Statistic Highlights, as of 12/31/2022

# of New Patrons: 1,269, up 24%
Circulation: 158,546, up 4%
Door counter: 78,288, up 26%
Wireless visits: 34,499, up 9%
Computer use: 6,336, up 39%
Meeting room usage: 755, up 19%

2022 Annual Report

Director’s Message:

We had another breakout year! We added services, enhanced services, brought stellar programming, and saw all our measurables continue to rise. Our core mission of nurturing knowledge, driving discovery, and connecting community continued to lead us towards our ultimate vision of becoming the place where people find answers and community. I am so proud of the staff that supports this vision by always stretching to grow and learn for the betterment of all. Not only did we have stellar programming and services in 2022, it was also a year of planning for big change, including a new website, the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit, and a building maintenance and repair project. We look forward to continuing excellent service for our community.

Teen Library Board member, Isabel Dunn (back row, far right), stands with the teens that attended a library board meeting to show their support for the library and our policies.
We launched 2022 with our new marketing and branding strategy. Our new logo, colors and fonts began to show up all over the library. As part of the strategic plan, we used these tools to enhance our outreach efforts to help catch the attention of our residents. We added pop-up libraries at the farmers market where we talked to 1,068 people about the library. We introduced Books Broden the View: Books for Inmates, where we visited the jail 8 times and provided 342 books to 178 inmates. We visited 792 seniors at assisted living facilities throughout the year, and mailed 52 BiblioBags to 10 homebound residents. The BiblioBag and Senior Outreach programs were expanded with support from an Emmet County Senior Millage grant.

We added a Great Decisions discussion group to our program lineup, bringing lively conversations around current foreign policy issues. Along with our other 96 programs, we provided 1,965 adult patrons an opportunity to learn and engage with the community.

A National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant assisted our endeavor towards enhancing programs. We received an NEA Big Read Grant, which brought Joy Harjo’s American Sunrise to our community along with discussion and programs.

Summer reading supports kids’ education by reducing “summer slide.” Our summer bingo reading challenges bring fun for the whole family, by completing a bingo or two for prizes. In 2022 we supported 598 kids, 127 teens and 170 adults who participated. At right, summer reading is all in the family—Sam and her daughter Allison enjoy seeing who gets the most bingos each summer!

The library provides story time for children to support their journey towards being stronger readers. Story time is not only a fun outing, but words, oral language, songs, and movement, all promote a strong foundation of reading. These activities prepare our youngsters to take that first step towards being independent readers. The library provided 46 story times for 875 pre-K children last year. At left, Talula (3) shares a story with her dad, Todd.

Of course literacy is a big part of our service model. The Woods family, who have been participating in our tutoring program since inception, wholeheartedly agree that the library is a big part of their lives and have supported their children’s path to becoming stronger readers. Growing Readers Together, a partnership program with the Public Schools of Petoskey, tutored 63 K-3 graders in reading.

After a two year Covid delay, 2023 saw The Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit finally arrive at the library. The library heard nothing but praise from the attendees and the schools. We had 28 docents host 87 separate tours, including 13 different schools and 7 different adult groups for a total of 1,124 guided people. We also had an additional 1,192 people individually go through the exhibit. The Anti Defamation League along with the Zekelman Holocaust Center, spent two days discussing Antisemitism with 90 students in the Harbor Springs Schools and 220 students at the Petoskey Schools. The exhibit, was well worth the wait. Never forget.