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## **An Annual Library Report**

Besides being a Director on the Board of the Murrysville Community Library (MCL) Foundation, the fundraising arm of the MCL, I am Trustee and Treasurer presently of the MCL Board. So, I get to present the financial summary in chart format for the MCL Annual Report and the Annual Meeting, meaning a summary in the present case for 2021. Such charts are shown in recent Annual Reports that are publicly available on the MCL's web site. You can avail yourself of the details there, but I want to present a perspective here.

The Murrysville Community Library is a non-profit corporation that enjoys tax-free benefits as a 501(C)3 IRS organization. It receives much of its funding from government resources, including from the Municipality of Murrysville (MOM), the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) in the PA Department of Education, and the office of the Westmoreland County Commissioners (WCC). It also receives funding from direct and indirect patron donations. By indirect is meant donations and memorial contributions that are made by way of the MCL Foundation. In 2021, Foundation and direct memorial and other gifts amounted to 7% of total income for the MCL. This is the third largest category of income behind the two biggest ones by far, those of the MOM and the OCL. Because we always work within the margins, 7% is crucial income.

The MCL measures its success by how well and how comprehensively it uses its budget for building/lending of catalogue items, programming, and information services. It has consistently kept to budget and excelled as a provider of services year after year. There is a lot of pride taken in that, and, as patrons and donors, you should share in that pride of community.

The MCL Foundation maintains the assets accrued from donations in endowed accounts for the most part. It has been doing that for quite a few years. It recognizes, based on prior experiences, that a time will come again when it will become more difficult to balance the excellence of service with either shrinking income or flat income, year over year. The unpredictability of state income was in particular a difficult problem in some earlier years. The ups and downs of a national economy are simply too difficult to predict, no less how that will affect a state budget already crafted with political overtones. So, that is why the MCL Foundation has worked so hard to build endowment, from which it may draw against earnings, up to a mandated limit.

You should be encouraged that both Boards do work to keep to this fiscal responsibility, and if you wish to see more of those details, please do visit the MCL web site.

Lastly, I want to reiterate in this short perspective that sustained financial support for any public Library is not to be taken for granted, and no Library Board does take it for granted. Each WLN Library has its own, sometimes quite different, income pie chart, but all share that sentiment. As a past WLN Board President and Treasurer, I particularly remain appreciative for all our sources of generous support. We may forget at times, in our busy lives, to say thank you to the public that supports public Libraries

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through tax dollars and direct and indirect giving. We may forget to thank those many volunteers who give of their time, which does not show up on the balance sheet or the charts that I get to fill in. To all of you, I say thank you.

Charles B. Greenberg  
Board Director, Murrysville Community Library Foundation