



BRADFORD AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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# ANNUAL REPORT



[WWW.BRADFORDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.BRADFORDLIBRARY.ORG)

# 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Over the past year, our staff has been busy working to keep our services available to our patrons and they've done a wonderful job. With the support from our patrons, we have continued to provide access to materials, services, and programming to our patrons in a wide variety of ways. From expanding our e-books and e-audiobooks at the District level to embracing the change to virtual programming, BAPL has met our current challenges head-on. Our adult programming attendance has increased by over 50% over the past year and our Teen and Middle Ground Book Clubs were involved in many projects through the Teen Reading Lounge Grant.

These accomplishments can be directly attributed to the amazing staff here at the library. Each staff member has given their all in order to maintain our standard of service to the public. We received grants from the state as well as local organizations that have assisted in our mission. You can read more about our grant-funded projects on page 8; you can also find a list of 2020 donors starting on page 9.

I want to thank the Bradford Area community and the BAPL for welcoming me into this position. All of your support has made an impact on our operations here at the library. As always, support from our community is so greatly appreciated as it enable us to maintain our standard of service that has made this library one of the best in the area!

Hannah Dewey  
Executive Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



I would like to commend the staff of Bradford Public Library, for the titanic efforts they have undergone to keep programming alive during the very strange time in all of our lives. The children and adult programming have continued to grow under what seemed like impossible restrictions. The entire staff has stepped up to keep BAPL thriving, both in-person and on line. Despite not having the ability to show their smiles, the front desk staff are always friendly and helpful. Library visitors are greeted and assisted with enthusiasm. They are truly the heart of BAPL.

Hannah Dewey joined us as the new Executive Director late last year. She is growing with the library, and keeping the legacy alive that was built by the previous director. I commend her hard work and dedication through a lot of adjustments. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her well in the coming years, at a job that is a huge responsibility under the best conditions.

I would like to thank Bradford and the surrounding communities for their continued support. Bradford is a giving community. Our patrons are the life blood of the Bradford Area Public Library. Despite having sweeping changes in our world, you took the time to write a check or donate in other ways. You expressed, "Yes, the library is important, and must stay active for our community." For that we thank all of you on what is a huge, and ever growing list.

I would like to thank Marie Troskosky formally, for her years of dedication to the Teen Book Club. For many teens in Bradford, Marie is who made reading FUN! She made every child feel they belonged, and made books come alive in their hearts. These are gifts that will stay with them for their entire lives. I so wish I could have had a Marie when I was in middle and high school. I have been blessed to watch as some of her early teen book group 'kids' grow up, and are now adults. Marie's influence is evident.

Lastly, I would like to thank the BAPL Board. You are such a willing group of volunteers, that I am so proud to work with on a monthly basis. Without people like our board, past and present, the library would lack a strong foundation.

Lorna Smith  
Board Chair

# ABOUT THE LIBRARY

## Library Staff

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Hannah Dewey, Executive Director  
Debbie Deane, Youth Services Librarian  
Judy Carr, Children's Program Coordinator  
Janelle Nolan, Marketing & Adult Program Coordinator  
Kelly Elmore, Finance & Office Manager  
Taffy Meyer, Circulation Desk Supervisor  
Barbara Brathwaite, Front Desk  
Donna Green, Front Desk  
Mary Kafferlin, Front Desk  
Katie Wedge, Front Desk

## Volunteers

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Marie Troskosky, Teen Advisor  
Elaine Summerday and Len Norville, Senior Outreach  
Jane Bowes, DVD cataloging  
Trudy Yohe, PathStone

## 2021 Board of Trustees

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Lorna Smith, Chairperson  
Kristen Tim, Vice Chairperson  
Carol Wurster, Secretary  
Amy Fox, Treasurer  
Daniel Yeager  
Matthew Mongillo  
Neil Rinard  
Dara Signor  
Kristen Tim

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## Communities That We Serve

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



# YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Due to the pandemic, our youth services programs have looked a little different but the support from the community has kept us going strong. Kulinary Kids, a program started in 2020, was such a hit that we continued it into 2021. By joining our Zoom session and following along as Laurie Maletto from Nutrition Links through Penn State Extension went through the recipe, kids and their families were able to make tasty creations using ingredients from kits provided by the library.



Story Seekers has taken off again, with children ages birth to 5 and their guardians coming into the library to sing songs, make crafts, and read stories. Limited to preregistration of ten children and their guardians, Story Seekers meets every Monday and Friday at the library.

The Middle Ground and Teen Book Clubs had a blast this year working with the Teen Reading Lounge Grant and reading a great set of books. Their meeting started out virtual for the year but transitioned into in-person once it was safe to do so. A Tween and Teen Art Club took place over the summer and many book club members participated, enjoying their time following Laura Hickey, a local artist, as she demonstrated different art techniques.



Recruitment for the Middle Ground and Teen Book Clubs is on-going. Contact the library for more information.

# ADULT PROGRAMMING



There was a wide range of adult programs throughout 2021. We had the Copycat Art Series, Upcycle This, Yoga with Kathy, and many more. One of these, just now starting out, is Side Hustle. This series showcases local entrepreneurs and their stories of building their businesses.

Building Blocks, another series, had Judy Brown from The Little Fabric Garden showing how to make different quilt blocks with the end result being a beautiful quilt that was raffled off at the library.

Mother-daughter duo Chris and Velya Urbon from Connecticut shared their knowledge with our patrons in our “Grounded Goodwife” programs earlier this year. They discussed moments throughout history such as the time of suffragettes and the “not so golden life” of the colonial wife. Another program that discusses history, in a way, was our series of genealogical programs that showcased the skills of Eric Migdal, a genealogist with 25 years of experience.



Summer Reading isn't just for the kids! The adults also took part in a summer reading challenge. Participants were challenged to read at least six books over the 9 week period to earn badges. With ten badges total, patrons could earn up to two chances at a raffle entry.

These programs are just some of many that were done here at the library in 2021. As we move into 2022, we are so excited to share more programs and services with our patrons.

# TRUE COLORS COLLECTION LAUNCH



On July 17th, 2021, the Bradford Area Public Library, in partnership with the YWCA of the Bradford Area, launched the True Colors Collection. The collection is an effort, on behalf of a donor in common, to provide resources and materials to the public that focus on the impact of America's people of color on the country's progress and identity.

Dedicated to the past, the present, and the future that walk through the doors of the library every day, the collection provides information and materials that cover a wide range of disciplines; included in the collection are items that discuss the arts and sciences, business and technology, math and space, medicine, politics and religion, the military, sports and entertainment, and more.



The collection is a permanent part of the library's overall collection, allowing all patrons of the Bradford Area, as well as those outside of it by way of Inter-Library Loan, to access the information covered within the collection's materials. The collection currently sits at over 200 items but as we progress, more items will be added to it. This project, based on the conviction that a more accurate historical account of our nation's people of color and their impact on the country is needed, upholds the mission of public libraries everywhere: to promote diversity, education, and lifelong learning.

# TRUE COLORS COLLECTION LAUNCH



Items within the collection will be designated by a sticker found on the spine of the item and as well as a sticker inside the cover of the item. Both stickers will bear the library's logo as well as the logo of the Bradford Area YWCA. Patrons can check out the items just as they would any other item in our collection. Recommendations of materials to add to the collection, as well as questions or comments, can be brought to the circulation desk.



The YWCA and BAPL present



True Colors in American History:  
The Impact of People of Color on America's  
Progress & Identity



# GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

In 2019, the library was awarded the Teen Reading Lounge grant through the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. In 2020 and 2021, the library continued the use of the grant funding to support the Teen and Middle Ground Book Clubs as well as the rest of the area teens by setting up Digital Detox boxes, School Survival bags, and free little library boxes around the city of Bradford.



The Digital Detox boxes included items, such as journals, stress balls, and a book, that would allow student to take a break from the digital world and refresh their minds. The School Survival bags had items that would help any student going back to school in the fall, including notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters, and more. The free little library boxes are located throughout the city of Bradford and are filled with books free for the public to take. The boxes can be found at the town square, Callahan Park, and Jan Hamilton Park.



## United Way of the Bradford Area and the McKean County Foundation

The library's Summer Reading Program was supplemented by funds received from the United Way of the Bradford Area as well as the McKean County Community Foundation. Funds from the United Way of the Bradford Area's Quarterly Impact Grant were used to provide programming to the youth throughout the summer. Acts and activities like Jeffini the Great Magician, the dissection lab, and fun crafts entertained the children over the 6 week period. Prizes for the Summer Reading Challenge were also purchased with these funds. Funds from the McKean County Community Foundation's COVID-19 Assistance Fund were used to provide a daily snack for youth at the library, regardless of their Summer Reading Program participation status, completely free. The snacks included granola bars, graham crackers, fruit, juice, water, and more.



# 2020 DONORS

We offer a huge thank you to the following individuals, organizations, and foundations who made gifts to the library in 2020, through the Annual Ask, Honor & Memorial gifts, programming grants, or in-kind donations. If you haven't contributed to the 2021

**Annual Ask Campaign yet, please consider doing so to help make this year as successful as the last!**

Roger Alexis	Nancy Carson	Patricia Finlan
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# 2020 DONORS

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Denise Seagren-Peterson  
Ron and Sue Shaffer  
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John and Patricia Shinarberger

# 2020 DONORS

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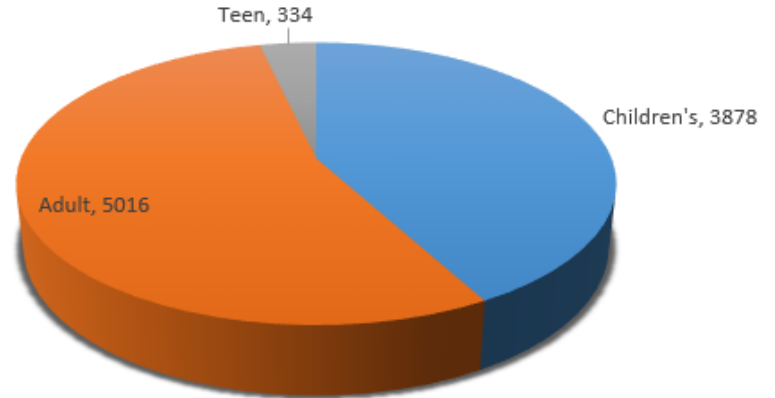
John and Wanda Vleminckx  
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Warren County Genealogy Society  
Wednesday Words and Wine  
John and Christine Whelan  
Harold and Karen Wiley  
Martin and Barbara Willow  
Women's Literary Club  
Question Wood  
Pat Woodruff  
Christopher and Carol Wurster  
Suzanne Yohe  
Janet Yoke



# LIBRARY STATISTICS

2019 was a banner year for programming attendance. For the first time ever, the library had more than 10,000 people attend our children's programs! In 2020, the library pivoted to virtual programming due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen great success with our live and pre-recorded virtual programs, and plan to continue using the Zoom, Facebook, and Beanstack platforms throughout the fall and winter.

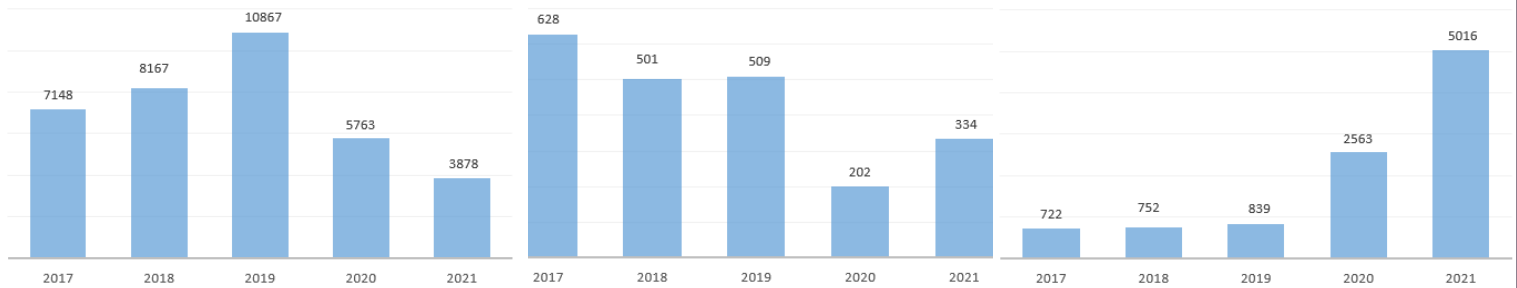
## Program Attendance (through Aug. 31)



Children's Program Attendance

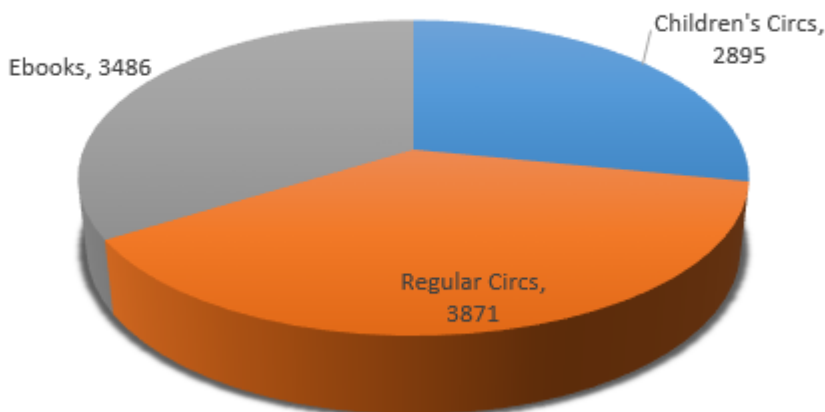
Teen Program Attendance

Adult Program Attendance



**\*2021 numbers are from January 1 to August 31\***

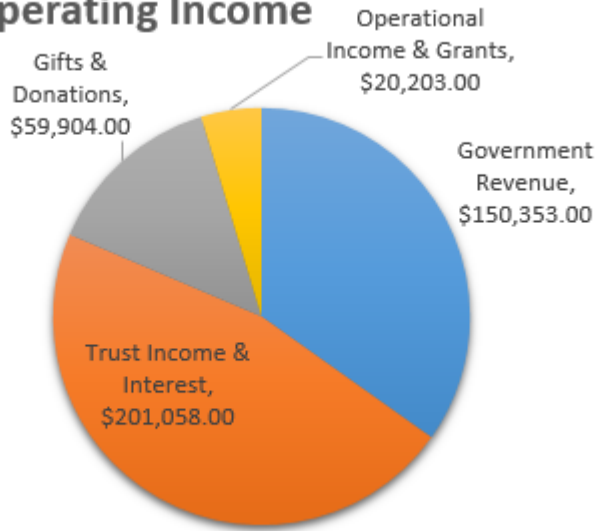
## 2021 Circulations (through Aug. 31)



While the library building was closed through April, May, and June, circulation of eBooks increased by 85% as compared to the same period last year, and 71 community members took advantage of OverDrive's temporary digital cards. After Memorial Day, curbside service was initiated for our patrons, and 11,004 physical items have been checked out through September 18th.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 2020 Operating Income

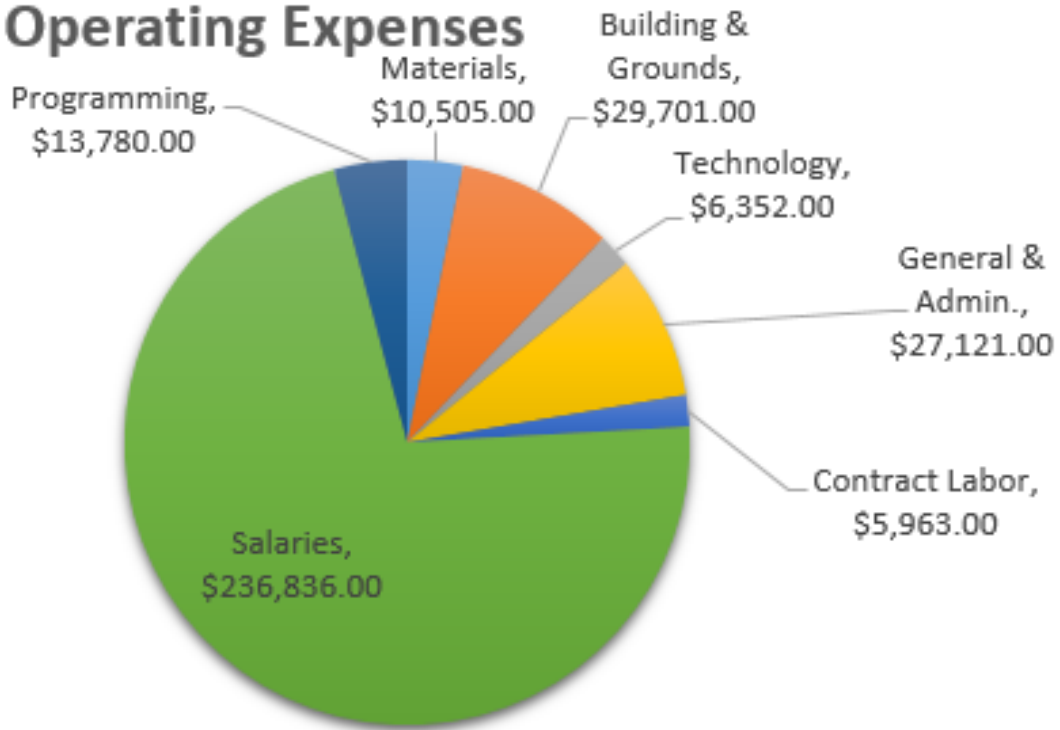


In 2018, government funding made up 38% of the library's revenue. Last year, this dropped to 23%, due to cuts from the Bradford Area School District. Thankfully, 2019's operating income was greatly supplemented by \$65,000 worth of grant funding. There is much uncertainty surrounding state funding in 2020 and 2021, so we appreciate your donations and gifts. Support from community members like you enables the library to maintain high quality services and provide dynamic programs that elevate the library to one of the best in the area.

**Total income: \$431,516**

**Total expenses: \$330,256**

## 2020 Operating Expenses





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.*