

Lowville Free Library
2016 Annual Report to the Community

Libraries exist as places to meet needs in the communities they serve. Libraries offer access to physical items--books, newspapers, audiobooks, and more. They offer access to technology and digital information. They offer opportunities for learning, creativity, and service. And at their heart, libraries offer a place where you can meet someone, and say, Wow, you too? It may happen over a book, a painting, or a project, but no matter what, we hope it happens often. At Lowville Free Library, we strive to meet, at least in part, each of these areas of need. Our means of meeting these needs may be small, but we strive to meet both existing needs and also the emerging needs of local community, our country, and our world. Our answer is often limited, but we hope that we offer a faithful and hopeful one. We believe that our library is an important part of the past, the present, and especially the future.

Lowville Free Library has been serving our community since 1903, and has been in the current building for 90 years. We currently have 3,945 registered users, which includes both users who live in our service district and those who live elsewhere. In 2016, Lowville Free Library had 19,045 visits.

Lowville Free Library currently holds 24,851 items, including books, audiobooks, DVDs, other physical items, e-books and electronic audiobooks (available on Overdrive), and uncataloged items. We are continually adding to and refining our collection. In 2016, we circulated 22,608 items, including both physical and electronic. As a part of North Country Library System (NCLS), our materials are available to other patrons within the system, and other libraries' materials are available to our patrons. We sent out 2,849 and received 3,434 items through interlibrary loan.

One valuable group of services that Lowville Free Library offers the community is technology, including public use computers, wireless internet connection, and items for group use. We have 8 computers available for public use, including 7 for adults and 1 for children. In 2016, we logged 3,658 computer sessions. The wireless network was accessed 13,171 times. A range of databases are available through the library's website and on library computers, which our library patrons actively use. We continue to explore ways to serve you in technology, as it's an area where we see a lot of use as well as a lot of potential, and hope to have your support as we do.

In 2016, Lowville Free Library's website was visited 16,744 times, and we reached 1,000 likes on Facebook. It's important to us that we stay connected to you, and we're constantly evaluating how to connect more effectively. We send out monthly newsletters highlighting new items, upcoming programs, and other updates. Sign up by contacting the library through our website.

The library offered many programs throughout the year for adults, young adults, and children, 234 programs total in 2016, with an attendance of 3,058. Individual assistance through reference and one-on-one sessions is also active. Programs for adults included

painting classes, book discussions, sewing classes, crafting circles, line dancing, essential oil classes, and a health and wellness fair. Programs for young adults included two weekly meetings throughout the year, and special events and trips, such as pumpkin carving and an anime conference. Programs for children included weekly story times, story walks during the summer, an Easter egg hunt, special guests, and summer reading program classes and events.

In 2016 we held a number of fundraisers and applied for grants so we can continue to offer and expand the services and programs we offer you. We received grants from NCLS, Elks Lodge 1605 in Lowville, Poets and Writers, Stewarts, North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Fidelis, the Pratt-Northam Foundation, King Arthur, George R. Davis Fund, and the McSweeney Foundation. We also received additional funding from Senator Griffo. We are incredibly grateful to each of them. Our 2016 Garden Tour was a community favorite, and we also held Working Wheels, an event for children, the annual Wine and Ale Tasting, and added a daily raffle during the month of November. Thank you to all who participated!

Dawn Myers concluded her time as Lowville Free Library's director in October after giving much to our local community--so many people have been influenced by her creativity and caring. Sally Brown retired in September after working faithfully at Lowville Free Library for 35 years. I began at the library in October as the director. I look forward to serving the local community, and hope I can offer even a part of the same faithfulness and creativity that these women showed.

Other staff shifted as well, with a few moving on to other things and a few new faces joining the staff. I appreciate how they offer the knowledge and resources available at the library cheerfully to each person who comes in our doors. I am also incredibly grateful for the volunteers who assist at the circulation desk, with special projects, and with program planning and facilitation. They serve our community well.

Our board offers oversight, support, and service to our library. They willingly give of their time because they have vision for the importance of a local library in our community. In 2016, Patty Burke served as the president of our board, Mary Pelletier-Hunyadi as the vice-president, and Sharon Sears as the treasurer. Other trustees included Amy Nakano, Karin Komondor, Ed Murphy, Sheree Vora, David Fraser, Jackson Hyde, Sue Rubenzahl, Michele Gingerich, and Karen Oldroyd.

Most of all, however, I am grateful for you, the members of our community. You patronize the library, join with it, donate to it, and support it. Thank you! I'm excited to move forward together.

To contact the library, visit us at 5387 Dayan St, call 315-376-2131, go to our website, (www.lowvillefreelibrary.org), check our online catalog (www.catalog.ncls.org), like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/lowvillefreelibrary), and subscribe to our newsletter.

Sincerely,
Meghan Harney