

Community Impact Report

2024
in Review



Greetings,

Thank you for taking a moment to look through our 2024 Community Impact Report. I myself am quite grateful at the opportunity to reflect because I hardly remember what I had for breakfast this morning, let alone everything that happened at the library last year. (Donuts. It was donuts.)

2024 was filled with big moments for our library! Witnessing Livingston County Libraries at the forefront of education and programming as the entire region came together for the Total Solar Eclipse was a distinct, once-in-a-lifetime honor.

I was equally thrilled to represent the library at the LivCo Special Education & Disability Resource Fair, organized by our Library Board Vice President Becky Stewart, for the second year in a row. I also watched with overwhelming pride as my colleagues stepped out of their comfort zones to offer new programs and services at the library; Kasey's Birth Stories event, Pamela's Wellness Series, and Colleen's Harm Reduction & Mental Health Resources are just a few examples.

This year, there's another big moment happening in libraries, one that causes whiplash when considered against the amazing things coming from even our small corner of the library world. At the time of this writing, the executive order eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to library funding has been temporarily halted. Without nonstop advocacy and legal action, however, federal cuts are likely to continue. Those most affected will, of course, be small, rural communities. Among the arguments in favor of these cuts is the notion that we must get rid of "luxuries" during tough financial times.

To those who call libraries a luxury, I would invite you to talk to the new parents working with lactation counselors during our Positive Expressions program, the elders who receive digital literacy training to use their smartphones in a world that demands they be online, or the folks who have saved hundreds, if not thousands of dollars each year by borrowing materials from the library. As acclaimed librarian and advocate Eleanor Crumlehulme said, ***"Cutting libraries during a recession is like cutting hospitals during a plague."***

Libraries, above all else, build community, and community is not a luxury; community is vital. I feel incredibly fortunate to see that vitality in the library and around Avon every day, in the big moments and in the simple daily interactions.

So much with libraries is uncertain right now. However, as we move forward, I am confident that the sound fiscal oversight and governance of our Library Board of Trustees, along with the support of the Town and Village of Avon, the OWWL Library System, our ridiculously amazing staff, and YOU - we will have the opportunity to create a sustainable future for the critical resources provided by the Avon Free Library.

Stay tuned for important updates coming later in 2025, and thank you for your continued support of the library and community.



Grace Frenzel, Director

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

WARMING CENTER & COOLING CENTER

The Avon Free Library played a crucial role as a warming and cooling center during the past year, providing a safe, accessible space for individuals to seek shelter from extreme temperatures. The library offered essential relief, especially for vulnerable populations who may lack other resources during inclement weather. Free coffee, tea, and hot cocoa were also made available to patrons all winter long, thanks to the Sit N' Knit group and Friends of the Avon Free Library.



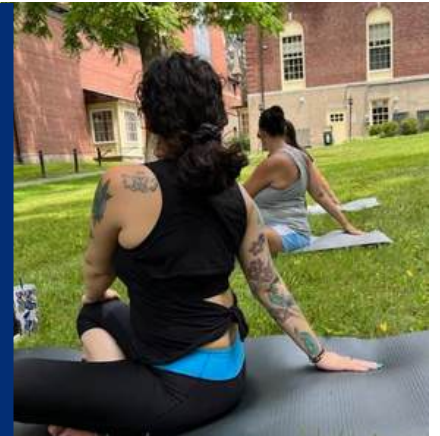
ECLIPSE CELEBRATION

The library played an active role in the community's celebration of the solar eclipse. It served as a pickup location for free solar glasses, ensuring safe viewing for all. The library also hosted student poster board presentations and offered several educational programs to help deepen the public's understanding of the eclipse, providing valuable resources and learning opportunities for everyone to engage with this astronomical phenomenon.



NEW PROGRAMMING

445 programs were held at the Avon Free Library in 2024, with over 4,900 attendees! New programs included Zumba, Bingo, a Self-Publishing Seminar, Wellness Classes, Life-Sized Clue, Bottle Rockets for Teens, Yoga, Birth Stories, and many more. We were particularly proud of our increased engagement among teens as well as our promotion of mental & physical wellbeing for everyone! The library also received 1,298 packs of diapers and \$500 from the Interfaith Council which were given to the Avon Food Pantry during the Great Give Back!



INCREASED PARTNERSHIPS

The library partnered with multiple organizations throughout 2024 to broaden its services and programs. Partners include: *Livingston County Department of Health, GV Council of the Arts, Cummings Nature Center, GV Health Partnership, Livingston County Suicide Prevention, VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System, Lifespan, Office of the Aging, Avon Lions Club, Avon Interfaith Council, Avon Rotary, GV Paranormal Investigators, AP&HS, SUNY Geneseo, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports, Casa Trinity, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.*



2024 BY THE NUMBERS



45,638
Physical Item
Circulations

(Books, CD Audiobooks, DVDs, WiFi Hotspots, Museum Passes, etc.)

8% increase from 2023



15,460
E-Resource
Circulations

(E-Books, Audiobooks, Magazines from Libby, Streaming videos from Kanopy)

23% increase from 2023



4,969 Program
Attendees

(455 total programs hosted by the Avon Free Library throughout 2024)

28% increase from 2023



1,878
Wi-Fi Sessions

41% increase from 2023

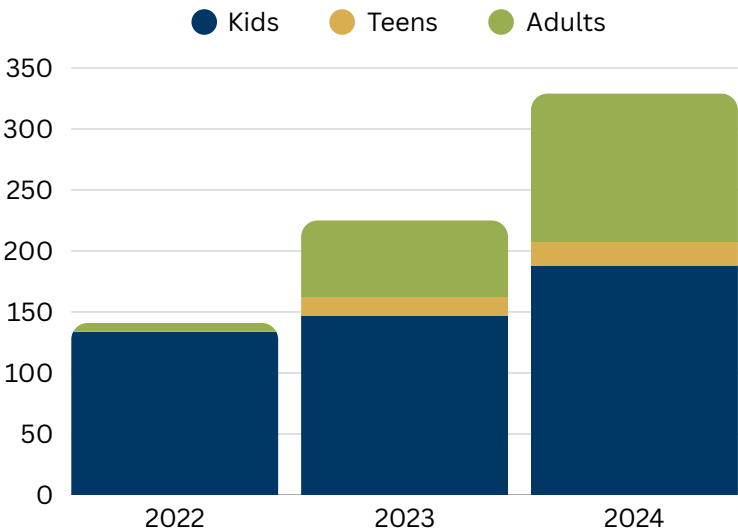


29,224
In-Person Visits

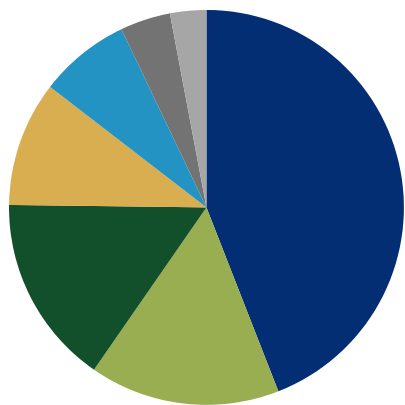
9.4% increase from 2023

SUMMER READING

Summer reading has seen phenomenal growth!



FUNDING



Avon School District Taxes	\$170,000
Town of Avon Support	\$60,000
Village of Avon Support	\$60,100
Donations, Gifts, & Endowments	\$39,545
Federal Aid	\$28,798
Grants	\$15,892
Other	\$11,441
TOTAL	\$385,776

Total Income \$385,776

Total Operating Expense \$301,737

Unused funds are put into reserve for capital projects including the roof replacement and backyard renovation.

LIBRARY PATRONS SAVED \$1,302,404 IN 2024 BY USING THE AVON FREE LIBRARY!

Savings are based on the cost of physical and digital materials if purchased instead of borrowed (does not account for programs, services, or other library offerings).

GRANTS

We are grateful to the organizations that supported our initiatives through their generous grants in the past fiscal year. Their commitment has been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and make a meaningful impact in the community.

Livingston County Passthru Grant

\$12,041 (*Materials, General Operations*)

Rochester Area Community Foundation - Historic Preservation Grant

\$10,000 (*New Slate Roof*)

Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

\$5,578 (*Books, Audiobooks, eBooks*)

OWWL Library System

\$2,651 (*System Cash Grant to Member Libraries*)

Genesee Valley Council on the Arts

\$1,333 (*Arts Programming*)

Livingston County Capital Improvement Grant

\$700 (*Smaller Capital Improvement Projects*)

OWWL Library System - Inclusive Collections Aid

\$500 (*Wonderbooks*)

DONORS

\$5,000 + Friends & Family of Bettina Johnson, Christine Ryan, Helen Zamboni

\$1,000 + Avon Lions Club, Friends of the Avon Free Library

\$500 + Johannes Koomen, Cheryl MacPherson

\$100 + Michael Akey & Barbara Prusak, Marilyn Cirri, Joe Cope, Deborah Guida, Robert, Paula & Julie Harrison, Linda & Spencer Heeler, Pat Kelly, Chris Martin, Rebecca Stewart, Frederick & Cynthia Taylor, Arlene & Craig Welch, Paul Woodruff, Thomas Campo, Molly Collins Offner

\$20 + Mohammad Charlie, Ilona & Leonard Bianchi, David & Jacqueline Boorman, Kristin Coon, Gregory & Deborah Coyne, Stephanie Dempsey, Jenna Gonillo-Davis, Paul & Molly Korndoerfer, Luann & Jonathan Lottes, Patricia Moran, Debra Morse, Linda Palermo, Polly Pitman, Pledgeling Foundation, Leonard Schantz, Mary Taylor, Josh Tonra, Cynthia Zhe, Ann Cady

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF:

Barbara Parry Druschel, Bettina Johnson, Richard Morrow, Erin McKeown Schmerbeck, Kay Woodruff, Dr. Richard and Mary Collins



For over one hundred years, the Avon Free Library has played a crucial role in our community, evolving far beyond just providing books. The library is a place for discovery, creativity, inclusivity, and lifelong learning. It is a common ground where people of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic means can find the resources and support that they need to succeed, all at no cost.

As the role of our library evolves, we must support its physical presence to ensure that it can continue to meet the needs of our community. A capital plan was created after assessing the building's physical needs, as well as the needs and wants of community members. Safety, accessibility, sustainability of the building, and expanded community and educational space are the focuses of the plan.

We invite you to join us in writing the Next Chapter of the Avon Free Library by learning more about and following along with the renovations, providing continued input into our projects, and helping us to raise the necessary funds to allow our library to continue to meet community needs for years to come.

SLATE ROOF REPLACEMENT

The current slate roof on the library is nearing its 100th year and is starting to deteriorate. Its replacement is vital to protect the building and all of its contents.



Funded primarily through state construction funds, grants, and Town of Avon support, the new slate roof will outlive all of us and is a gift to future generations.

BACK YARD & PARKING LOT

The backyard will be transformed into a multipurpose space where patrons can gather, work, study, and play. Visitors can access 24/7 wifi, stroll along the paths, gather and connect with each other while relaxing on a shaded bench, enjoy programs in the pavilion, and interact with the different experiential spaces in the garden. The sensory rich environment is especially beneficial for mental health and for community members who are neurodivergent or who experience dementia.

Interactive learning spaces within the yard include:

- Geological Rock Garden
- Pollinator Garden
- Pavilion with Amphitheater Area
- Birdhouse and Nature ID Area
- Rain Garden Wetland Learning Experience

The project also includes paving the current gravel parking lot behind the library which currently poses many safety and accessibility challenges.



2025 LIBRARY TEAM

Grace Frenzel, Director
Colleen, Senior Clerk
Kasey, Youth Services Coordinator
Pamela, Clerk
Carrienne, Clerk
Cathy, Clerk
Sam, Clerk
Tara, Clerk
Anne, Clerk
Scooter, Axolotl

2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Helen Zamboni, President
Becky Stewart, Vice President
Joseph Cope, Secretary
Dave Stafford, Treasurer
Janis Cole, Trustee
Jodi DeCarlo, Trustee
Saragrace Friday, Trustee
Cheryl MacPherson, Trustee
Kevin Patrick, Trustee
Ryan Spall, Trustee
Josh Tonra, Trustee

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Avon Free Library is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the support of the Avon Free Library through fundraising and advocacy. Membership in the Friends is open to all interested people and organizations. Meetings take place on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Avon Free Library's Five Arch Meeting Room. If you are looking for ways to share your talents and make a difference in your community, please consider joining the Friends!



MISSION STATEMENT

Enriching the community by promoting an environment for discovery, creativity, inclusivity, and lifelong learning.

SCOOTER'S TOP READ

The Women
by Kristin Hannah
(which was also the most checked-out library book in 2024)



The Avon Free Library is a member of the OWWL Library System, a New York State chartered, cooperative public library system created to enhance shared services and cooperation among member libraries.

📍 143 Genesee Street
Avon, NY

📞 585-226-8461

🌐 www.avonfreelibrary.org

📘 @avonfreelibrary



AVON FREE LIBRARY



YOUR BRIDGE TO DISCOVERY

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