

2019 Annual Report

Onondaga Free Library



Greetings from Onondaga Free Library

2019 was a productive and remarkable year for programs, services and outreach efforts. The library held 707 programs for 15,584 people. Notably, OFL had the 2nd busiest summer reading program in Onondaga County. In addition, over 98,000 people visited the library in person, public meeting spaces were utilized 1,923 times, and wireless and public Internet use was accessed by over 24,000 visitors.

The ransomware attack on the Onondaga County Public Libraries' system in July made for a challenging summer, and the staff and patrons made the best of difficult circumstances during our busiest time of year. I am grateful for the patience and support of our library community.

To our amazing community that supports the library, we thank you for providing the financial resources to be able to offer the collections, programs and services that change lives for the better. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Susan Morgan, Director

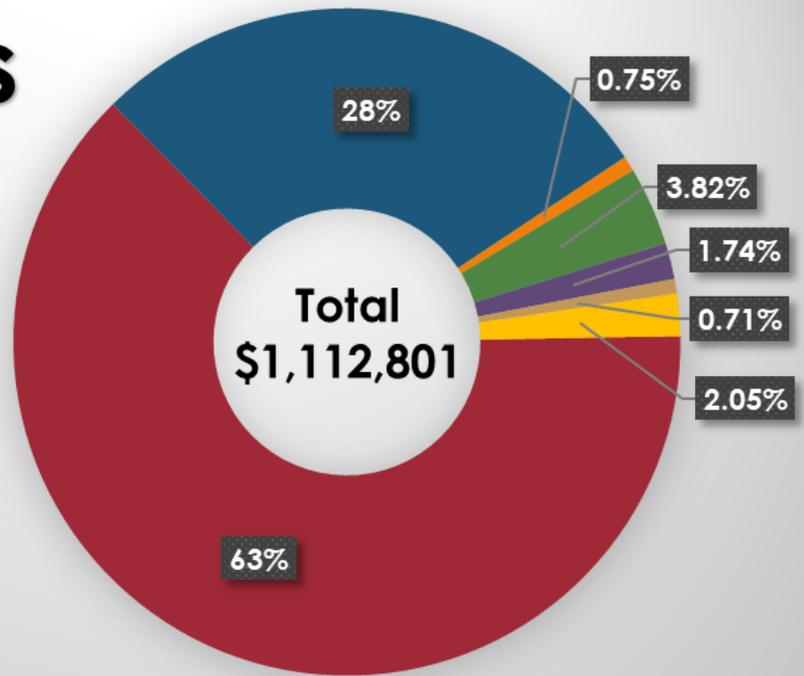
Girls Who Code*

OFL was the first public library in Onondaga County to offer this national coding program for girls in grades 6-12. To date, we have hosted two official clubs and 24 students graduated from the program. In addition, OFL received recognition in the Post-Standard for our innovative new program and received \$1000 in donations from Syracuse University students to support future coding programs for girls in our community. Girls participating in the program learn to code through hands-on projects and present a community project at the end of their 10-week course, showcasing their new coding skills by building apps, programming robots and designing computer games. Many of the girls who joined this club have never coded before and it is truly amazing to see their new skills take shape.

2019 Financial Summary

Revenues

- Town of Onondaga (\$700,000)
- School Funds (\$312,000)¹
- State Aid (\$8,300)
- Grants (\$42,525)²
- Gifts & Fundraising (\$19,323)³
- Interest (\$7,860)
- Library Charges (\$22,793)

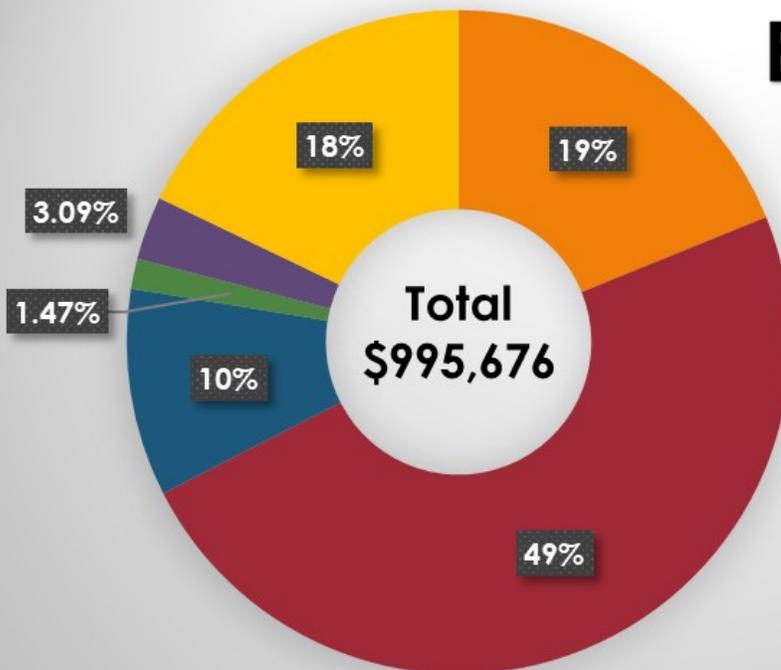


¹School Funds include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central School Districts

²Includes \$37,125 NYS construction grant money for drainage project that won't be paid until 2020

³Gifts & Fundraising total includes \$12,566 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Expenditures



■ Debt Service (\$187,802)

■ Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits & Taxes (\$483,922)

■ Collections (\$100,588)

■ Programming (\$14,686)

■ Capital Expenditures (\$30,741)

■ Building Operation & Maintenance (\$177,937)



New Outreach Initiatives

OFL was able to fulfill many requests for programming throughout our community turning 2019 into a banner year for outreach services!

We expanded our partnerships with Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central schools, focusing on literacy and S.T.E.A.M. initiatives, including author visits, expanding mental health resources and offering S.T.E.A.M. workshops. In addition, we were invited to do S.T.E.A.M. activities at Onondaga Nation School, Syracuse Academy of Science and the Southwest YMCA (located at OCC). We also provided tours of the library's children's area to OCC's Early Childhood Education classes.

During the summer, OFL partnered with the Town of Onondaga's Parks & Recreation Department to offer our first-ever storywalk at Santaro Park and weekly storytimes at Kinder Kids. We also formed partnerships with and offered offsite programming at Interfaith Works, Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center, Brookdale Summerfield and AHEPA Senior Apartments.

We formed many partnerships with local organizations to bring innovative children and teen programming opportunities here to OFL, including TCGPlayer, Play the Game, Read the Story, Microsoft and Paws of CNY.

Finally, throughout the holiday season, OFL gave back to the community in several ways: We donated the nonperishable food items we collected during Food for Fines Week to the CNY Food Bank, we took our Book on Every Bed program offsite to the Chadwick Residence, and for the first time, OFL had a giving tree which allowed us to provide gifts to children and teens of the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center.

Capital Improvements

- ◆ NYS Construction Aid Grant to make drainage improvements to the parking lot and garden areas
- ◆ Credit card kiosk for patrons to pay for printing and library fines
- ◆ Technology upgrades to the community room audiovisual equipment– new projector and sound system
- ◆ 2 new drinking fountains with bottle filler option
- ◆ Painting of the entire interior and signage upgrades

Thank you Friends!

The Friends of Onondaga Free Library had terrific fundraising events in 2019! Proceeds from these successful events provided support for library programming, collections and services, including the renewal of our 10 Empire Passes, children's toys and Playaway Launchpads, a bench for the lobby, an American flag for the community room, Lucky Day books, Fast Flicks, holiday concert and summer reading. Other notable program partnerships with the Friends included our annual cooking competition, storywalk and author visit, food truck event, art receptions, a weekly craft meetup group and more. OFL is grateful to have the Friends of OFL as a wonderful source for program support, staff appreciation and library advocacy.

MARCH 2020 FACES OF OFL:

Board of Trustees

Casey Barduhn, President
Jen Frasier, Vice President
Gary Lucas, Treasurer
Colleen Mahoney, Secretary
Tom Bradley
Amy Kremenek
Dan Pautz

Full-Time Staff

Susan Morgan, Director
Alyssa Newton, Assistant Director
Maggie Gall-Maynard,
Youth Services Librarian
Al Oliveras, Digital Services &
Technology Librarian
Chantal Rothermel, Marketing &
Outreach Coordinator

Part-Time Staff

Suzanne Allen, Clerk
Theresa Castilano, Clerk
Kori Gerbig, Youth Services Specialist
Ella Moran, Page
Megan Moriarty, Page
Nate Procopio, Page
Ellie Stultz, Clerk
Gail Thomas, Processing Clerk
Sue Thomas, Clerk
Tonette Young, Clerk
Debbie Zabel, Clerk
Brennan Zimmer,
Bookkeeper & Clerk

Substitute Staff

Pat Hagemann, Clerk
Goran Lucic, Clerk
Katie St. Laurent,
Librarian

Volunteers

Kathy DeSanctis
Mary Silky



CNY Arts Education Grant

Program Dates: January-December 2019

In 2019, we were excited to offer a continuation of our very popular *Young Artists: Art in Antiquity* program with the support of an Art in

Education grant from CNY Arts. This grant allowed us to provide programming to 60 middle-school aged students that explored the history of 9 ancient civilizations through an extensive review of the physical creations of each time period. These monthly classes consisted of a 30-minute history lesson followed by 90-minutes of free creation time in which students selected traditional materials and used ancient techniques to create a personal interpretation of the period being studied. Funds from the grant were used to purchase tools and materials

which provided the students with a number of unique artistic experiences including Egyptian papyrus painting, Greek sculpture, Roman mosaics, Chinese silk painting, Medieval stained glass, Byzantine jewelry making, Islamic tessellation, Native American basketry and African weaving and mask making. Two sessions on each topic were offered every month.

"I love my creations. I think they are awesome [and] I am so thankful to [OFL] for making it possible for me to make them."

-Student self-assessment

Institute of Museum & Library Services Grant

Program Dates: March-December 2019

OFL partnered with Peer 2 Peer University and the Kansas City Public Library on an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant to provide "learning circles" for adults in our community.

Learning circles are opportunities for individuals to take online courses together in a group setting. This peer-learning environment empowers those who do not have the technical skills, equipment or discipline to take online courses on their own. In 2019, 30 patrons participated in 7 multi-week learning circles, which cover a wide range of topics such as Windows 10, MS Excel for businesses, resume writing, cybersecurity and creative writing.

Some reasons cited for attending a learning circle include "professional development for my job", "increase my employability" and "personal interest".



Onondaga Free Library

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