Friends of Benzonia Public Library

Working to ensure adequate funds for the Benzonia Public Library
through advocacy, fund raising, and promotion.

Friends Make a Difference!

July 2018

Dear Friend,

Libraries are a vital part of a strong community. We are reaching out to you hoping you will show your support of the Benzonia Public Library with a generous gift to the Friends. As a 501c3 non-profit, we rely on old friends and encourage new friends to help us provide many of the little and not so little extras that make Benzonia Public Library a vibrant part of our community.

The Friends are grateful that the millage from Benzonia Township funds the basics at the Library, including: lease, utilities, collection development, and staffing. Many of the extras are so successful thanks to dedicated volunteers and to generous donors to the Friends and to the Library. When you see more than one person "working" at the library it is often a volunteer doing various background tasks including shelving packing interlibrary loans, and prepping programs. In addition volunteers work on the website, newsletter, PR activities, programs, and many other important projects.

In recent years the Friends of Benzonia Public Library are proud to have provided funding for:
Overdrive Digital Services * Computers and receipt printers * Supplies * Newsletters
Collection development * Summer Reading Programs * Craft workshops * Holiday Party
Author presentations * Other special programs

Be sure to look at the back page for an impressive list of programs, activities, and services provided by Benzonia Public Library in 2017/2018

We know you must choose carefully which organizations you support with your charitable giving, and truly appreciate your contribution to Friends of Benzonia Public Library.

Sincerely,

Friends of Benzonia Public Library
Board of Directors

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

Building a Strong Community

The vitality and strength of our community depends in large part on the quality of the services available to its citizens. Our public libraries enhance education for our children and adults, facilitate job-hunting, provide information and answers to questions, allow for better communication, and provide a source of energy to our community.

PO Box 445 • 891 Benzonia, MI 49616 • 231.882.4111 • www.benzonialibrary.org

2017/2018 have been awesome at the Benzonia Public Library!

Thanks to generous donors and fundraising efforts, the 3 year renovation process at the library was completed March 2017 and we could not be more pleased with the finished look. The final stage of renovations resulted in a new Young Adult section, updates to the staff room, and a newly imagined space for the Children's Room, complete with a beautiful mural by Glenn Wolff, new shelving, a puppet theater and many hands-on activities available to the children any time the library is open. Many thanks to the Benzie County Community Chest for stocking the "imagination stations!" Patron donations and the fundraising efforts of our Friends group, allowed popular programs to continue as well as adding many new programs.

Here is a quick look back at what was offered at the Benzonia Public Library in 2017/2018!

Ongoing programs include: Computers with Dustin, Guild of Makers Wednesday, Knitting Group, Craft of the month kits for kids, Early Head Start Play Group, Teen Lit Club, and eBay Basics.

- Maker Day and Cardboard Challenge with Friends from the University of Michigan School of Information
- Baby Play Time with Miss Mary Kaye
- Kids Fun Day Carnival presented by BPL, Betsie Valley District Library and Benzie Central Student Athletes
- Enhanced Services: New Online Catalog, RB Digital Audio Books, Transparent Language, and Talking Books
- Team Zero –Talk, Report, Protect class
- Money Smart Kids programs, presented with the Frankfort Community Federal Credit Union
- Behavior Incentive Days, school visits, and Enrichment classes with Crystal Lake Elementary School
- Off the Page series, partnered with Darcy Library, bringing writers and readers together in Benzie County
- Great Benzie Read, partnered with the other 3 Benzie County Libraries
- Community Conversation: discussion regarding local concerns and ideas. Led to Mentor program
- Mentoring partnership with Crystal Lake Elementary
- Oddities and Rarities program by Ron Rademacher, author of *Michigan Back Roads*
- Special guest appearances by our friend Pete the Cat
- Summer Reading 2017: Build A Better World, another awesome summer with 270 registered and a grand total of 411 kids and parents attending programs in June & July. Prizes for the summer reading drawing were generously donated by local businesses.
- Ice Cream Social sponsored by HillTop Soda Shoppe with all proceeds benefiting BPL children's programs
- Cooking Demos with Audrey and Anna: Fast, fun, and healthy foods presented in an entertaining format
- Three day Learning Through Doing Workshop plus a Maker Fest in partnership with the University of Michigan School of Information
- *From the Ashes* program by author R.C. Robotham
- Social Media: How to and Why by Jean Hardy, social media researcher with University of Michigan
- Costume Creation Lab with our Friends from the University of Michigan School of Information
- Diagnostic clinics offered by local Master Gardeners and the MSU Extension
- Craft classes by our Repurposeful Librarians including container planting, collages and alcohol ink coasters.
- PJ Storytime and Craft workshop
- Annual Holiday Party with crafts, puppet show, treats and gift making
- Summer used book sales, used jigsaw puzzle sale, and holiday book sale
- Craft sale fundraising by Repurposeful Librarians, which opened the door for many new programs
- Programs with Honor Bank for: Identity Theft prevention, Cyber Security, and Self Defense 101
- eBay Basics with Steve and Laura Ayers
- Programs by Maureen Esther including: "Civil War" and "Valentine Day Couples in History"
- Community Board Game Design Night with Kristin F. from U of M.
- Little Stones preview
- National Library Week 2018: a week long celebration including Maker Day, Mystic Michigan with Mark Jager, and Grown Up Anger with Michigan Notable Book Author, Daniel Wolff, and Chris Buhalis, singer/songwriter
- Mark Twain by Al Bryant
- Trails and Treasures program by Ron Rademacher
- Voices from the Past by Andy Bolander, based on *Daylight in the Swamp,* by William & Edith Overlease. Program partnership with Benzie Area Historical Museum and Mills Community House.
- *Saving Arcadia* by Heather Shumaker, author program in partnership with Darcy Library of Beulah
- Summer Reading 2018: Libraries Rock, now in full swing throughout the summer.
- Many more coming this Summer. Check www.benzonialibrary.org or stop in the library for details.