We are delighted to present the community with the St. Charles Public Library Annual Report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. The following pages highlight some of the achievements and special projects that the staff have worked on this year.

In early 2023, the Library embarked on an exciting journey as we began our comprehensive strategic planning process with feedback from the community and stakeholders. This plan will guide us for the next several years.

Our success is a direct reflection of the capabilities and dedication of the people who work here. It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as the Director of the St. Charles Public Library since November of 2022 and get to know the talented staff. Their contributions, expertise and collaborative spirit have impressed me from the start. It is because of them that the Library has continued to flourish amid often challenging circumstances.

“We are thrilled to share that this year was one of significant growth, with engagement that exceeds pre-pandemic levels.”
-Kate Buckson

The common thread that holds our team together across all departments is a deep commitment to excellent service. Whether in collections, programs, physical space, or individual help for our visitors, the staff is focused on going above and beyond to meet the needs of our community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our employees, Board of Trustees, residents, community partners and stakeholders who have been instrumental in our journey this last year. I look forward to embracing the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as we strive to make the Library a place of inspiration and growth.

Kate Buckson
Library Director
### Statistics

#### Budget

**Total Expenditures**
- $8,557,215

**Total Income**
- $8,755,649

**Expenditures**
- Salaries and Benefits (58.2%)
- Materials, Electronic Resources (15.9%)
- Administration (9.3%)
- Debt Service (5.8%)
- Information Technology (4.0%)
- Maintenance and Utilities (3.8%)
- Public Programs and Printing (1.5%)
- Supplies and Equipment (0.8%)
- Capital Outlay (0.7%)

**Income Sources**
- Local Tax Revenue (94.5%)
- Grant, Gifts, Miscellaneous (2.2%)
- Interest (1.9%)
- Fines, Service Fees, Photocopies (1.4%)

**Per Capita Grant Received:** $82,436.28

### Additional Notes
- **741 Notary Transactions**
- Study rooms were used by members of the community 5,056 times, an increase of 17% over the previous fiscal year.
- Meeting rooms were used by the public 2,232 times.
- The Loft: 2,814 visits from high school students. The month that had the most visits was December with 412.
Historically, the day after President’s Day, February 21, 2023 is our busiest day. In one day, we checked in 2,772 items and checked out 1,683 items.

This year, we circulated 865,949 physical items (not including the digital collection). Compared with last year, circulation statistics show an increase of 8.47% in physical materials checked out.

Circulation staff fill holds for our patrons and also for items that we share with nearby libraries. This past year, we filled 97,309 holds.

Through the Museum Adventure Pass program, the Library offers access to free and discounted tickets to museums, science centers, sporting events, zoos, park districts, theatres, and other fun and local cultural venues. Last year, 303 passes were distributed.

During the daily book run, the facilities team collected a total of 34,751 items from the remote book drops.

We added 4,127 new library card users, of which 1,038 were online applications. In September, during National Library Card Sign-up Month, we registered 316 new library card users and had a chance to celebrate and promote library card registration.
SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>FY 2022-2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Sessions Provided</td>
<td>20,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Passes Requested</td>
<td>6,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed Pages (Print &amp; Copies)</td>
<td>137,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning Jobs Performed</td>
<td>5,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Desk Tutorials Given</td>
<td>394 Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TECHNOLOGY HELP DESK SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>2022-2023</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3D Printer</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Instruction (Word, Internet, etc.)</td>
<td>1,371</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copier</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Login Help</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfilm/fiche</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>1,898</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanner</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troubleshooting Equipment</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wi-Fi Printing</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>-54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Technology help has been so very patient and kind with me. I am computer illiterate.”
-Patron Comment

“Love our Library!!”
-Patron Comment

The variety of services that the Library has always offered continues to provide entertainment and information - books, eBooks, tech, and all kinds of programs will continue to add to my “story!”
-Patron Comment
SUMMER READING 2023: FOR ALL AGES

We understand how important summer reading is for many families and individuals, and we’re proud to offer this program to our community each year. Summer reading encourages readers to explore humanity, nature, culture and science. It is fun, and it increases your knowledge and expands your world. Patrons of all ages enjoyed reading, logging and winning prizes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registrants</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>4,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Each year, the Library continues to develop new and relevant programs in response to interest and increased demand from the community. Many of our community partnerships allow us to expand our programming opportunities. We are committed to find ways to bring new, innovative programs to entertain, educate and inspire patrons of all ages. We are dedicated to serving the St. Charles community from early childhood through adulthood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2022-2023</th>
<th>Number of Programs/Visits</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Outreach</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>2,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Programs</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>6,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Programs</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Services Outreach</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>18,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Services Programs</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>39,286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A mix of both in-person and virtual programs was offered to our patrons which allowed us to reach new and wider audiences. Homebound patrons enjoyed “attending” our virtual programs to stay connected to the Library.
Popular adult program topics continue to be cooking demonstrations, crafts, historical portrayals, genealogy, gardening and history.

**Grab ‘n’ Go Kits:** Our grab ‘n’ go kits continue to be extremely popular with our patrons who enjoy the flexibility of creating a project at home. From watercolor bookmarks to needle-felted acorns, these kits were in high demand.

**STC Creative:** In the past year, STC Creative has added several new tools, including a printer dedicated to sublimation ink printing, a heat press design for mugs and tumblers, an AccuQuilt block cutter for fabrics, and most recently, a Brother embroidery machine.

Our **Sunday Concert Series** maintains its popularity with patrons, with attendance increasing 24.9% over the previous fiscal year. We had the opportunity to bring talented musicians from around the world and close to home to perform in our historic Carnegie Community Room.

> “Yesterday afternoon I was lucky enough to attend a concert performed by three extremely talented young women - two violinists and one violist. The concert was wonderful! I greatly enjoyed it.”
> —Library Patron

**Adult Spanish Language Business Programming**
- Business Planning for Small Business Owners / Plan de Negocios
- Identity Theft—Who’s Got Your Numbers?

**New this year:** Classic Movies at the Library is a monthly film screening for all ages at the Library.

**Dewey Dishes Book Club** is a monthly cookbook club where participants try recipes from a specific cookbook, bring in samples and discuss.

**Exam Cram** returned for the first time since 2019. High school students were offered places to study in the Library, as well as food and drinks. We had 210 high school students attend over three nights in December, and 170 students in May.

**Fall College Prep Series** in partnership with Batavia, Geneva, West Chicago and Wheaton public libraries offered many college-related workshops for high school students and parents.

**Ninth Annual Seed Swap:** 115 attendees

**Seed Library:** 7,000 seed packets were distributed, which is the highest amount of seeds distributed since the inception of the program.
Trick or Treat Parade on October 31 was the most attended program with 146 children and adults.

Youth Services has continued to post video content to the Library’s YouTube channel. Starrytime is a video series that is posted each month, featuring a new book and theme. Our most watched Starrytime this year was Ice Cream, viewed 296 times. All of our Starrytime videos are closed captioned, so we can reach a wider audience.

Youth Services hosted the first Paint the Path program in partnership with the St. Charles Arts Council. We hope to make this an annual event to further tie the Library to the surrounding community and support the arts.

The Library’s first Haunted Stacks program was held after hours on the Saturday before Halloween. Staff and volunteers came together to present a free haunted event for the community. Fun was had by all, and it was a great inaugural event.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten got an upgrade in December of 2022 with an interactive wall for participants and leveled prizes.

A small child walked through the doors to enter the department and said, “This is my favorite place!”

-Patron Comment
Social Media

Social media was an important component of promoting the Library’s programs, services and events this year, as well as an efficient tool for communicating Library closures and up-to-date information. Our content was published on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, with the occasional use of LinkedIn.

Our top Facebook post by a significant margin was a photo and description of the Library’s new Care Cabinet in the teen space. The Care Cabinet, located in The Loft (our teen only area), offers free personal items that teens can take, no questions asked. The Facebook post introducing this space was seen 18,479 times, and it garnered 965 reactions and 104 comments. It also attracted the attention of local non-profits and other community organizations. There was an overwhelming interest in helping the Library continue to replenish these personal supplies for our teen patrons.

Constant Contact

Communications and Marketing uses Constant Contact to email a monthly newsletter and send eBlasts to promote special events, select programs, services and collections. This past year, our open rate increased by 10% to an average open rate of 43%. We currently have 11,219 email contacts. Patrons can subscribe to our popular eNewsletter on our website.

Join us FEBRUARY 19 for an Open House meet our new director Kate Buckson

The St. Charles Public Library invites you to join us for an open house on Sunday, February 19, between 2-4 p.m. in the Hunley Community Room.

Our new director, Kate Buckson, will be present to share some updates on exciting new projects.
COLLECTION MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- This year, 335 items were purchased based on holds placed by St. Charles patrons. This is a feature of our collection management software that alerts us when a popular book needs more copies to meet demand.

- The Beyond Books collection launched in March. It is a "Library of Things" collection that includes non-book objects like musical instruments, recording equipment and other technology. This involved a re-vamping of our previous circulating equipment collection and the addition of 148 new items to reach a wider audience.

BORROW THE UNEXPECTED
Explore more at scpld.org/beyondbooks

“At the open house for the Beyond Books Collection, a young teen came in with his mom to tinker. He saw the color-blind glasses and tried them on. He saw colors for the first time! They were thrilled.”
-Patron Comment

- This year, as in previous years, shows the transition from audiobooks and video to streaming sources. Expect this to remain a trend for the next few years. While our physical collection has decreased, its usage continues to grow, which indicates a relevant, meaningful collection.

- World Languages Collections for youth and adults, contain materials written in different languages from around the world. We plan to increase the size and scope of these collections.

- The Picture Book collection in Youth Services continues to delight our visitors with face out shelving and a topical organization model.

- The Readers collection in Youth Services has been leveled on a five-color scale to assist our youngest patrons with book selection while they are learning to read.

“Your Library is AWESOME!
The way the books are arranged, the toys, the parent area, just everything is wonderful.”
-Patron Comment
## Popular Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Popular Items</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult CD</td>
<td>Now That’s What I Call Music!</td>
<td>Compilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Audio Book</td>
<td>Remarkably Bright Creatures</td>
<td>Shelby Van Pelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Book</td>
<td>Spare</td>
<td>Prince Harry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Audio Book</td>
<td>Lessons in Chemistry</td>
<td>Bonnie Garmus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Periodical</td>
<td>Chicago Tribune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eBook</td>
<td>The Last Thing He Told Me</td>
<td>Laura Dave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Mobile Hotspot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gale Course</td>
<td>Discover Sign Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Go Nuts for Donuts!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Print</td>
<td>The Boys of Biloxi</td>
<td>John Grisham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LinkedIn Learning Class</td>
<td>Excel Essential Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Consumer Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mango Language</td>
<td>Spanish (Latin American)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies</td>
<td>Everything Everywhere All at Once</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niche Academy Database</td>
<td>Ancestry Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronunciator Language</td>
<td>English (American)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA Audio Book</td>
<td>The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes</td>
<td>Suzanne Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA Book</td>
<td>The Summer I Turned Pretty</td>
<td>Jenny Han</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Book</td>
<td>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</td>
<td>Jeff Kinney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Top Circulated Items

- **Adult Book**
  - *Spare* by Prince Harry
- **Young Adult Book**
  - *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han
- **Youth Book**
  - *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
- **Movies**
  - *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- **Young Adult Audiobook**
  - *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins
Staffing Trends

- Currently, we have 97 employees at the Library. That is the highest headcount since 2020. Our average tenure for staff is currently 6.5 years, which has remained steady for the past three years.

- Beginning in January 2023, there has been an increased amount of upward internal mobility. Eleven staff members have either been promoted or received an increase in hours.

- With our internal and external hire rate on the rise, it is also important to mention the significant decrease in turnover rates for 2022-2023. For this fiscal year, there has been an 18% turnover rate, which is 16% lower than the previous three years. This is significantly lower than the industry benchmark of 35%. Of the staff who resigned, most left to enter their career field with full-time hours and benefits, or they moved out of the area.

Worth Noting

- The Library Board of Trustees appointed Kate Buckson to the position of Library Director effective November 7, 2022. She has a 20-year career in libraries, with the past seven as the executive director of the LaGrange Park Public Library.

- Human Resources and the management staff have been working on updating our hiring and onboarding process. Goals include creating more inclusive and relevant interview questions, exploring a more welcoming orientation process, and making sure that our new staff is prepared to join their team on the first day.

Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yrs</th>
<th>Employee Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Trudy Schober</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Jill Culbertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sarah Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nick Chaney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Denise Blaszynski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Amy Berger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mason Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Merritt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eduardo Robledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sutton Skowron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Stulgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Huntsha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debra Kippes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Dubbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandra Hoske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Loubsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anah McMahon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pam Salomone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Slack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Tegtmeier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On May 19, Chris Flood, our Business Reference Librarian, was presented with the 2023 Chamber of Commerce Civic Image Award at the Charlemagne Dinner.
**Branding Campaign**
In February 2023, a5 Branding and Digital was selected to develop the Library’s branding campaign. The Library’s branding committee focused on a review of our current branding and discussed its future vision and goals. Key marketing pieces were developed to showcase our new logo and branding. The next phase of our campaign will continue in the next fiscal year.

**Strategic Planning**
A team of Library staff and a consultant with Fast Forward Libraries set out to update the strategic plan for the next three years. Feedback was compiled from various focus groups consisting of members of the community, staff and board. Our new strategic plan will guide the board and staff in developing new programs and services to better meet the needs of our community. The final plan will be released in September 2023 and will be on the Library’s website.

**Facility Updates**
After feedback from many residents, the drive-up book drop was modified to allow for an easier return experience. A permanent fence was installed around the Library’s retention pond to protect native plantings.

**Book Club Service**
We acquired 4,785 items for community book clubs this year. This is a 41% increase from last year with the addition of 25 new clubs to our services.

“Can you be any more awesome?!!”
-Book Club Patron Comment

**Website Launch**
This project included building out web pages, content migration, Q&A, testing and training staff. The redesigned website launched on November 11, 2022. The result is a fresh, modern look with easier navigation.
Library staff are grateful for the Board’s support of ongoing professional development. The training that staff received helps enhance their knowledge, increase on-the-job engagement, and contributes ideas for implementation in the Library. A list of training includes:

- ALA (American Library Association) Conference and exhibits
- ILA (Illinois Library Association) Conference and exhibits
- ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) Conference
- IYSI (Illinois Youth Services Institute) Conference
- A tour of the Baker & Taylor distribution center in Momence, IL
- IPELRA legal seminars
- SWAN EXPO Annual Conference
- Various LACONI presentations
- Back in Circulation Again Conference in Madison, WI
- Reaching Forward Conference at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont
- Educators Neighborhood, a professional learning community that is a project of the Fred Rogers Institute
- Project ENABLE, which highlights different areas of inclusivity and accessibility for patrons in a library environment
- Brene Brown’s Dare to Lead discussion groups
- SirsiDynix National Conference, COSUGI
- In-service days this year were insightful and well attended. Staff attended training about intellectual freedom, gave feedback regarding our new strategic plan, and participated in mini-program sessions during the afternoon.
Local partnerships help enrich services to residents and eliminate redundancies in operation. We are pleased to contribute to numerous area partnerships. The Library benefits from these partnerships that lead to a stronger sense of community.

- The Daily Bean Coffee Shop, located on the main level, offers freshly-brewed PapaNicholas coffee, other beverages and snacks for purchase. The shop is staffed by District 303 transition program students between the ages of 18 and 22. Students receive on-the-job training from coaches and apply learned skills as they gain real-world experience.

- Two staff from the Adult Services team completed training with the national organization Next Chapter Book Club. The Library has since started a book club for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

- The Library continued to strengthen its partnership with workNet Batavia through one-to-one resume review appointments and working with their Career Counselor service.

- We expanded our partnership with District 303 to include participation as a training location for their Work-Based Learning students. We coordinated a schedule of activities for students and their job coaches to regularly complete during the hour they spend here each day throughout the school year.

- The St. Charles Early Childhood Leaders Group began meeting in person again at the Library after meeting virtually since 2020. The group consists of preschool and early childhood center directors who gather to discuss the ways in which the Library is able to work alongside early childhood centers and preschools in the area. This renewed interest in the local preschool community has benefited the Library and the schools through outreach services.

- As the literacy chair for the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary Club, our circulation manager organized and coordinated a valuable “Give the Gift of Literacy” book fair with Barnes and Noble in Geneva, and the St. Charles Noon, Geneva and Batavia Rotary clubs. It was a successful book fair that fulfilled “wish lists” for five service organizations in our area, Illinois Youth Center, Casa Kane County, Aunt Mary’s Storybook Project, Two Rivers Head Start and Lazarus House. Thanks to the generous community members, the club raised and spent $4,214.12 on book purchases.
• The Friends of St. Charles Public Library sponsored two Library staff teams at the annual Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley Trivia Bee fundraiser.

• The Library’s Jeans for Charity program raised money for Tri-City Health Partnership, Support Over Stigma, and Suicide Prevention Services. Staff may wear jeans on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in exchange for a $2 donation each day. A total of $1,173 was raised for these charities combined.

• Through our partnerships with LeRoy Oakes and the Kane County Forest Preserve, 466 members of our community participated in the StoryWalk by scanning a QR code and filling out a quick survey. The StoryWalk is accessible May through December with stories changing monthly.

• Fox Valley Teen Job & Volunteer Fair in partnership with Batavia and Geneva Public Libraries, had 31 organizations and businesses participate and 121 attendees.

• The Library participated in the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade in downtown St. Charles. Library staff were the stars of the show, marching with sandwich boards promoting our new Beyond Books collection. The crowds waved and shouted, “We love the Library!”

DONATIONS

Mrs. Sandy Jensen generously donated additional funds to Youth Services for The Neighborhood. New items were purchased for the space that will enhance both creative and dramatic play for children, making it a destination for the under-five community of children and their caregivers.

VOLUNTEERS

Adult:
Our adult volunteers are individuals who bring a variety of talents to our Library, including three volunteers with special needs teaching backgrounds. This year, adult volunteers donated 823 hours assisting Library staff on various projects.

Teen:
Teen volunteers donated 345.7 hours this year by helping with shelving and pulling materials, using the Library catalog, working from reports and more.

Youth:
Between the monthly Junior Friends meetings, additional weekly volunteer shifts and Summer Reading Desk training, 79 shifts were filled by volunteers in this fiscal year. These shifts were completed by 28 individuals for a total of 163 hours of donated time. In June 2023, 13 middle school and high school volunteers filled an additional 57.5 shifts (115 hours) helping out at the Summer Reading desk for a total of 278 hours.
As we have since 1978 when the Friends were established, the Friends of St. Charles Public Library continue to support the Library with donations that sponsor or support programs in many areas.

The Friends, twice yearly, three-day used book sales in October, 2022 and April, 2023 were once again very successful bringing in over $10,000 in revenue. The new Huntley Community Room, with its main floor location, made it easier for patrons to access the sale and helped make the sales successful. The Friends’ ongoing used book sales continue to be a great source of revenue. These sales make it possible for the Friends to continue to offer financial support for Library programs.

Friends volunteers have given 795 hours of their time sorting donated and withdrawn books that come in, as well as working at the book sales, ice cream social and wrapping books for our annual Christmas Book Sale.

In addition, the sculpture that the Friends commissioned for the Library was installed in October, 2022. Sculptor Danielle Casali’s “Luna Moth” is located adjacent to the seating area at the top of the terrace steps. It is a wonderful addition to the area.

Friends’ donations supported:

**Recognition**
- All Library Staff
- Outreach Volunteers

**Summer Reading Programs**
- Adult Services – Incentives
- Young Adult – Books
- Youth Services – Books and incentives
- Ice Cream Social Sponsor

**Programs**
- Babysitter Workshops
- Special Programs

**Friends Officers**
Judi Asselborn, President
Mylinda Litchfield, Vice President
Zee Harmon, Secretary
Joanne Surratt, Treasurer
Over the past year, have you enjoyed a music or cooking program, the artwork over the fireplace in the main seating area, or the updated fireplace in the Carnegie Reading Room? If so, you are benefitting from the work of the St. Charles Public Library Foundation. These are only a couple of the ways the Foundation supports the patrons and services of the Library. While local property taxes help to support basic operations, the St. Charles Public Library Foundation has supported a tradition of philanthropy and service to the community. The mission of the Foundation is to enhance and enrich the Library’s programs and services. This is accomplished through funds raised from the annual year-end appeal as well as from general donations, memorial donations and fundraising events. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of local residents who volunteer their time and efforts to carry out the Board’s mission.

**Fundraising Events:**
- Annual Appeal
- Books & Brunch
- Trivia Night

**Foundation Directors**
Jennifer Gaertner, President  Edward C. Marth, Vice President
Cheryl Ledbetter, Secretary  Staci Olson, Treasurer
Maggie Brewner  Jon J. Duerr
Diane E. MacNeill  Sharon Maholland
Julie Nyquist  Robin Soderquist
Mary Ann Tilton
**Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley** helps adults communicate in English by matching them with trained volunteer tutors one to one. With COVID-19 in the rearview mirror, we worked to accelerate participation in fiscal year 2023.

**Adult student enrollment increased by 39%**
Thanks to a successful social media campaign and the adult students who shared our posts, we enrolled 103 new adult students. This is a 39% increase over the number of adult students we enrolled in fiscal year 2022. We served 229 new and returning adult students, which exceeded our goal by 15%.

**Volunteerism increased by 4%**
We trained 55 new volunteer tutors, which exceeded our goal. But supply did not keep up with the demand for English language instruction. To accommodate our student waiting list, 12 volunteer tutors took additional students. One tutor formed a small group of seven adult students. As a result, instructional hours continued to increase. In fiscal year 2021, volunteer tutors logged 2,793 hours of instruction. In fiscal year 2022, they logged 3,772 hours of instruction. This fiscal year, a total of 152 volunteer tutors gave 229 adult students 4,116 instructional hours.

**Adults learned English and met their personal goals**
Post-testing results show that 80% gained one language level for every 30 hours of instruction they received or one reading level for every 100 hours of instruction they received. Thirty-seven adult students (16%) left the program with goals met, which exceeded our goal. Others continue to learn.

Standardized test scores tell only part of the story. We had numerous reports of significant personal gain.

- We had 252 reports of increased community involvement. For example, 40 adults received library cards and at least 95 use the library regularly; 11 adults received U.S. citizenship and 24 others are working towards this goal.
- We had 200 reports of work-related achievements. For example, 22 adults got new jobs, nine got second jobs, 17 received job promotions, and seven took on more work responsibility.
- We had 59 reports of increased family involvement. For example, 30 parents are reading to their children and helping with homework; nine adults signed apartment leases and two adults became new homeowners.

**Jim Roberts joined LVFV as Program Coordinator**
Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley experienced staff turnover again this year when Kate Balogh received a job offer she couldn’t refuse. Fortunately, Jim Roberts stepped into this key position in September 2022. Jim has a B.S. in business from Southern Illinois University and an M.S. in education and educational administration from Northern Illinois University. He has worked as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent in various Illinois school districts. Pre-pandemic, he completed a three-year term on our board of directors. His familiarity with the organization has helped him make immediate, significant contributions during the fiscal year.

**Thank you**
We are honored to be housed at the St. Charles Public Library and to share in its reputation for excellence. On behalf of the tutors, students, and LVFV leadership, thank you for your support.
St. Charles Public Library District
One South Sixth Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

Phone 630-584-0076
Research & Reading: adultref@scpld.org
Youth Services: youthdesk@scpld.org

Hours
Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00–5:00 p.m.

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