



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
JAMES V. BROWN LIBRARY



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CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Your gift keeps our community connected!

Greetings!

My annual letter to you is always a look back at all we accomplished in the previous year and to thank you for your support. So, join me on an adventure as we travel away from all of the challenges and changes of 2020. Let's go back to 2019 and reflect on all of the ways in which your generous support helped the library to provide award-winning programs and innovative services that keep our community connected!

On this adventure you will see children of all ages connect with 21st Century Learning and literacy skills as they learn about work ethic, perseverance, respect, and practice kindness with one another. You will see the familiar faces of your friends and neighbors as they connect to learn something new and develop new friendships with fun interactive Do It Yourself (DIY) and lifelong learning programs. You will travel with us outside of the Library into the community to bring needed materials and library services to the people in the far reaches of our county in childcare centers, food banks, and senior care facilities. You helped us reach the people that need us the most.

Through your generosity and community benefit grants we were able to digitize our entire newspaper collection. Today articles from a hundred years before the opening of our public library are searchable and accessible. What a wonderful enhancement to connect our community with its past.

Thank you for all you have done in 2019 to help the Library keep our community connected and for continuing to make the Library the Place to Go, to Learn, Connect and Grow! With your help we will continue to evolve to accept the challenges of 2020.

Thank you!



Barbara S. McGary
Executive Director



CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN



In 2019, the Library continued its long-standing goal of providing award-winning and innovative programs to connect with the families we serve in tangible ways.

As a result, we have formed deeper relationships with new and existing community partners.

An exciting new partnership with the Community Theatre League offered a series of emotions-based workshops for preschool children using creative expression techniques combined with quality literature. Other continuing partnerships included Baby Café for new mothers with UPMC-Susquehanna, and infant programs with a Doula from the Improving Birth Network.

The Library promotes services such as Ready Rosie, the county-wide partnership with early-learning organizations, which supports families as their child's first teacher. Ready Rosie books were purchased, labeled and shelved on display along with information on how parents could engage with Ready Rosie.

The Youth Services collection added tactile sensory books, designed to aid in promoting pre-writing skills, and expanded the STEM toy lending library for continued learning and exploration at home.

STEM programming for all ages in youth services rotated throughout the year. The Library offered amazing tween and teen STEM nights that focused on the galaxy, photography, circuitry and more. The Library's tween and teen Kitchen Science won an honorable mention as a Pennsylvania Library Association Best Practice Award. Teens were engaged through a Harry Potter Escape Room and a Cosplay Party for our Comic and Manga fans.

A partnership with the Lycoming County Pop-Up Play program resulted in an exciting family event that gave the local children a free copy of the 2019 PA One Book title, *Not a Box*, by Antoinette Portis. In all, more than 1,000 children received a copy of the PA One Book title for their home libraries.

Family Literacy Nights were held in conjunction with STEP and provided books to build families' home libraries and encourage Library usage.

The Library continues to connect with people where they are through outreach at the food bank, Growers Market and new Storymobile locations.

CONNECTING THROUGH SUMMER LEARNING

The Library has stayed current in the educational world of Summer Learning by incorporating activity logs that support 21st century skills, work habits and character traits needed today for students to thrive in the future.

Story times were renamed "Story Labs" to highlight the focus on early learning, art exploration and science.

Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library and a grant from the Rotary Club of Williamsport, the popular Summer Learning Finale rewarded families that made the commitment to read over the summer with a free book from the Scholastic Book Fair and prizes from the community.

Summer Learning Statistics:

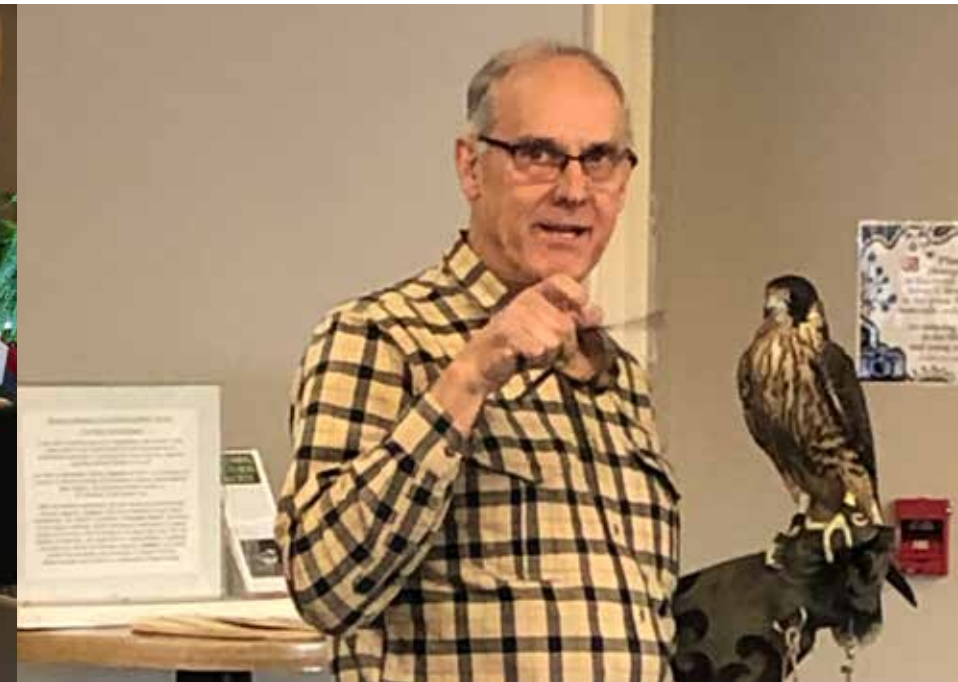
- 593 participants: birth to 5, K-5, tween and teen
- Storymobile: 408 returned activity logs, 680 registered
- 197 programs/events
- 3,837 participants (children and parents)



CONNECTING WITH ADULTS

The Library provides everyone with free, educational, informational and entertainment resources to support lifelong learning, all because of the generosity of people like you.

This year Lifelong Learning programs were expanded to include more creative Do-It-Yourself (DIY) programs, a cookbook club, and adult computer classes. Nearly 100 individuals attended our summer “Crafternoon,” a Sunday craft community swap. A partnership with HOPE Enterprises provided an Adult Storytime for adults with disabilities. Older adults were engaged through a mini senior expo that showcased agencies that serve senior citizens with collaborations from STEP, PA Office of the Attorney General, North Central Sight Services, DeWald Chiropractic and others. The Classics book collection also was updated and highlighted through a monthly Classics Book Club. A focus on health and wellness was supported by weekly chair yoga programs.



CONNECTING WITH VOLUNTEERS



The Friends of the James V. Brown Library held another successful Volunteer Appreciation Event during which former Chief Financial Officer, Shirley Knautz Alters, received the Carile Brown Award, and James H. Burget and David L. Dahl were named Volunteers of the Year. Long-time Friend of the Library Nancy J. Lady was also awarded a special recognition for her contributions over the years to the Friends.

The Library partnered with Williamsport Area School District employees to volunteer to help out with Summer Learning and in 2019 we engaged Tween and Teen Volunteers to serve a more active volunteer role with participation in our Summer Learning programs. Volunteers from Kiwanis Clubs throughout the state helped out during their annual conference, and class members from Leadership Lycoming decorated the Library in preparation of Victorian Christmas celebrations. Volunteers from Hope Enterprises assisted with program preparation during their weekly visits.

CONNECTING ON THE GO

With an outreach mission to go where the people are, and to establish deep connections with the people we serve, the Library developed a goal to create a new expanded service model for outreach that specializes in reaching specific target populations of children, rural residents, the workforce, seniors and senior care facilities, and created a vision to replace our 2010 Bookmobile with three specialized vehicles that will greatly enhance our outreach services.

Because of your generous gifts to the Bookmobility campaign, launched in the fall of 2019, the Library is on its way to revolutionizing the way it delivers outreach services.

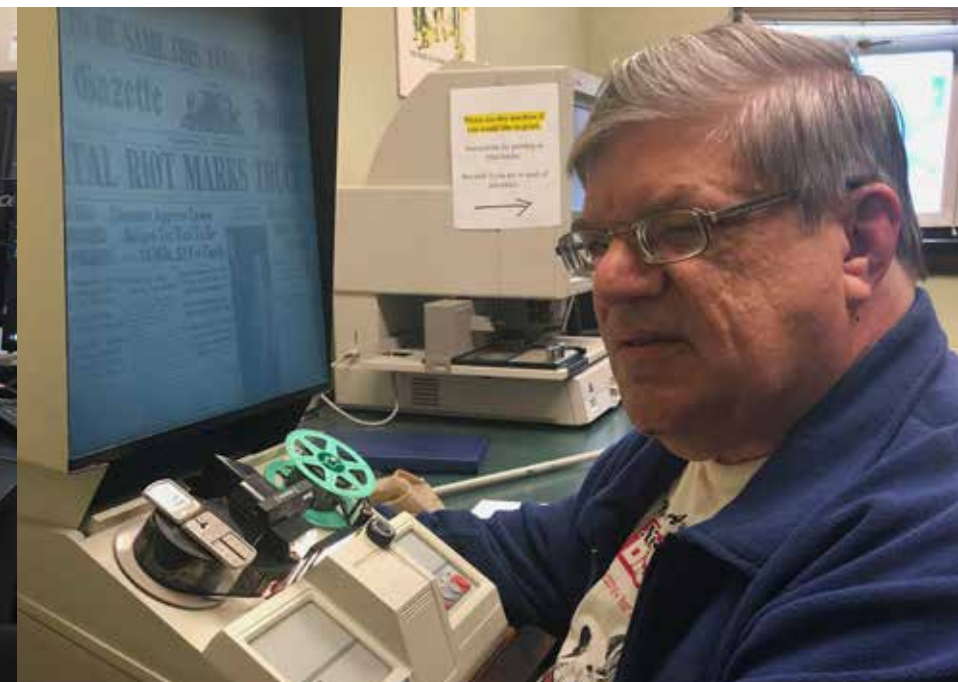


CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

In 2019, The Library was:

- The place to go for 133,425 citizens who visited our library in person and 120,276 who visited us online.
- The place to learn by lending 312,294 physical items and 37,346 electronic items.
- The place to connect patrons to public access computers and wireless access for 69,582 citizens.
- The place to highlight events in Lycoming County through ConnectWilliamsport.com where 37,823 individuals viewed 94,322 pages.
- The place to grow with 983 amazing programs; which served 11,596 people and encouraged individuals to volunteer 4,759 hours of their time.

Thanks to a generous grant from the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, and additional support from the Lycoming County Genealogical Society, John and Judy Maietta, Friends of the JVB Library, and Henry Wilkinson, the Library is improving its ability to connect the community to the past by digitizing the local newspaper microfilm collection. This collection of the Williamsport Sun-Gazette and its predecessors—the Grit, and other local publications—covers the years from 1807 to the present and is heavily used for local history and genealogy research. The project was completed in summer 2020 and will enable people to search intuitively, using keywords, dates and phrases.

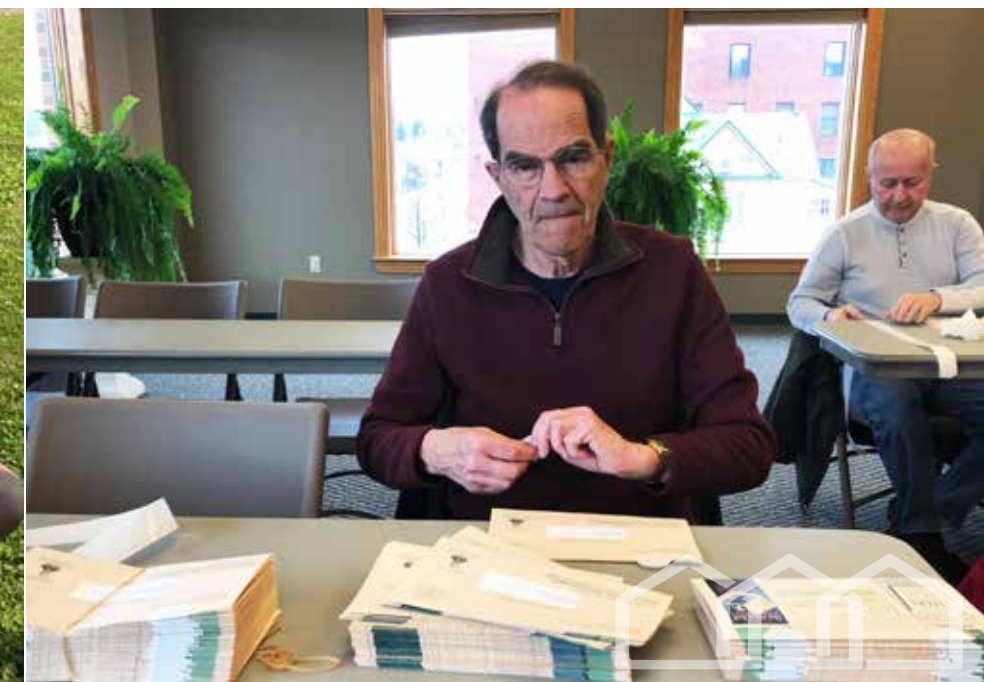


BECAUSE OF YOU!

We know the services and programs the Library offers are making Williamsport and Lycoming County a better place. The Library would not exist without you, our supportive community. It is thanks to generous donors like YOU who help the Library keep the community connected.



Your gift keeps our community connected!



Thank You!

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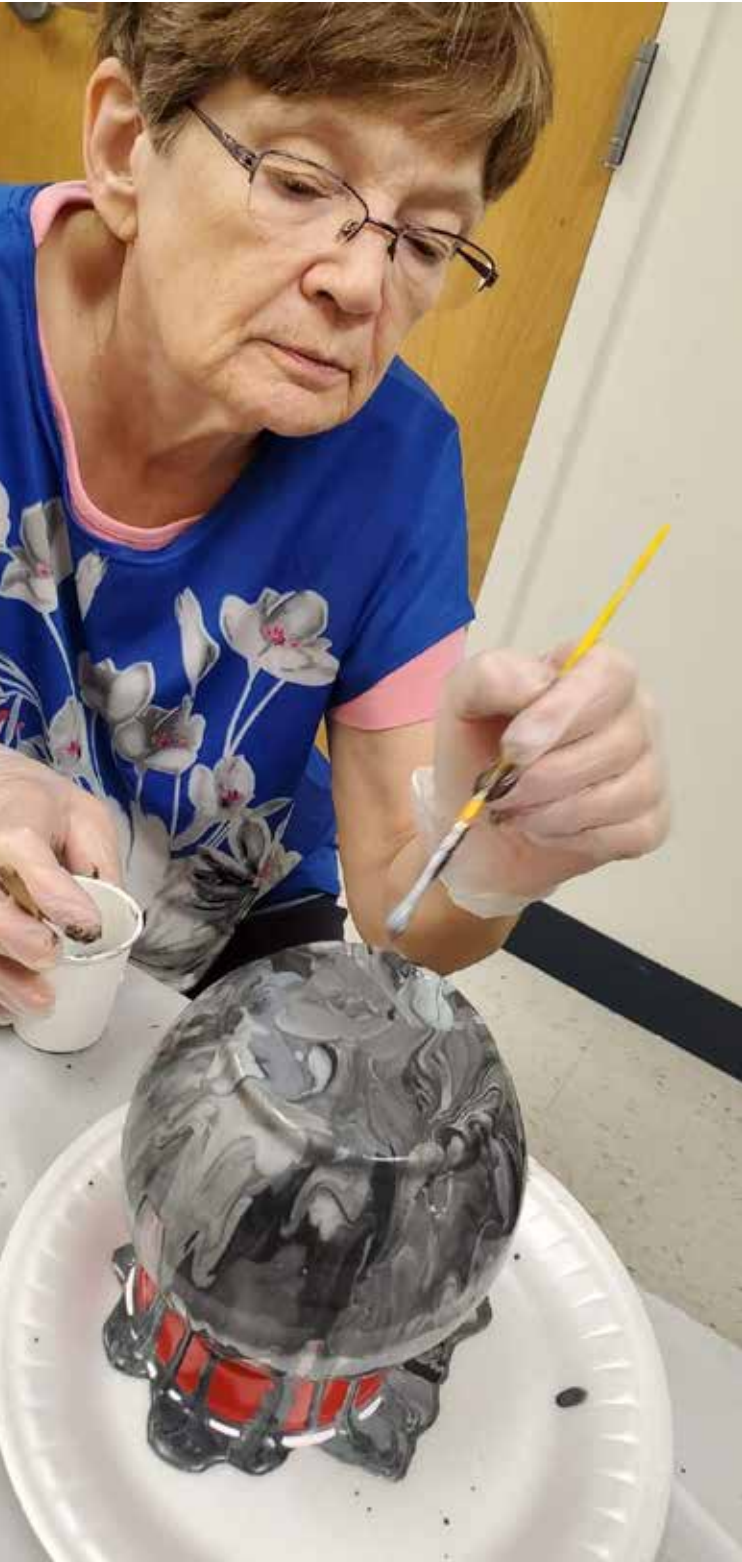
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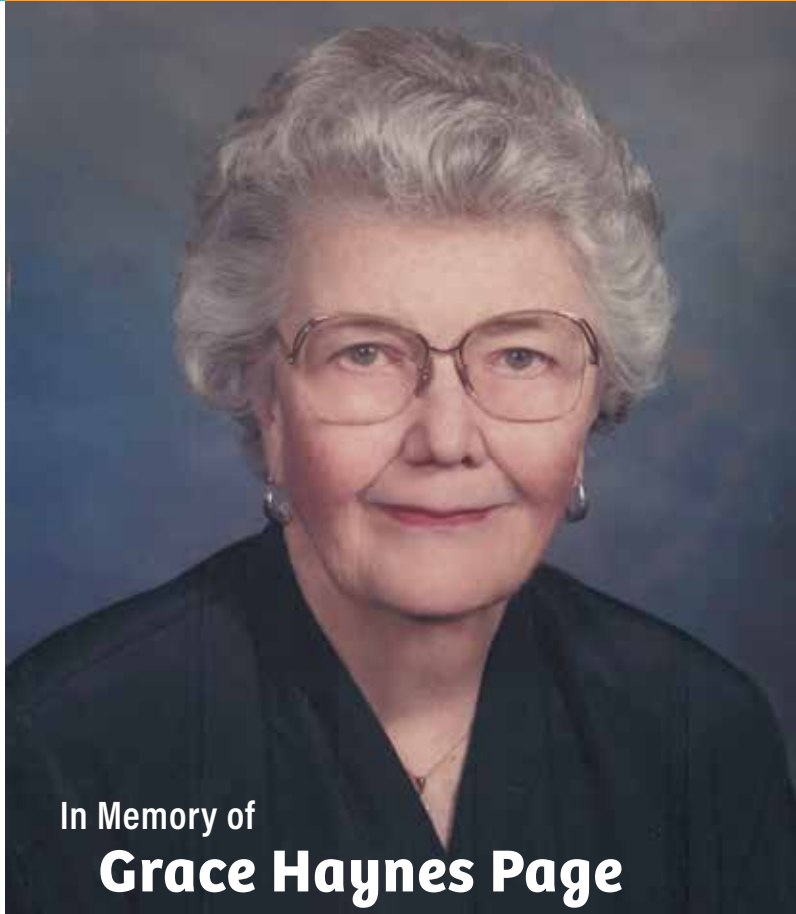
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BETH SMITH

Eric Anstadt

STAN W. WILK

Friends of the James V. Brown Library



When Grace Page died in 2019, she left a legacy of service to the Williamsport community that will live on. Grace served the community as a board member for many organizations, including the YWCA and the Williamsport Home. She was active in her church, the Junior League, and hosted bus trips that were eagerly anticipated each year. Grace served as a Trustee of the James V. Brown Library from 1976 to 2006. In her will, she left a gift that the Library will use as part of the campaign to purchase a new Bookmobile. We are grateful to Grace and her family for her legacy of service and generosity.

Honors Gifts

IN HONOR OF:

Sarah Keiser, *past president*
Daniel Taormina
Lincoln and Emerson Dincher
Rev. Kyle Daniel Patrick Murphy *on his ordination*
Tuesday Breakfast Club

GIVEN BY:

Newberry Lioness Club
Carole Harris
Aunt Liz and Uncle Bill
Kimberly and Kevin Kist
Doreen Decker

1907 Society



Members of the 1907 Society have made a commitment that will benefit the Library in years to come. They have included the James V. Brown Library in their wills, ensuring a legacy for our community.

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Bullfrog Brewery
Laurie and Thomas Burkholder
Stephanie Calder
Central PA Tennis Center
Karen and Donnie Confer
The Crazy Tomato
Frani and Douglas Doherty
Gordon Donnell
Jennifer Engel Designs
Equinox
Ettinger's Landscaping Services & Garden Center
Faxon Bowling Lanes, Inc.
Lisa Fink Pottery & Portraits
Pamela and Curtis Fink
Dorothy Fisher
Rhonda Fisher
The Franklin Institute
The Glaze to Be
Robin F. Glossner
Gold Leaf Frame Shoppe, LLC
Gloria Z. and Charles "Skip" Greevy III
Helminiak's Greenhouses & Landscaping
Amanda Hooper
Janet and Bruce Hurlbert
In-Balance
Christine and Philip Johnson
Christine and Stephen Kaiser
KAOS
Monica and Dan Klingerman

Carol Lady and Barry Delfino
Lamar Outdoor Advertising
Laurel Lodge Hunting Club
Little Treasures
Michele and Paul Mach
Jon Mackey
Rick Mahonski
Patrick and Trisha Gibbons Marty
Karen and Ben Mazzullo
Crissy McGinness
Beth Moser Designs
Olive Garden
Otto Book Store
Patinaz
Diane Pelesh
Ann Marie Phillips
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Melissa and Mark Rackish
Red Lobster
Clyde Peeling's Reptiland
Anne Rice and Rick Mason
Saffron Grill
Salon Simone
The Sawhorse Cafe
Nancy and Roger Shipley
Melissa and Paul Starkey
STEP Head Start
Susquehanna Gallery & Frame Shoppe
Tony's Delicatessen & Fresh Meats
Ultimate Express Car Wash & Pet Wash
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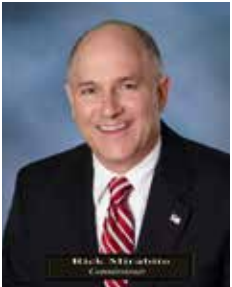
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Superintendent of Williamsport Area School District



The Honorable Derek Slaughter
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