

2021 Annual Report

Onondaga Free Library



Greetings from Onondaga Free Library

During the past year, we were able to resume regular library operations, including in person programs and meeting room use for the public. Notably, the library was fully open for 47 weeks. As soon as we were able, in person programming started by following the current health protocols and our safety plan.

We strengthened partnerships with the Onondaga Central, West Genesee, and Westhill school districts, Strathmore Speakers, NAMI, InterFaith Works, and the SU iSchool and worked together to bring a wide variety of programming to our community. As a result, we offered 468 programs attended by 6,686 people.

It was a delight to win the 2021 Central New York Library Resources Council Library of the Year Award. This award was an outstanding peer recognition of our efforts to serve our community.

I am pleased to announce we established a new full time position of Circulation Supervisor to lead our circulation team as they continue to provide the level of excellent service you can expect.

We are embarking on an update to our next long range plan and will be seeking community input on shaping the next 5 years of collections, programs, services, and building improvements.

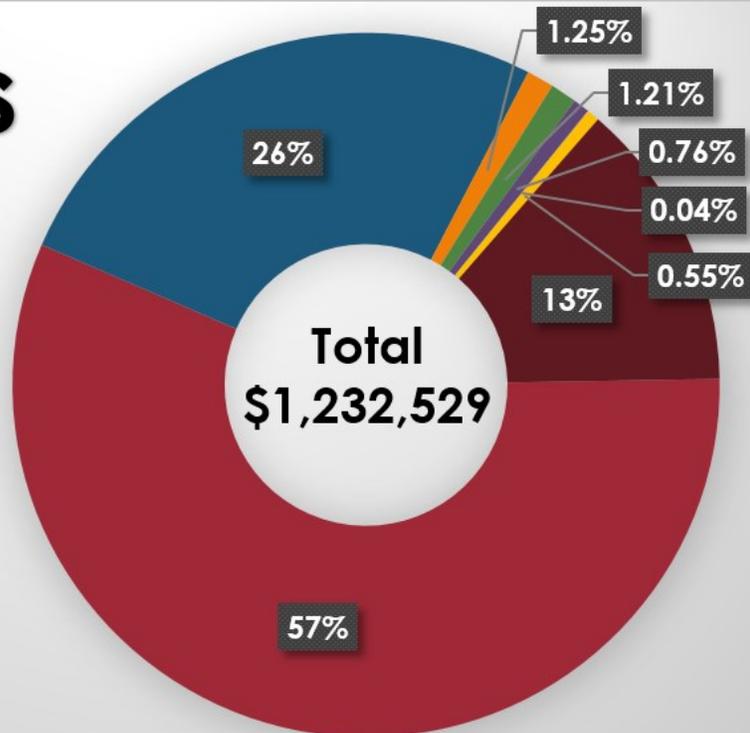
To our dedicated community that supports the library, we thank you for providing the financial resources to be able to offer collections, programs, and services that change lives for the better. Our library staff, Board of Trustees, Friends, and patrons have made it possible for us to thrive and adapt to the changing needs of our community. We look forward to seeing you at the library.

Susan Morgan, Director

2021 Financial Summary

Revenues

- Town of Onondaga (\$700,000)
- School Funds (\$321,360)¹
- State Aid (\$15,363)
- Grants (\$14,875)
- Gifts & Fundraising (\$9,313)²
- Interest (\$464)
- Library Charges (\$6,825)
- Fund Balance (\$164,329)³



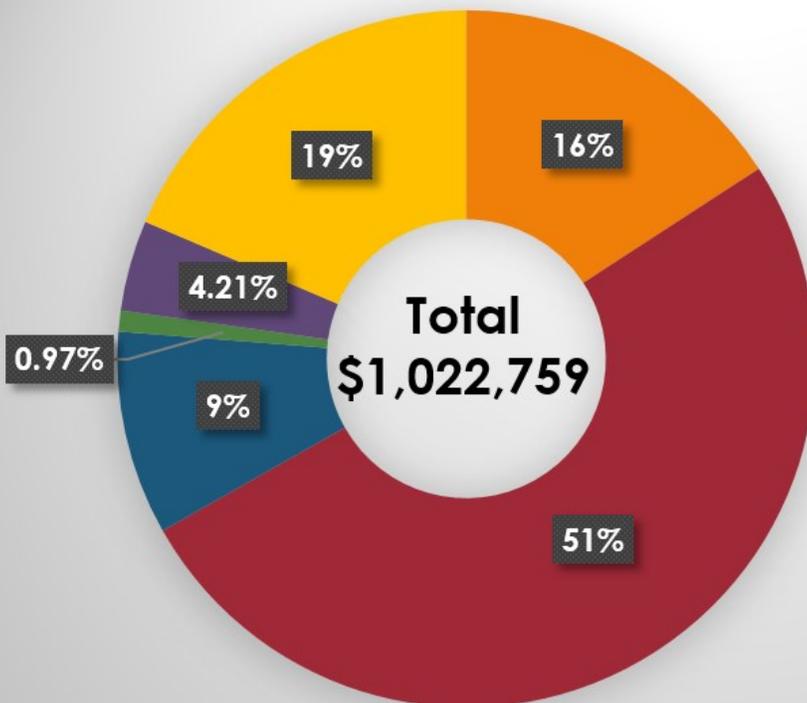
¹School Funds include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central School Districts.

²Gifts & Fundraising total includes \$7,825 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library.

³Fund Balance includes employee retention funds of \$65,884 and payroll protection loan of \$96,942

Expenditures

- Debt Service (\$161,851)¹
- Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits & Taxes (\$521,282)
- Collections (\$96,694)
- Programming (\$9,946)
- Capital Expenditures (\$43,040)
- Building Operation & Maintenance (\$189,946)



¹Debt Service includes bond refinance savings of \$53,000.



ABOVE: Zoom with NASA engineer Jeff Megivern as part of the Strathmore Speakers Series.

Programming

In 2021, the on-going pandemic challenges made us reimagine how to provide educational and engaging programming, as our librarians transitioned from virtual events and take-home activity kits to in-person programming. As we considered the safest way to move forward, we transitioned from outdoor programming to hybrid events and small group meetings, all with one goal in mind – creating a welcoming and accessible space for lifelong learners in our community. Our librarians did an amazing job reworking legacy programs and developing new events to meet the needs of our community. We were thrilled to bring families back to their favorite programs, including storytimes, American Girl, Pokémon, S.T.E.A.M. activities, teen volunteers, technology classes and book clubs. And thanks to our strong partnerships with community organizations and school districts, we were able to offer new events for families – highlights include a Mars Rover event with a NASA engineer, Mindfulness Nature Walk at Clark Reservation State Park with Onondaga Hill Middle School and “The Constitution: America’s User’s Manual” series with Syracuse University.



LEFT: Nature walk at Green Lakes State Park as part of Teen Mindfulness Club
RIGHT: Girl Scout Sara Kelly teaches dance steps to pre-schoolers at our park programs during summer.

Summer Reading

We loved seeing our amazing community of readers back this summer – from children to adults, our Summer Reading participation matched pre-pandemic levels:

- ⇒ Total Summer Reading Participants: 514 (compared to 398 in 2019)
- ⇒ Total Books Read: 7,839

Thank you Friends of Onondaga Free Library for supporting our entire Summer Reading program, providing \$3,000 in funding for prizes and programming, including our Story Walk, take-home activity kits, program supplies and guest presenters. This summer we transitioned back to in-person programming, holding all activities outdoors for safety. Outdoor events were made possible thanks to our partnership with the Town of Onondaga Parks and Rec Dept. and CLRC’s 2021 Recovery Grant for the library garden tent. Thank you Gannon’s Isle Ice Cream and Fairmount Glen Mini-Golf for providing our prize incentives for children and teens. To all the happy families that visited the library this summer, thank you for enjoying our programs, collections and beautiful space.

Thank you Friends!

The Friends of Onondaga Free Library held successful fundraising and membership campaigns in 2021, including a June book sale and record-breaking Festival of Trees event! Proceeds from their fundraising efforts provided support for the library’s legacy programs and collections, including our Lucky Day books, eBooks, Empire Passes (NYS Park Passes) and Summer Reading. The Friends advocacy efforts, program support and staff appreciation help make our library an amazing community resource. Thank you for being champions of all we do at OFL and your on-going support!

MARCH 2022 FACES OF OFL:

Board of Trustees

Chris McCarthy, President
Colleen Mahoney, Vice President
Stephanie Aldrich, Treasurer
Beth Crump, Secretary
Tom Bradley
Rob Price
Laurie Smith

Full-Time Staff

Susan Morgan, Director
Alyssa Newton, Assistant Director
Brandan Carroll,
Circulation Supervisor
Maggie Gall-Maynard,
Youth Services Librarian
Scott Lipkowitz, Digital Services &
Technology Librarian
Chantal Rothermel, Marketing &
Outreach Coordinator

Part-Time Staff

Suzanne Allen, Clerk
Theresa Castilano,
Clerk & Marketing Assistant
Kori Gerbig,
Youth Services Specialist
Aidan Goode, Page
Isabella Mango, Page
Megan Moriarty, Page
Gail Thomas, Processing Clerk
Sue Thomas, Clerk
Tonette Young, Clerk
Debbie Zabel, Clerk
Brennan Zimmer,
Clerk & Bookkeeper

Substitute Staff

Jackie Antonacci, Clerk
Penny Feeney, Librarian
Pat Hagemann, Clerk
Goran Lucic, Clerk

Library of Things Collection

In 2021, we added and enhanced items in our Library of Things collection!

New Items:

Bird Watching Kit—This kit comes complete with a backpack, binoculars and 2 field guides. Pair with our park passes or Hiking Kit for a complete nature experience!

Puzzles—Over 30 puzzles are now available for checkout, including a variety of skill level options- puzzles for kids all the way up to the most avid puzzlers!

Enhanced Items:

Rokus—Our 2 Rokus are now loaded with paid subscriptions to Netflix, Hulu, Disney+ and more. With the new subscriptions, the Rokus have become a new patron favorite!

GoPro—We have upgraded to the newest version of the GoPro, which includes a better camera and additional accessories.

Continued Favorites:

Park Passes—We continue to offer 10 Empire Passes (New York State Parks) with the support of the Friends of OFL and 2 Explore Outdoors Passes (Onondaga County Parks) with the support of Onondaga County Public Libraries. After several years, they continue to be a seasonal favorite.

Hot Spots—With funding from Central New York Library Resources Council's Crisis Technology Grant in 2020, we were able to add 3 hotspots with unlimited data plans to our collection in 2021.

You can preview all the items in our Library of Things collection at www.oflibrary.org/library-of-things.



Storytime-to-Go Kits

In 2020, OFL's children's services librarians created a brand new collection of themed storytime kits for parents, grandparents, caregivers and daycare providers to checkout! Each themed bag has great read-aloud books, suggestions for ways to read, write, talk, play and sing with young child(ren), and an activity to extend the storytime fun.

In 2021, with funds from New York State Library's Family Literacy Library Services Program, we have been able to double the number of Storytime-to-Go kits in our collection. Newly added kits have themes including Potty Training, Manners, Interactive Books, Dinosaurs (pictured above), Construction (pictured above), Unicorns and Bugs.



Onondaga Free Library

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