 7/2017-6/2018, the library has gone through many changes. We have expanded our library collections. We have been updating our non-fiction book selections by focusing on trending topics, relevant and noteworthy issues and revised up-to-date subjects like computers and blogging and self help, starting a small business. In addition, we have bought new and contemporary fiction books for young adults and children, while continuously keeping up with our popular adult fiction titles and requests. We have also updated book titles for our Hispanic collection with fiction and non-fiction books and audio. In addition, the movie collection has been expanded to include a new offering: the horror genre along with the introduction of blu-ray films. Over the past year library statistics show an increase, we have actually doubled our circulation, of our materials distribution. Our numbers are modest compared to other libraries but the increase shows that we are on the right track with our purchases.

**Technology** - The Library purchased and installed MS Office Suite. We have also enabled the library’s software for patrons to place online holds in the online catalog. We received a grant, $3,000.00 from the Norwalk Historical Society, which part of the money bought new computers in the children’s area allowing us to place the removed computers into the adult area. We also introduced NOOKS and e-books. Unfortunately, e-books are more expensive than traditional books so our collection is very limited. Computer use has also shown a modest but steady increase over the year. People have also positively commented and used MS Office.

**Facility** - updates over the year has included the TTD support with new window film for energy savings, energy efficient lighting installation, new efficient air conditioning units purchased and installed. The parking lot was restriped and cracks in front steps repaired and painted. Additional money from the Norwalk History Museum grant bought new furniture and a rug for the children’s room. We also removed out of date, damaged materials. We redesigned the interior space of the library creating open space and more room for patrons to browse materials. We also opened up window space letting more natural light into the building.

**Programming** -- Over the past year we also started year round programming to engage and inspire the community. Our new programs target all audience age-groups. We presented on average at least three programs a month presenting one adult, family and multiple early
literacy programs. This is in addition to the 2017 summer series programs. We also received a 2000.00 program grant from the Anne Frank Museum. Overall, our program attendance was very good for the first year of offering year round programs. We also partnered with Norwalk Public Library to participate in the state summer reading club along with local daycare centers and public schools.

**Volunteer manpower** - We used volunteer hours to produce one of our most popular programs, Line dancing. The instructor volunteered her talents to us each week for a year. Dance saw each week on average of 15 people. For an average total of 780 for the year. Summer programs 2017 did very well. Local day cares supported the six weekly program series. We also started year round programming to include adult and year round family and young teen. Volunteers helped us with setting up and cleaning up for programs.

**Where to find out what is happening** - We use technology to keep the public informed. Here are the places where we advertise our programs: The Library joined the community app Next Door, Burbio, TTD newsletters. Facebook, East Norwalk Business Association and Constant Contact emails. In addition, we hand out and post our flyers, we talk and tell patrons of events, the community spreads the word through word of mouth, we post on our website, send to the news media, and do outreach to the schools and daycares.

**Message from the Director**

This past year we have focused on improving our presence as a community library. We created cross cultural programs that welcome everyone and utilized staff and community volunteers. We have been working hard to reach the community through our social media accounts in order to keep our patrons up to date on many programs, new books and movie arrivals as well as enhance participation in monthly themes or drop in crafts. Working towards the future, we have been continually evaluating our progress and want to share that progress with you. With many new programs, services, resources and community partnerships, the library will become a community center for all residents. We look to our frequent library user, occasional visitors and non-users to provide us with feedback and ideas to keep the library moving in the right direction.

Lastly, I would like to tell a story. A patron asked for a book which was out so the patron had to be placed on the wait list for the title. The patron said to me “they” should give you guys more than one copy. Keeping this thought in mind, it came to me that I needed to inform people that we are not part of the Norwalk Public Library system. We receive our funding from the TTD, not the City of Norwalk. The TTD gives the Library generous support throughout the year; but the Library’s allocation does not cover everything it takes to operate a Library as we try to satisfy a demanding library community. The funding covers 75% of our operation costs. Therefore, when patrons who so much love our offerings, ask for more programs, more title selections, more technology, seating, etc. the term “they” as in why don’t “they” help you more, becomes “you” and others who give their financial support to the Library in order for us
to meet our patrons needs and wants. We appreciate you so much, your support and contributions, of time and money and your patronage, but we will always ask for you to keep us in mind as one of your favorite non-profit organization that you give too.

Now that you have read through the 2017-2019 annual report, I hope that you have discover something new about your library.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Archibald, Library Director