



BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

November 2022

Dear Friends,

While writing this letter up on the library mezzanine, I overheard a patron proclaim to one of our friendly Circulation Desk volunteers, *“Well, the Bixby is the place to be!”* I hope you feel the same.

YOU are the reason that the Bixby Memorial Free Library opened its doors 110 years ago:

- to serve you, your family, and your neighbors,
- to offer *opportunities* for your growth and prosperity, and
- to give you a sense of place you can enjoy and feel proud of, as reported in a 1912 newspaper article:

“One of the most beautiful libraries in the state, if not all of New England.”

And it is *yours, just because you live here!*

On that strong foundation, **any financial support you can give** helps us serve all ages, at every stage of life.

Here are just a few examples of the ways that **local people benefit from your generosity**:

People of all ages gather for storytime, book club, culture & history talks, meetings, crafts, cooking, puzzles, practical life skills seminars, robotics, writing classes, art, volunteering, and more.

“I’ve been feeling so isolated. But as soon as I got to the Bixby, I recognized friends who I hadn’t seen in a while and it felt good to give my mind something interesting to think about.”

The Bixby is often the **first place newcomers find a connection to the community and feel a sense of belonging.**

“One of my first stops, literally on the day I closed on my house, was the Bixby... [it] has become as special in the lives of my six children as my hometown library was in my own.”

People increasingly use our computers and WiFi to search for employment opportunities, **apply for jobs**, and use the public printer for paperwork.

“I was grateful to use the Bixby’s computers to find and land a job. Once I get settled in, I’ll sign up for my library card and attend some programs. Thank you!”

With the new Bixby “Library of Things”, you can **borrow things that you might only need to use once** or occasionally, but don’t want to buy and wonder what to do with afterward.

“We borrowed the Cricut machine and the whole family made Halloween decorations. I saved money and we had so much fun together.”

Now you’re probably wondering, how much should I give? We hope you’ll be as generous as you can be! Most of all we hope that **as many people as possible feel motivated to join others** in giving even a small amount. We take pride in **stretching your dollars as far as they can go** and every dollar you give quickly goes back into serving and growing the vibrancy of this great community.

Together, we can continue to build our print *and* digital collections, provide engaging and inspiring programming, and preserve this beautiful historic building – just a short distance from your home. **Thank you** for your generosity – past, present, & future. *Every* donation matters and *every* dollar counts.

Catharine Hays, Library Director