



ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

CONNECT
LEARN
ENRICH

Lets Talk
 GET HELP AND ASSISTANCE AT
 ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**TODAY!
 STOP IN**
 9 AM-3 PM

NEED ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS?
 HERE TO HELP IS AGING RESOURCES!
 INCLUDES RURAL JUSTICE PROJECT
 ASSISTANCE WITH LEGAL AID AND
 TAX ASSISTANCE FROM 12-3 PM



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



**JAMIE WILLIAMS
 DIRECTOR**

Each year one of the most valuable things I do is spend time doing thoughtful analysis of the past fiscal year. This essential process allows us to share what we are most proud of accomplishing while focusing on how we plan to tackle some of the challenges we face. The annual report reflects these hurdles and showcases stories, statistics and information on where we are at and where we are going.

An impactful library is one that is adjusting to what it's community needs are. Navigating how our library can be more responsive to serve is one of the things we spend a lot of time doing. Community engagement is something we are very focused on. In many ways, this occurs through our partnerships as we are a small staff; engaged partners allow us to do more. We have worked hard this last fiscal year to address ways where we could be more relevant in our partner organizations to make a bigger impact.

I'm proud of all the ways in which we've offered more services and programs for our community. Kudos to the staff for all the ways they've also committed to this goal, too!

We value engagement because it shows how we can impact and help make a difference in our community. In FY23 we started offering a time for social agencies to be present and available to assist with needs of our community members. From legal to tax assistance to helping those find resources for loved ones. We started a plant and craft swap to allow community resource sharing. We started a learning garden that helped educate about pollinators. We offered a seed catalog, allowing access to free seeds for the community to grow. We also provided 80 outreach visits to schools and other organizations reaching 3,554 people. We provided programs that educate our community about services available to them as another way to engage and inform. This collective impact creates connection within the community. We continue to offer our space for others to connect whether its through story time, knit night or crafting. We offered an educational and healthy family cooking series for family engagement. We also focused a lot on wellbeing and mental health. From walking club, to gratitude journaling, to yoga and meditation, we have heard some heartwarming testimonials about how we have helped those struggling.

Our Library's plan continues to direct our priorities and enhance our services.

THE IMPACT

With a strong focus on our Library's goals we continue to accomplish more to impact our community and hope to continue this trend to FY24!



ACCESSIBILITY, CONNECTION & TECHNOLOGY GOALS

In FY22 we increased access to online library services by offering hotspot checkouts. This made the inaccessible from home more accessible, especially with all our online resources. We were fortunate to add ten more hotspots in FY23 with special funding from the Friends of the Library to help meet higher demand! Another way we addressed a technology goal was by applying for a grant to digitize our local historical newspapers. Increasing access to historical digital content allows not only those in our community to research the collection from anywhere but also those outside of the library walls. Boone Newspapers from 1865 to 1926 are available in a fully searchable database from our website! Give it a try!

EDUCATION/LEARNING/WELLBEING GOALS

While we help our community connect to technology, we also help them with learning new skills. Another way we addressed a combined technology and learning goal was by applying for a grant to provide a Tech for Beginners program. We offered a monthly series of basic technology classes throughout the year to help people who had limited technology skills. As we rely more heavily on digital technologies, the role our library has in promoting digital literacy will only become more important. Many took advantage of the sessions and increased their understanding of how to use technology to benefit their lives.

Libraries play a critical role in fostering community health and wellbeing. Within our Activating Community Voices group, we planned a series for Mental Health Awareness month in May. Not only did we have great attendance, many in the community became more aware of our regular programs like Mindful Monday, Walking Club, Yoga and Meditation that we offer on a regular basis.



SCAN ME
TO READ MORE ON
LIBRARY'S
LONG RANGE PLAN

SPACES/PLACES GOALS

We had a capital improvement project planned for FY24, but it was moved up to help minimize some discomfort in temperature extremes in the building. Our HVAC pneumatic controlled environment was put in around 1994 and it was time to upgrade the equipment that was slowly breaking down, to be controlled by digital controls! The project required switching out equipment in the ceiling and we were fortunate to continue being open to serve the community while the contractor worked with us on getting this project done! We are grateful that the city was able to prioritize this project, and we know lots of patrons couldn't agree more!

THE NUMBERS

28,342

Electronic Materials Used



8,392

Public Computer Sessions



Physical Materials Circulated



Website Visits



48,451 VISITS
4,911 REFERENCE QUESTIONS



Electronic information Used



Wi-Fi Sessions

THE FUN

11,804
Program Attendees

848
Total Programs

35
Recordings of Program content

2,716
Hours open to the public

4,388
Library Card Holders

THE FINANCES

Income Sources

City of Boone

General Fund

Capital Income

Contract Cities

Boone County

State

Fines/Fees

Gifts/Grants

Capital Income (private) \$ 24,254

\$407,823

\$332,505

\$1,160

\$71,500

\$7,590

\$8,032

\$70,268

Operating Expenditures

Materials

Salaries

Benefits

Other Operational

Expenses

Capital Expenditures

\$68,509

\$321,339

\$163,720

\$141,693

\$ 356,759

THE STORIES

Bringing health and mental health to our community

Thank you for offering this yoga class. I'm not very movable but I feel better after these positive sessions. . -D. Shannon. **on Yoga Class**



"I've been attending the Mindful Monday group. I want to thank you for this group! It has been a helpful sword that I use when battling depression and anxiety (anxiety that I didn't know I had...it's a bit of a story...haha). Mindful Eating was the start and now has branched to other topics that's helping me cross over to a more healthier mindset...and it's working! I have been putting into practice what I have been learning. This has been an Oasis in my desert and I am getting better physically and mentally. THANK YOU SO MUCH for this bridge that I am crossing to betterment! You guys are wonderful!" -E. **on Mindful Monday**



StoryWalk

"I walk along the StoryWalk at least once or twice a week and I really do enjoy it (and it is exciting when there is a new book to read!). The StoryWalk really is a cool addition to the park".

-Dr. Jeffrey Anderson



Library Programs that help!

"I'm VERY glad to have this part of our end-of-life planning moving forward. To me, it's an important gift to my family to lessen their burden. Your "Lives Lived" program is where I learned how to take the next step to have a pre-need obituary. I wouldn't have known where to start otherwise. Thank you for all you do".

-Jane Sutcliffe **on Lives Lived with Jane Lerner**



Grants and donations help us do more!

In fiscal year 2023 we accomplished several important things from our strategic plan as mentioned with the **\$70,268** in extra funding. Without this funding we would not be able to offer Hotspots, AdventurePass, technology classes, exciting and educational kids programming in the summer and throughout the year, snacks, Storywalk, books for wellness visits at the BCH, Hoopla, more books and much more! Funding all these services or projects was only possible through grants or donations. We want to thank our **Friends, Boone Bank, ALA, Lowrey Foundation and the Fenton Trust, United Way of Boone County, Lions Club, Rotary, BooST, Optimist, Kiwanis, State Historical Society, Rose Smith Memorial and of course all our generous donors!** What an impact this has made in our community!



702 GREENE STREET
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY



THE IMPACT

Helping our seniors

Our collaboration with Aging Resources has allowed us to provide a new service and allow our seniors to get help from qualified professionals with state applications, Medicaid, state programs and community services; including how to access resources for food, clothing, shelter and other basic needs. Since that collaboration we've also been able to bring in Legal Aid and Tax assistance. They also provide a program *Fresh Conversations*, to discuss food, exercise, and health updates for seniors. Those on limited income are able to take advantage of the assistance from qualified professionals at no cost! -Director **on Assisting seniors**

Giving the best programs and views

"Hello, Thank you so much for bringing Yoko to Ericson! What a lovely person and her presentation was fantastic. Arigato!"

-Davi Mondt Lowman **on the Japanese Tea Ceremony**

Helping ease the classroom budget

"Every time I swing by the library, I load up on the craft supplies for my classroom, this has been helping my kids in the classroom.." -1st grade teacher **on Craft Swap table**