



BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT



2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The past year has certainly been a busy one for the staff and volunteers at the Bradford Area Public Library. Summer reading program attendance increased by 64% from 2018, and the library offered many art and STEM workshops to teens and tweens. Our evening storytime now meets every week, and our weekly preschool and daycare outreach has expanded to eight different classes. Adult programming attendance has increased by 27% from last year, and the Teen Book Club was able to take another trip to New York City to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Broadway.

That we've been able to accomplish all of these things is a testament to the library staff, volunteers, and the community of Bradford as a whole. Last year, the library received news of a large funding cut. To maintain, and even expand, programs and resources while facing a budget deficit is all due to strong community support and grant funding. We have worked incredibly hard to make this year one of the library's most successful, despite our budget concerns. You can read more about our grant-funded projects on page 4, and can see a list of 2018 library donors starting on page 8.

As we look back on our accomplishments from 2018 and 2019, I want to express my gratitude to our donors, patrons, and all library staff, volunteers, and board members. Support from the community enables the library to maintain high quality services and provide dynamic programs that elevate the library to one of the best in the area!

Lacey Love
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Growing up with a mother who was visually impaired, I was able to experience her audio books as a daily commonality. The books came weekly, on cassette or an actual 78 record (what is that?) from the Library for the Blind. My siblings and I listened to all of the newest published books as we did our day to day activities. As we entered school, our teachers never failed to comment on the reading level and vocabulary that the eight of us displayed. That is what books can do, transport your mind, change your ideas, entertain you and teach you.

Libraries are the Mecca in the world of readers. The place to find your next great read, but the Bradford Area Public Library is so much more than a place to get a book. In my short time on the board this has become very clear to me. The citizens of Bradford and the surrounding area have a place to meet, play games, access computers, hear seminars, attend art workshops, and so much more.

Under Lacey Love's capable leadership, the staff is professional and always willing to help. We as a board are encouraged by the great advancements made in the children's programming and the teen reading groups since the addition of Debbie Deane. The children's programs are building sustainability for BAPL, essentially planting the seeds to grow future adult readers and a generation that will grow up valuing the BAPL and its many opportunities.

All of these improvements would not be possible without the support of donors, both business and individual, as well as the generous contributions from the city and local municipalities. The Board of Trustees wishes to thank our many donors and contributors and especially the Bradford Public Library volunteers and staff for another year of helping this organization thrive and become an even greater asset to the community.

Lorna Smith
Board Chair

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

Library Staff

Lacey Love, Executive Director
Debbie Deane, Youth Services Librarian
Judy Carr, Children's Program Coordinator
Colette Roessler, Marketing & Adult Program Coordinator
Kelly Elmore, Business Manager
Emily Zinsner, Cataloging
Taffy Meyer, Circulation Desk Supervisor
Autumn Ament, ILL & Book Processing
Donna Green, Front Desk
Mary Kafferlin, Front Desk
Bonnie Leposa, Front Desk
Nicole Moricca, Front Desk

Volunteers

Marie Troskosky, Teen Advisor
Elaine Summerday and Len Norville, Senior Outreach
Jane Bowes, DVD cataloging
Patti Fisher, Book Sale Coordinator
Trudy Yohe, PathStone

2019 Board of Trustees

Lorna Smith, Chairperson
Dan Minich, Vice-Chairperson
Carol Wurster, Secretary
Amy Fox, Treasurer
Tina Martin
Christine Minich
Julie Newman
Kristen Tim

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Communities That We Serve

Bradford Township
City of Bradford
Corydon Township
Foster Township
Lafayette Township
Lewis Run Borough



GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS



Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund - Grant for Public Library Facilities

The Bradford Area Public Library was one of only 27 in Pennsylvania to receive a Keystone Grant in 2018. Keystone Grants are matching grants from the state to specifically fund public library renovations. This grant enabled the complete renovation of the public restrooms, which had not been updated in almost 30 years, as well as the addition of a gender-neutral family restroom. Thanks to supporters like you, we were able to provide the funds to match this grant dollar-for-dollar. Each of the companies that worked on this project, including Carl E. Swanson & Sons, Minich Electric, Gleason Masonry & Construction, CJ Wallace Engineering, Dan Oaks Installations, and Allied Systems, Inc. made it as quick and painless as possible for library patrons and staff!

United Way of the Bradford Area - Quarterly Impact Grant

The Bradford Area Public Library was awarded a Quarterly Impact Grant from the United Way to provide funding for teen and tween summer programming. Some of the art workshops offered included paint pouring, journal making, wire sculptures, and watercolor mosaics. We also held several STEM programs, like a mobile planetarium, rocket building, and a three-day dissection lab, where participants and their families dissected a heart, eyeball, and brain. Thanks to this grant, we were able to provide summer programming to 450 teens and tweens. This grant also funded the Teen and Middle Ground Book Clubs for three months, providing copies of each month's book to our members.



Elk County Council on the Arts - PPA Grant

Elk County Council on the Arts awarded the library a PA Partners in the Art Project Stream Grant to fund our first through sixth grade after-school Art Club. Thanks to this grant, two local artists, Julie Mader and Courtney Mealy, provided 16 lessons on famous artists and styles of art, including Dale Chihuly, Georgia O'Keefe, Henri Matisse, and Alberto Giacometti. The club's culminating event was an art show, where the students were able to display their many projects. This summer, members of the art club took a field trip to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY. Students took a tour of the museum and grounds to learn more about artists they had studied.



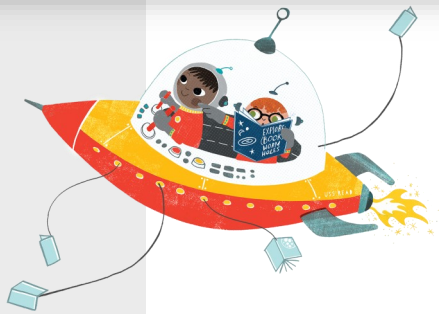
Upcoming grants for 2020: PNC Foundation - Grow Up Great Grant & PA Humanities Council - Teen Reading Lounge Grant

In addition to all of the grant-funded projects the library had in 2019, we have also been awarded two grants for the upcoming year. First, the PNC Foundation awarded us with a Grow Up Great Grant to cover all of our birth to 5 programming from October 2019 to September 2020. The library's birth to 5 programming includes twice-weekly Story Seekers storytimes and weekly outreach to eight different preschool and daycare classes. The library was also a recipient of the PA Humanities Council Teen Reading Lounge Grant. The Teen Reading Lounge program is a humanities-based nontraditional book club, built on the belief that encouragement to choose creative pursuits and interest-focused programs is crucial to teen development. This two-year grant will provide funding to bring in outside speakers to give the Teen Book Club a more comprehensive understanding of books and their themes. We will also be able to put funding towards author visits and excursions to area book festivals.

YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Children ages birth to 5 are invited to participate in the Story Seekers program, every Monday and Friday at 11:00 am. A variety of literacy activities are introduced and include reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing! A new story is offered each week with play experiences that encourage active learning and inspire the imagination. Children can create their own stories using art materials, building blocks, dramatic play, and music and movement. We also hold an Evening Storytime at 6:00 pm every Wednesday night, for children of all ages.



Our “Universe of Stories” Summer Reading Program was hugely successful this year, thanks to the library’s many community partners and generous sponsors. Throughout June and July, 2,298 children participated in 72 summer programs. Summer reading participants attended five weeks of workshops and learned all about outer space, the planets, and the US space program. Over the course of six weeks, more than 60 children, birth through 6th grade, tracked their reading and read a total of 2,582 books! The library was also able to serve 767 snacks to children, age birth through 18, thanks to the USDA Summer Food Service Program.



The Teen Book Club, open to students in grades 9–12, provides opportunities for teens to expand their love of books. Members enjoyed attending a dinner at the library with Jeff Zentner, author of YA books *The Serpent King* and *Goodbye Days*. The group also attended his presentation at Pitt Bradford. The Teen Book Club traveled to New York City in June to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Broadway and tour the NBC Studios.

If your child is in grades 5–8, they may be interested in joining the Middle Ground Book Club, which meets every first Thursday.



ADULT PROGRAMMING

The Bradford Area Public Library offers a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs for adults in our community. Local expert guests talked about issues and topics that affect us all. Chief Chris Lucco spoke about crime in Bradford, how the community and police can work together, and scams. Kathy Obermeyer, realtor with ERA Team VP, talked about current real estate trends and gave useful advice for those entering the real estate market. Hon. Stephanie Vettenburg-Shaffer, McKean County DA, discussed the heroin and opioid epidemic, as well as the latest trends and changes in McKean County drug usage. The Adult Arts program returned last summer with greater participation than the previous summer. The library will be bringing back the Holiday Arts program as well. Patrons escaped from escape rooms and tested their knowledge with Team Trivia. For National Library Week in April, Dr. Rick Fredericks will present on Andrew Carnegie and the history of Carnegie libraries.



History came alive as General Grant and Susan B. Anthony reenactors visited. The library also offered very successful programs about our local history. Dean Fox, historian, talked about Bradford bootleggers. Sally Costik, author and curator of the Bradford Landmark Society, gave a talk about historic homes and buildings in Bradford.

Over the past several years, the library has partnered with Evergreen Elm to offer a biweekly book club program for the organization's group home residents. This program has since expanded to be inclusive of other adults in the Bradford community, with approximately 15 participants at book club meetings. At each meeting, participants read a book, complete a coordinating craft to take home, and enjoy each other's company.



2018 DONORS

We offer a huge thank you to the following individuals, organizations, and foundations who made gifts to the library in 2018, through the Annual Ask, Honor & Memorial gifts, Taste of Bradford sponsorships, programming grants, or in-kind donations. If you haven't contributed to the 2019 Annual Ask Campaign yet, please consider doing so to help make this year as successful as the last!

Nancy Allen
American Refining Group
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Bradford Bridge Club
Bradford High School Class of 1980
Bradford Regional HIM Dept.
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Denise Seagren-Peterson
Seneca Highlands IU9 Office Staff
James Shields
John and Patricia Shinaberger
Karl and Anita Shuey

2018 DONORS

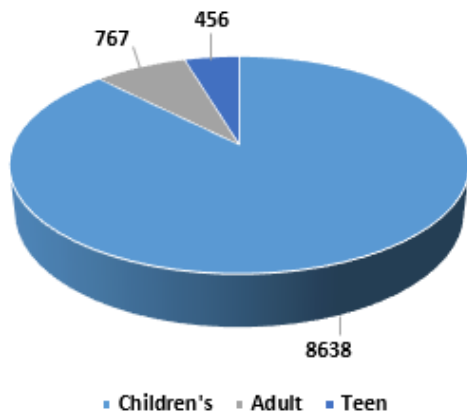
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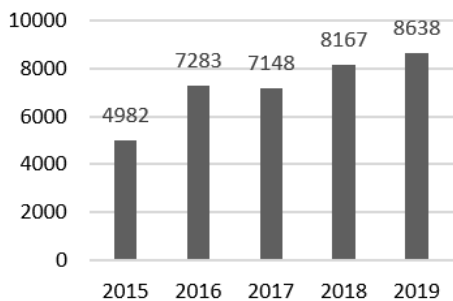
LIBRARY STATISTICS

Program Attendance (through 9/30)

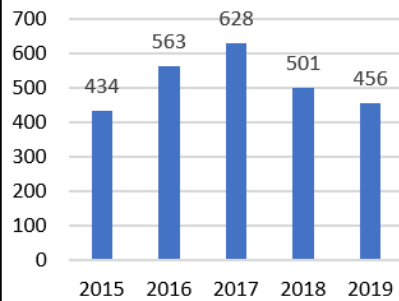


Program attendance has steadily increased over the past few years. In 2019, the library is on track to have more than 13,000 patrons attend library-sponsored programs – 11,500 children, 610 teens, and 1,020 adults. Through September of 2019, we have already surpassed the 2018 total for children's and adult program attendance!

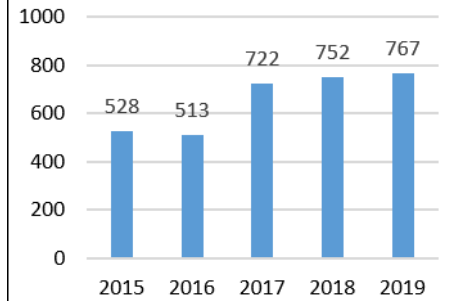
Children's Program Attendance



Teen Program Attendance



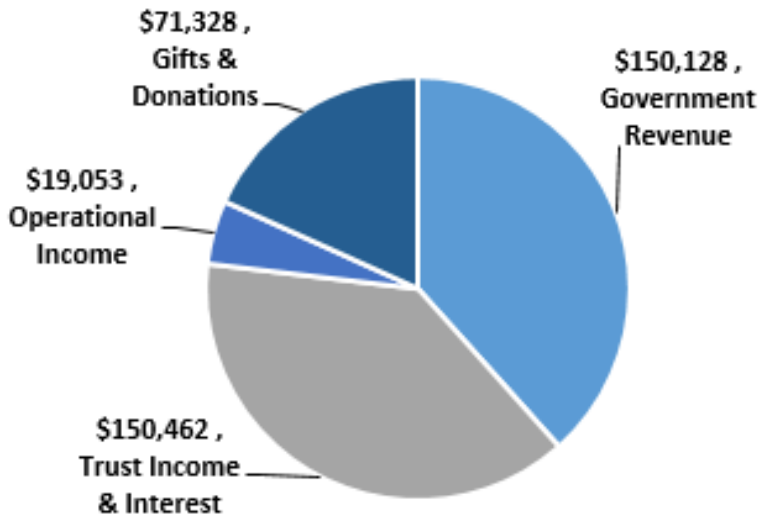
Adult Program Attendance



*2019 numbers are from January 1 to September 30

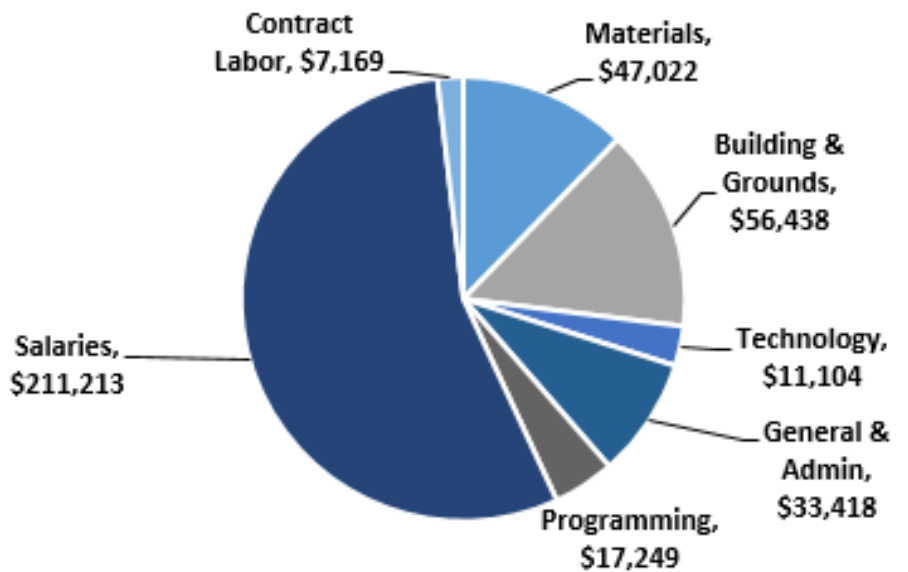
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2018 Operating Income



Last year, government funding made up 40% of the library's budget. At the end of December, we were made aware that the Bradford Area School District would be cutting their funding for the library—an eighth of our budget. This 12% gap was bridged by grants, fundraising, and donations. Support from community members like you enables the library to maintain high quality services and provide dynamic programs that elevate our library to one of the best in the area.

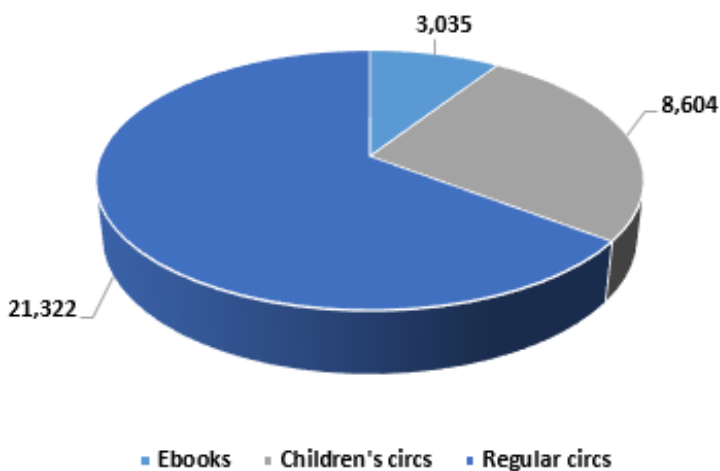
2018 Operating Expenses



Total income: \$390,971

Total expenses: \$383,613

2019 Circulations (through 9/30)



After migrating to new library software in January, patrons can now use their online account to place holds, renew books, and see what items they have checked out. Take advantage of these features and help us make our goal of 50,000 circulations in 2019!



BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Bradford, PA 16701

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Mission

To provide the resources to inform, educate and enrich our community in a way that demonstrates:

- *Literacy*
- *Equal access and diversity*
- *Lifelong learning*
- *Fiscal responsibility and integrity*
- *BAPL's rich heritage*

Vision

To be recognized as a premier library in service to our community.

