

Friends of Benzonia Public Library -- President's Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025

The 2025 centennial celebration of the library was a big success. The Friends had a good year fundraising for the library, thanks to the amazing work of all our volunteers and supporters. We donated over \$22,000 to the library for the extras that are beyond the library's normal budget.

As the Treasurer's annual report shows, we remain in an excellent financial position. The summer book sale and the holiday book/craft sale in the library were very good. The ongoing sale in the library is a consistent winner. Supporters' donations throughout the year were a major part of our income.

Among the highlights in 2025, the Friends:

- Provided financial support and event staffing for BPL's "100 Years of Community" celebrations, including refreshments, book purchases for a community book discussion, and a Benzie Bus wrap to honor BPL's 100 years in the Mills. We revived the traditional Strawberry Social and supported videographer Jeffrey Smith's interviews with patrons to record their early library memories (available on the library's YouTube channel).
- Donated \$10,000 in July for the library's general use (not for salaries).
- Continued funding *all* of library's technology support for library computers and audio-visual aids, including a new public printer, four loanable WiFi hotspots, annual fees for the library's website and internet domain and hot spot connectivity, a paid Zoom account, and the library's subscription fee for QuickBooks.
- Funded the subscription fee for OverDrive (downloadable e-Books and audio materials) on a permanent basis – about \$2,000 annually. Funded the library's newsletter.
- Funded the Summer Reading Program and other library programs, Youth Services, Tween Club, honoraria for various speaker events, program refreshments, and preschool story time. Funded librarian attendance at the annual MMLL meeting and the MLA Spring Institute.
- Funded carpet cleaning, window-washing, a new stepladder, cleaning tubs, and an ergonomic front desk chair for staff.
- Paid for various accessories and seed money for the "Library of Things."
- Paid for a portion of collection development, including books and DVDs and provided matching funds for Pilcrow Foundation children's book grant.

Our volunteers create and maintain the website and newsletter, they staff activities, programs, and special projects, and they keep the Corner Book Shoppe stocked with donated books and jigsaw puzzles for sale. Each of us should encourage a friend, neighbor, or relative not only to join the Friends, but also to become an active participant in Friends' activities. The library serves the community, and the Friends serve the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger S. Dewey
President, Friends of Benzonia Public Library