



# Friends of Benzonia Public Library

Dear Friends,

September 2022

The Friends of Benzonian Public Library ask you again to help us support the library. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we rely on our old friends and seek new friends to help us provide the extras that keep Benzonian Public Library a vibrant destination in Benzie County. The library's state-designated service area includes all or portions of Benzonian, Homestead, Joyfield, and Lake Townships, but *everyone* (no matter where you might live) is welcome to use the library.

The property tax millage collected by Benzonian Township pays mainly for the basics at the library, such as: rent, staff pay, utilities, and part of collection development, i.e., purchase of books and other materials that the library lends to the public free of charge. We are incredibly grateful for the millage (without which the library could not run), but the millage does *not* fund the library's entire operation. The extras provided by the Friends put our wonderful library over the top. During Benzonian Public Library's most recent fiscal year, the Friends provided nearly \$18,000 to fund these extras and more:

- Overdrive digital services (eBooks and audio books that are downloadable to your computer, tablet, or mobile device);
- All technical support for library computers & audio-visual aids, including purchase of a new printer and a smart-screen monitor and wall mount for programs held in the library's meeting room;
- A portion of collection development, including books and DVDs;
- The Summer Reading Program, youth services, and library newsletter;
- Purchase of various items to loan in the "library of things" as well as "seed money" for items in the "library of things" that are funded by outside grants;
- New display shelving units near the restroom and additional shelving for Teen (YA), Fiction, and Classics areas;
- Provided matching funds when the library received a grant;
- Compensated library speakers such as author Ellen Airgood and the herbal tea lecture by Bevin Cohen;
- Paid for carpet cleaning and window washing.

When you see more than one person working in the library, the extra help is frequently a volunteer doing background tasks like reshelving books, packing interlibrary loan items, and preparing for programs. Volunteers also create and maintain the website and newsletter, and they staff activities, programs, and special projects. See the reverse side for the library's impressive list of programs, activities, and services during the library's past fiscal year: July 2021 – June 2022.

As always, we truly appreciate any help you can give to the Friends of Benzonian Public Library, whether it is your hard-earned money or your volunteer time, or both.

Gratefully yours,

The Friends of Benzonian Public Library Board of Directors:

Ruth Catton, Roger Dewey, Michael Hughes, Kathleen Johnson, Michelle Leines,  
Jimmy McLaren, and Flint Watt

### **2021/2022 at Benzonia Public Library!**

With the help of an amazing staff, incredible patrons, wonderful Trustees, and the best volunteers we could hope for; Benzonia Public Library continues to be a place of wonder, learning, fun, and connection.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of our Friends group and many generous donors, support was provided to meet the needs of BPL.

#### **Some of the highlights from July 2021-August 2022 include:**

- Staff worked hard to provide services to the public. In addition to our regular in library services, we offered curbside services, online services, and online card sign up. It was always a pleasure to have an opportunity to connect with our patrons!
- A hybrid Summer Reading Program “Tails and Tales” in 2021 was open to all. It included virtual Puppet Shows, in-person programs at the park and PRIZES!
- Videos of Cooking with Jamie Online were offered virtually Summer 2021.
- Virtual Story Time with Miss Désirée offered weekly stories plus crafts and activities September through December. Craft kits were available for pick-up at BPL.
- Holiday fun included a recorded puppet show, take home crafts, and a Letter to Santa writing station!
- Computer Help with Dustin ran through early 2022.
- Provided copies of the Great Michigan Read, *The Women of the Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell, to Benzie Central High School Honors English classes thanks to a grant through the Michigan Humanities Council.
- Ongoing tech support from the Friends of Benzonia Public Library covered all of the library's tech needs. New printers and a new SmartScreen for the Meeting Room were purchased.
- Additional support from the Friends included adding extra shelving in the Fiction and Young Adult area, as well as new display areas for brochures and programming materials.
- Ice Skates check-out was extremely popular during January-March. A huge Thank You to Dr. Lisa Musgrave for her generous donation.
- STEM Kit selection was expanded and kits are available for check-out thanks to a collaborative effort between the Traverse Area District Library, Newton's Road, and a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Library of Things is now available with a variety of items thanks to various grants. Items include: Birding Kit, Oral History Backpack, Pickleball Set, and Bean Bag Toss, plus more.
- “Creating A Healing Story Together” was offered in April in collaboration with artists Molly Sturges and Tim Jones. *This was a Community Partnership project by the Northwest Michigan Arts & Culture Network with funding from Arts Midwest, Michigan Arts & Culture Council & National Endowment for the Arts.*
- The popular MSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic was offered on the porch both summers.
- A full Summer Reading program “Oceans of Possibilities” open to all was offered in 2022. Programs from mid-June through July included weekly puppet shows and craft programs with record breaking participation.
- Story Voyage program was offered for ages 4-18 during summer 2022. Over 189 participants received journals and colored pencils and were encouraged to write stories. Journals turned in will be added to the library collection. Funding was provided through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and The Library of Michigan.
- The Friends of BPL held a profitable Summer Book, Puzzle, & Craft sale. The Holiday Book, Puzzle, and Craft Sale were also a huge hit. Both events help raise funds to support BPL.
- The Corner Book Shoppe in the library is a popular year round feature selling books and puzzles.