



BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

2017 Annual Report

Making Life Better



67 West Washington Street
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-6527
www.bradfordlibrary.org



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Elaine Summerday and Len
Norville, Senior Outreach
Advisors
Jane Bowes, e-book and DVD
cataloging
Patti Fisher and Linda Fox,
Book Sale Coordinators

A Message from...

Lacey Love, Executive Director



This year, we were fortunate enough to have trustees, staff, and volunteers meet with consultant Michael Brand to create a new three-year strategic plan for the library. After an engaging discussion about the library, as well as the community as a whole, we decided to focus on four strategic directions as we move into the future: focusing on community relations, expanding library services and resources, ensuring organizational sustainability, and increasing management capacity.

We've already taken steps toward meeting these objectives, including partnering with other libraries in the community, providing programming in tandem with the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and other organizations like CareerLink, establishing the Middle Ground Book Club, reviewing policies and procedures, and running a library card registration drive for new kindergarten students.

I'm looking forward to enhancing our services for current patrons over the next three years, as well as drawing new patrons into the library. We are all very thankful for the community support that allows us to achieve our goals, as we work to continue to make life better for everyone well into the future.

Tina Martin, Board Chair



The day my Aunt Mary took me to the Carnegie Public Library to get my library card was one of the happiest of my childhood. That card represented a doorway to new places, helped me develop a lifelong obsession with reading, and gave me access to the world-at-large. When I was asked to chair the Library's Board of Trustees, I was excited to be part of an organization which has so greatly impacted my life; and as a board member I have witnessed how profoundly the library has impacted the lives of our community members.

We are first and foremost a library, and yet so much more! The Bradford Area Public Library is a community center bringing together a diverse group of patrons of all ages; a technology hub, giving equal access to the internet, iPads and eReaders; and a venue for exciting programming that engages, enlightens and expands the vistas of those in attendance. If you have not been to the library in a while, stop in to learn how you can borrow a book on your Kindle. Maybe visit the early learning center with a favorite little one and teach them to be a *Story Seeker*, or maybe attend a workshop on jewelry making or Bradford history. I think you may be surprised how much our library has to offer!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you to our patrons, who make us strive to grow, innovate and improve as an organization. The board would like to distinguish the work of our incredible director, staff, and volunteers who are the driving force behind the library's mission. We are also grateful for the generous support of our donors and the valued partnerships of businesses, civic groups, municipalities, and schools. Your support enables us to transform a simple library card into an all-access pass to the world and ensures the library maintains a vital place in our community.

We offer a huge thank you to everybody who helped us meet our goal of \$40,000 during the 2016 Annual Ask. If you haven't contributed to the 2017 campaign yet, please consider doing so to help make this year as successful as the last!

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*Indicates the donor is deceased

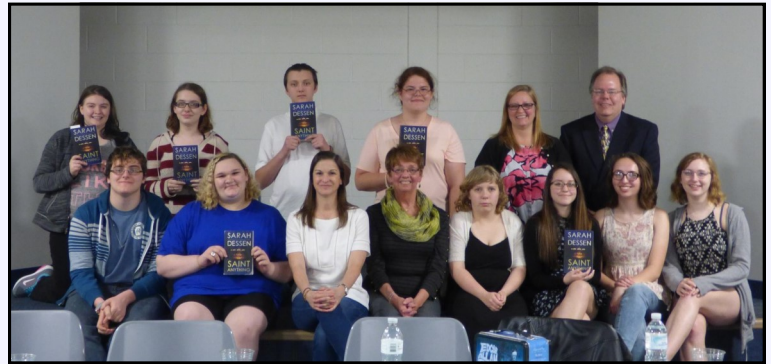
Programs and Outreach

Teen Book Club



The book clubs have been very active this past year. Our Teen Book Club, open to students in grades 9-12, and our Beacon Light Book Club both enjoyed hearing award-winning author Sarah Dessen speak with them personally at a dinner arranged at the library. The group then attended her presentation at UPB. The Teen Book Club also had the opportunity to travel to New York City for another day trip. They were able to visit Ellis Island and take an audio-guided tour, check out Times Square, shop at The Strand Bookstore, and eat at Planet Hollywood. This trip was entirely free to members of the book club, thanks to generous community donors!

Both book clubs, which meet monthly, were given the opportunity to join a variety of workshops this summer. Thanks to a grant from the Bradford Area School District, the library offered workshops on monologues, journaling, linoleum print making, poetry, jewelry making, and yoga/meditation. They also contributed to a booklet entitled “Summer Musings,” which included personal poetry, haikus, monologues, and linoleum block prints done at the workshops. The Teen Book Club meets the third Tuesday of every month at 5 PM. Any questions about the book clubs should be directed to Marie Troskosky.



Middle Ground

Thanks to funding from the Bradford Rotary Club and the United Way of the Bradford Area, we were able to create a new space in the library called the Middle Ground, specifically designated for middle school students grades 5-8. The space has comfy seating, two brand new computers, display shelving, and a magnetic poetry board. To go along with this new space, we have also started a Middle Ground Book Club to fill the gap between our children’s and teen programming. The Middle Ground Book Club meets every other month, on the first Thursday from 5-6 PM. Each participant receives a free book to take home and read for the next meeting’s discussion. We are looking forward to expanding this new group, with the help of Marie Troskosky, Teen Book Club members Sidney Emerson and Emily Keltz, and many other volunteers.





BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Programs and Outreach

Adult Programming

The Bradford Area Public Library offers a wide variety of adult programs. By bringing a new adult programming and marketing coordinator on board earlier this year, we are working toward becoming a community hub by offering informative and entertaining programs for adults in our community. Our programs cover a wide variety of topics: travel advice, creating computer games, creative writing, women’s health, criminal law, and self-defense, just to name a few. Adult library programming also includes two book clubs—No Rules Book Club and Friends Book Club—which have partnered for the past decade to coordinate One Book Bradford, a community-wide reading event.

The library is collaborating with local organizations, agencies, and community members to offer programs to inform, educate, and enrich our community. One such partnership includes having UPB faculty members offer programs to the public. These seminars have included topics like social media and the news, the US election process, and the 2017 total solar eclipse (pictured at left). Having UPB faculty available to share their vast knowledge with the community has been invaluable.



Children’s Programming

Our youngest learners and their families can enjoy weekly storytelling experiences. Story Seekers participants have the opportunity every Monday and Friday at 11 AM to create their own stories in many different ways—using open-ended art materials, building blocks, writing and drawing, and dramatic play. We have also expanded our storytelling experiences to offer an Evening Storytime. The Evening Storytime meets every second and fourth Wednesday at 6 PM. Thanks to a grant from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries this summer, we are able to provide themed backpacks containing science and technology materials and books for young children and their families. Several of these backpacks also contain Kindles or iPads. Families can borrow and enjoy the backpacks for a week. In addition to these Early Literacy programs, we also offer many entertaining programs throughout the year, including music and movement, petting zoos, and magic shows.

Volunteer Spotlights



Jane Bowes

Jane is one of our longest-serving volunteers—she’s been helping out at the library for thirteen years! She catalogs all new DVDs and TV series and prepares them for check out. She also enters new eBooks into the shared catalog of all five libraries in McKean County, so Jane is a huge asset to many libraries, not just our own!

Elaine Summerday & Len Norville

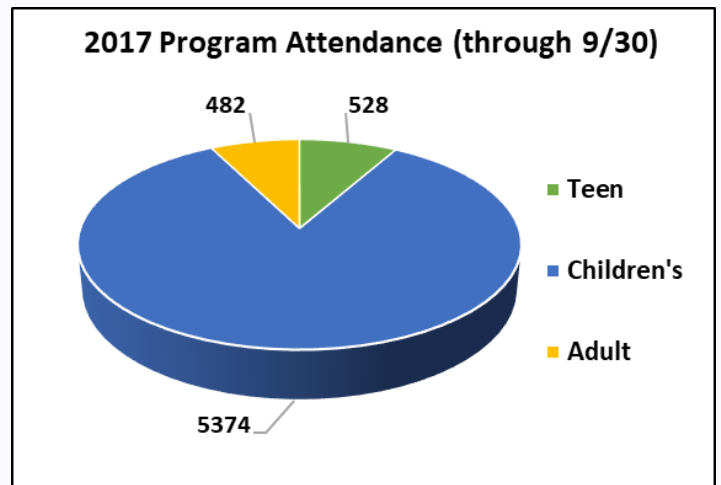
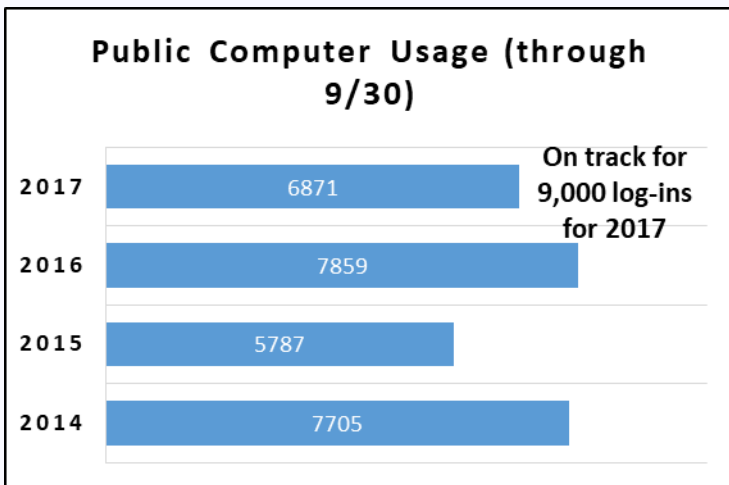
Elaine and Len have been the Senior Outreach volunteers at the library for almost three years. They currently visit nursing homes and senior centers all across McKean County on a monthly basis to present their Books and Barks program with their dog, Sunshine. They also meet with individual readers to provide them with Large Print books on an as-needed basis, from an extensive collection. Their latest venture is an Adult Puzzle program series to be held at the library this fall and winter.



Patti Fisher & Linda Fox

Patti and Linda joined the library team in 2015 to run our used book sale. Together, they raise about \$6,000 a year selling used books and magazines year-round in the lobby, as well as during two large sales in the fall and spring. A lot of work goes into organizing these sales, so we can’t thank them enough for all the funds they raise to go toward library operating expenses!

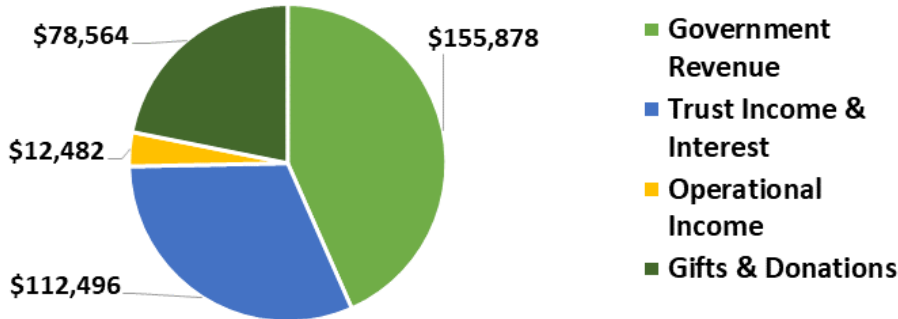
With the addition of 6 new public computers last year, usage has increased, and the library is on track for 9,000 log-ins for 2017. Monthly attendance for adult, teen, and children’s programs has also increased over the past two years, and we anticipate having more than 8,400 patrons attend library-sponsored programs this year — an increase of 40% since 2015!





The Numbers at a Glance

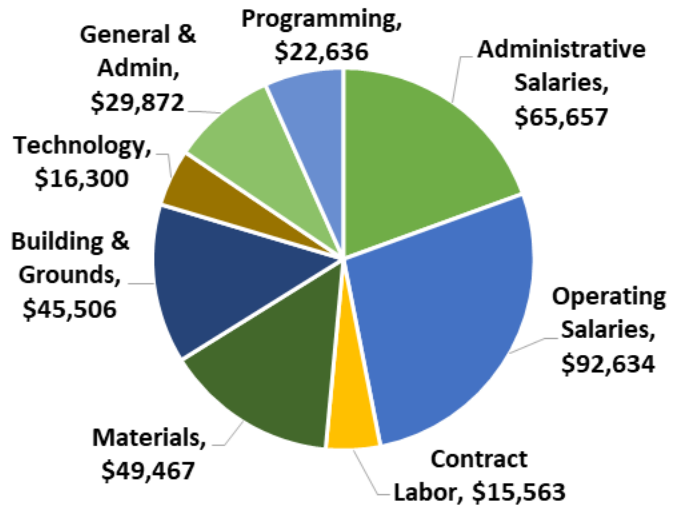
2016 Operational Income



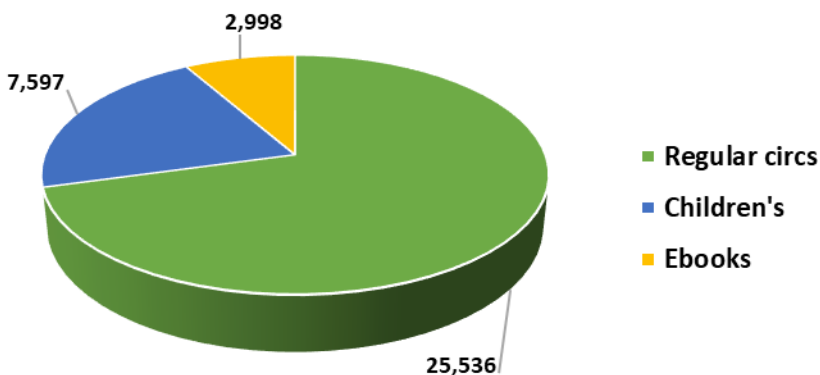
The library is required to spend \$5.00 per capita of our service population every year to receive critical state funding. This is why private gifts and municipal funding are so important, helping us to meet those spending requirements.

Total Income: \$359,429
Total Expenses: \$337,635

2016 Operating Expenses



2017 Circulations (through 9/30)



With over 36,000 circulations since the beginning of the year, the library is on track to have almost 50,000 circulations in 2017. E-book circulations have increased by 15% this year.



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Bradford Area Public Library Mission and Vision

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