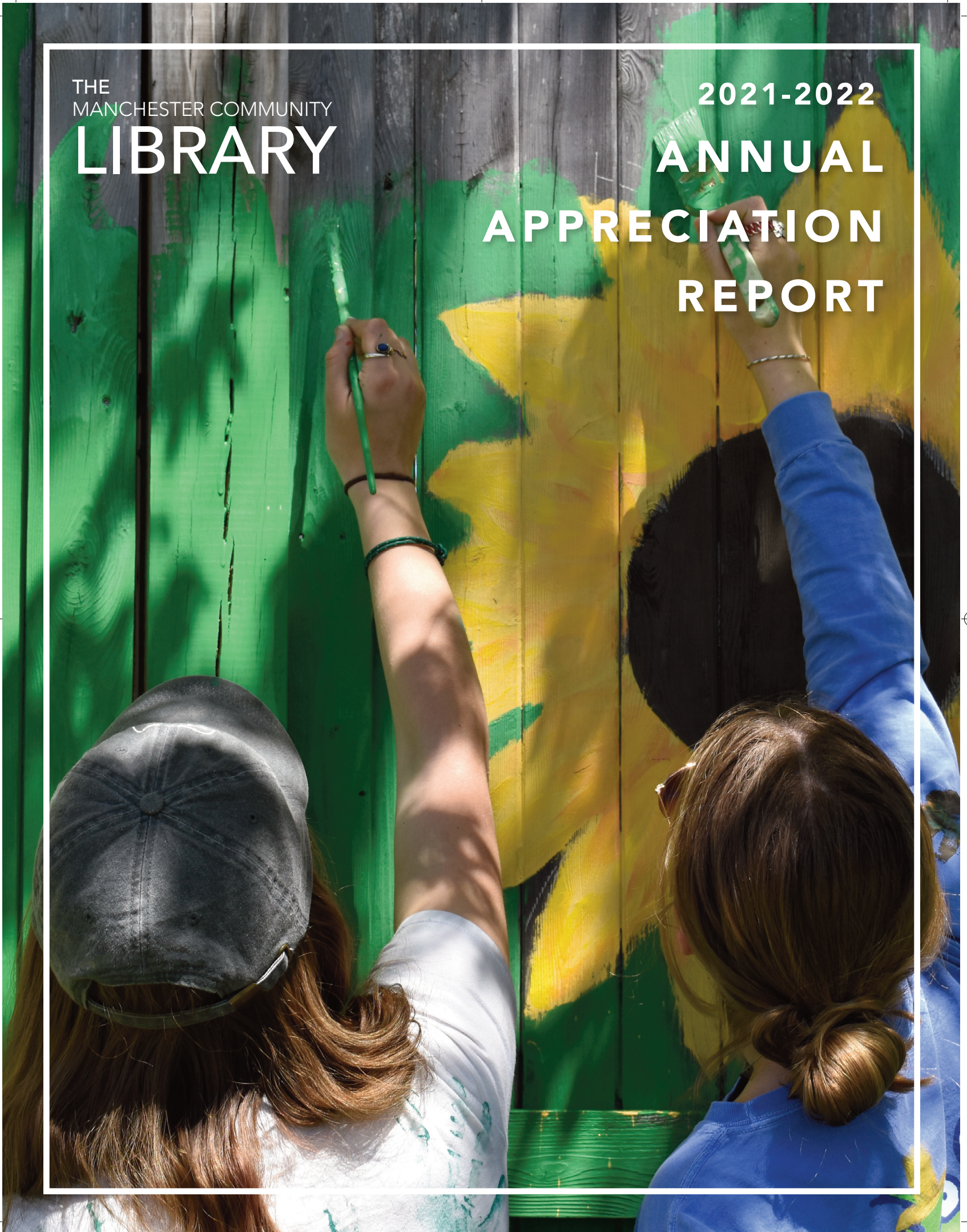


THE
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY

LIBRARY

2021-2022

**ANNUAL
APPRECIATION
REPORT**



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

For the Manchester Community Library, the recently completed fiscal year (ending July 31, 2022) marked our reemergence from COVID and a reaffirmation of our promise. We pledge to be an essential and supportive community partner with you personally and with the many other organizations that make Manchester and the Northshire such a rich and compelling place to live. While the pandemic created unanticipated challenges, we learned we must listen and be agile and adaptable.

We started with a simple question: how can we best serve our community during these evolving times? The equally simple answer was to develop a mindset and culture of “yes.” Yes, we can help. Yes, we’d love to host your meeting or event. Yes, let’s find a good time to schedule your program. Yes, we would love to cooperate and collaborate with you on that initiative. Yes, we want to make things happen in Manchester and to help work around any obstacles that might appear in the way. We will always try.

We welcomed back our members and restored our regular hours, including evenings and Saturdays. Our in-house programs increased in number and quality, ranging from Milton Avery’s Vermont to Vermont Women in the Civil War, from National Poetry Month and a Seed Sharing Library to 802 Reptiles, Taconic Music, and our book clubs. MCL resumed its familiar cadence of activity and recommitted to providing lifelong learning for all ages.

Perhaps the ultimate sign of renewal and activity was the staging of the first *Green Mountain Book Festival* in June, a three-day event that had something for all ages. The weekend began on Thursday with *New Yorker* writer Sue Halpern’s talk at the kick-off event and proceeded with a book sale, other author presentations, area non-profit booths, and ice cream for the kids on Sunday. I refer to the book festival as the Library’s coming out party, a statement to our patrons that we were back serving the community as its library and a vital community partner.

There were two significant operational accomplishments in the past fiscal year. The first was the creation of a Facilities Reserve Fund with our endowment manager, Maple Capital. The reserve ensures that we will maintain our beautiful building in a timely and thorough way for years to come. The second, and by far more substantial, was the hiring of Ed Surjan as our new Executive Director. The former is an invisible but vital act, while Ed’s presence, experience, and expertise will be vividly on display in the months and years ahead. We are



BBA Art Students painting the MCL fence

Cover Photo Credit:
 Greg Sukiennik
 Manchester Journal

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LEADERSHIP

thrilled to have Ed leading our efforts. His MLIS degree from Syracuse transcends his technological and entrepreneurial background. Ed is on the cutting edge of the future of public libraries and how we can be a leader in our area, state, and beyond.

There are more good things ahead for MCL. For this, the Library depends upon your voluntary support for three-quarters of its operating budget. Every gift, both large and small, is greatly appreciated. You recognize the value of an inclusive place for knowledge and community building. Thank you.

We are grateful for your trust and conviction, and we will strive to prove worthy of that every day.

With appreciation,



John G. Clark
President, Board of Trustees



Mission

The Manchester Community Library is open to all as an inspiring gathering place for the community, providing opportunities and resources for personal enrichment and growth.

Vision

The Manchester Community Library will be a hub of the community through our role as a trusted resource; providing unique, essential, and innovative services; and by creating a welcoming and stimulating environment for learning and social connection.

STAFF

Jennifer Amatruto, FACILITIES & OPERATIONS MANAGER

Kaela Cassady, PATRON EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST

Arielle Gingold, PATRON EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST

Deb Hansen, LIBRARIAN

Sally Hespe, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Ed Surjan, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Emily Turgeon, PATRON EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST

Paige Vignola, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROGRAMS

Arts & Literature

An Evening with Rabbi Bob Alper
 An Evening of Violin Duos
 Milton Avery's Vermont
 Culture, Art, & History of Mah Jongg
 A Robert Frost Evening
 National Poetry Month with
 Rage Hezekiah, Trish Weill,
 James Crews, Jeff McRae,
 & Claire North
 First Wednesdays Series



**2,391 Adult
Attendees**

**197 Adult
Programs**

Nature

Demystifying Seeds
 Pollinator Planting Party
 Seed Sharing Library
 Monty's House Wildlife Rehab
 Natives & Invasives in the Garden
 Earth Repair Here & Abroad



History

Vermont View with Dave Q
 Vermont Women and the Civil War
 Women in the Revolution

Recurring Programs

Tai Chi
 Seated & Standing Yoga
 Intermediate Yoga
 Friday Night Movies
 Live Local Music
 Taconic Music
 English Language Learners
 Dungeons & Dragons
 Mah Jongg Lessons and Open Play

PROGRAMS

Youth Programs

802 Reptiles
Ed Popielarczyk, Magician
Family Movie Night
Notorious RPG
Magic the Gathering
Make a Splash
Rockin'Ron the Pirate
STEAM Saturdays
Story Time with Arielle
Teen Advisory Board
Virtual Bedtime Stories
Wildcard Wednesday



2,633 Youth Attendees

140 Youth Programs



Why MCL?

Trish Weill, Member

"Whether I want to enrich, enliven, escape, educate, entertain, or evolve - I can do them all at our community library!"



Program Partners

AARP Fraud Watch
Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance
Burr and Burton Academy
The Collaborative
Dina's Bakery Cafe
Front Porch Forum
Garden Club of Manchester
GNAT-TV
Hildene
Long Trail School
Manchester Historical Society
Manchester Elementary Middle School
Mother Myrick's Confectionery
Neighbor to Neighbor
NeverTechLate
Northshire Bookstore
Northshire Day School
Robert Frost Stone House Museum
Some Day Farm
Taconic Music
Town of Manchester Parks & Recreation
UVM Extension Master Gardeners
Vermont Country Store
Vermont Humanities
Vermont Lake Monsters
VNA Hospice

MEMBERSHIP

With an influx of new residents to Manchester and surrounding communities, Library membership grew 11%. The ever popular “Touchdown Room” saw a rise in popularity as remote work became a “new norm”, and WiFi usage was the highest in recorded history, more than doubling over last year.

Growing partnership with local schools – MEMS, Burr and Burton Academy, Long Trail School, Northshire Day School, Maple Street, and Red Fox Community School – spurred a 12% increase in circulation services to youth.



Valuable Member Benefits

- Free Museum, Park, and Theater Passes
- Loanable Chromebooks and Laptops
- 24/7 access to an extensive list of electronic resources
- Use of private Touchdown and Quiet Study rooms for private meetings remote work
- 25,000 books+, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs
- Digital Access to the Green Mountain Library Consortium
- Reference and information services for adults and children



Membership Stats

Adults (aged 18 and above)

Resident 1,630
Non resident 905
TOTAL 2,535

Students/Youth (birth to age 17)

Resident 404
Non resident 332
TOTAL 736

TOTAL # of Library Members 3,271

Why MCL?

Nancy Pierson, Member and Volunteer

“As a very senior citizen, for the last few years I have often felt as though I am just taking up space. For most of my life I have had some sort of volunteer job that made me feel useful. Since moving to Vermont, I have missed that part of my life. At the Library, I found encouragement and help in establishing a tutoring group for ESL students. Now I lead a weekly session with a young Spanish-speaking mother and her two children. The library staff seem poised to expand their excellent social programs to include work with families needing this type of help. Being involved in that will help not only the students, but also people like me with time and knowledge to convey.”



ACCESS

The Manchester Community Library is proud to offer free access to a wide array of online databases encompassing a variety of topics for all Manchester Community Library members.

The online databases contain millions of newspaper, magazine, and professional journal articles, as well as audio clips, videos, and ebooks. These resources are produced by known and trusted publishers, such as Gale Cengage, Infobase Publishing, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., Universal Class, EBSCO, and Mango Online Language Learning. **They are available 24/7, both in the Library and remotely.**

PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS

Adult Books	13,169
Children's/YA Books	7,858
TOTAL PRINT BOOKS	21,027
Adult Audio Books	1,285
Children's/Young Adult Audiobooks	130
TOTAL AUDIOBOOKS	1,415
DVDs for Adults	2,145
DVDs for Children/Young Adults	508
TOTAL DVDs	2,653
Museum Passes	14
Chromebooks	3
Miscellaneous Collections	21
TOTAL PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS	25,133

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

Materials loaned to MCL members	675
MCL materials loaned to other libraries	112

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS/DATABASES

TOTAL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS/DATABASES	65
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DIGITAL STATS

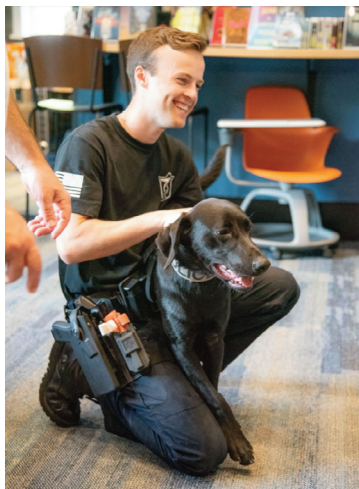
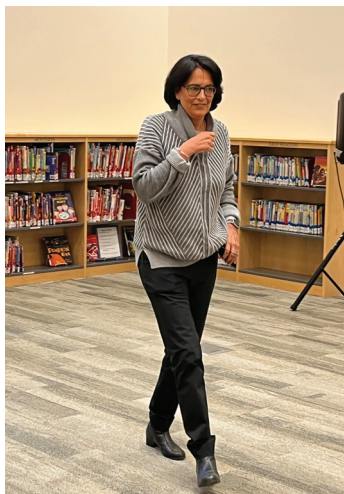
Onsite Computer use:	1,455
WiFi Usage:	>11,000 min.
Website Visits	>100,000
Interlibrary Loans	> 940



HIGHLIGHTS

Green Mountain Book Festival

The Manchester Community Library hosted the inaugural Green Mountain Book Festival, June 9-12. The weekend was an opportunity for community members of all ages and interests to celebrate the inspiring, educational, and life enhancing programs and resources offered at the Library. Vermont resident Susan Halpern, bestselling author and staff writer for *The New Yorker*, headlined a cocktail party and fundraiser on Thursday, June 9, to kick-off the Festival. Other weekend highlights included: a book lover's early bird access to the sale, an online silent auction, author talks/readings and book signings, hands-on activities, performances, a special V.I.P. (Very Important Pooch) appearance, and an ice cream social. A dozen area nonprofit organizations were also on hand throughout the weekend to share information about their programs and services.



Why MCL?

Deb Hansen, Librarian

Deborah and her family moved to Manchester in 1998. She worked at Burr and Burton Academy as the Library Assistant for nine years, while earning her Master's Degree, Librarian Certification, and Teacher's license. She then became the School Librarian at Fair Haven Union High School in Fair Haven, Vermont, where she served students, faculty, and staff for seven years. In Fair Haven she transformed both the physical and the virtual library spaces and created learning experiences which connected students with local, state, and global community members.



YEAR STATS

Almost 20,000 visitors

Program Attendees: 5,224

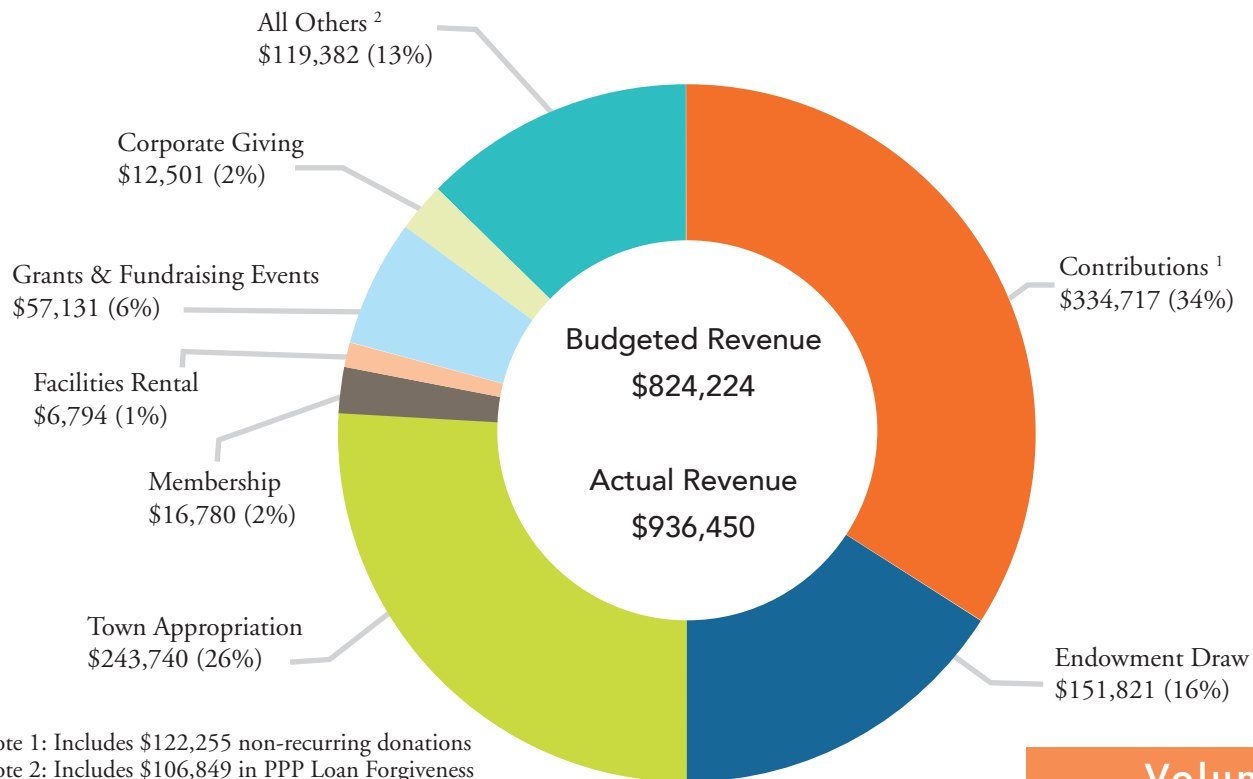
Items Borrowed: 27,463

MLC is a natural fit for Deborah, as she can now reconnect with the community in which she lives. Her goal is to provide the highest quality resources and services to all MCL users.

She is here to help inform and educate the people of our local community by providing information resources, as well as life-long literacy and learning opportunities for all members of our community, from toddlers to senior citizens.

SUPPORT

As of July 31, 2022, the Library's operating endowment value equaled \$4,111,326. Based upon current by-laws, the MCL may withdraw up to 5% of the average market value over twelve trailing quarters to offset annual budget expenditures.



Volunteers

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AIG	NeverTechLate
Amazon	Northshire Bookstore
American Library Association	Northshire Day School
Boy Scout Troop 332	Order of the Eastern Star
Deloitte	Raytheon
Eric Lomas	Samuelson Law Offices
Facebook	Shaw's Supermarket
Habitat for Humanity	Small Batch Granola
Hearst Organization	St. John on the Mountain
HITS Shows, Inc.	Starbucks
Institute of Museum and Library Services	Stewart's Foundation
Lynn Kaplan	Taconic Music
Long Ago and Far Away	The Inn At Manchester
Manchester Physical Therapy	Vermont Country Store
MEMS PTO	Vermont Department of Libraries
Morse Hill Foundation	W.H. Shaw Insurance Agency
Mother Myrick's	William Dean Fausett Foundation
	William T. Burns Insurance

We could not do the work we do at the MCL without the generous gifts of time and energy from our wonderful volunteers. **Over 100 volunteers** were involved with the Library during the past year, contributing nearly **2,000 hours** of service, using their unique talents, skills, and knowledge to raise support, connect people, and build community.



2021 - 2022 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

2021 - 2022 Annual Giving - August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022

Thank **YOU** donors for playing a significant role in ensuring **YOUR** Manchester Community Library continues to be a hub of the community, a trusted resource, and a welcoming and stimulating environment for learning and social connection. We could not do this work without **YOU**.

This report gratefully recognizes all donations made during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, between August 1, 2021 and July 31, 2022. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this report. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions, and notify Sally Hespe, Director of Advancement, at shespe@mclvt.org or (802) 549-4579.

\$100,000+

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Maple Capital Management
Northshire Bookstore
TÖST
Vermont Country Store
Wilcox Dairy

Frances Skinner Willing Circle and Planned Giving at MCL



The Manchester Community Library exists as it does today thanks to the transformational power of philanthropy. In 1897, Frances Skinner Willing established the Mark Skinner Library in memory of her father for the benefit of the community. Over a century later, in 2006, a generous bequest from Lyn Hoyt provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand and enhance the Library's services to better serve the community. On November 15, 2014, the Manchester Community Library opened its doors at its present location.

Frances Willing, Lyn Hoyt, and Frank and Sharron Kropa are individuals whose foresight ensures the future vibrancy of the Manchester Community Library for years to come. Won't you consider joining them in the Library's legacy society – the Frances

Skinner Willing Circle? Please reach out to Sally Hesse, Director of Advancement, at shespe@mclvt.org for a confidential discussion about including the Library in your estate plans.

Why MCL?

Sharron and Frank Kropa, Volunteers

Sharron and Frank are treasures in our community, for almost 50 years buoying us with their friendly warmth, authenticity, and spirit of volunteerism. Typical of many who moved to Vermont in the '70s, they diverged from their careers of occupational therapist and civil engineer to embrace a do-it-yourself lifestyle. Their interests ranged from organic gardening and skiing to lampshade making and bread-baking. They owned New Morning Natural Foods for 10 years and then established estate sale and bookkeeping businesses. Along the way, they formed many valued friendships and grew to love being part of this community.



Throughout they volunteered selflessly in our community, Sharron serving as "volunteer" Volunteer Coordinator at Manchester Community Library (MCL) for six years and on the Boards of the Mark Skinner Library and Manchester Health Services, Frank served on the Dorset Planning Commission, the Manchester Historical Society, and Manchester Country Club.

Both avid readers, Sharron and Frank found it an easy decision to support MCL. Feeling welcomed and valued, they appreciated MCL's role and importance in this community. Upon retiring and deciding to update their wills, Sharron and Frank understood that intentional estate planning allowed them an opportunity to leave MCL a once-in-a-lifetime legacy gift. We are so grateful that Sharron and Frank decided to join Lyn Hoyt and other generous donors in advancing for generations to come MCL's commitment to community, learning, and literacy in Manchester and our many neighboring towns.

THE
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY
LIBRARY

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Manchester Center, VT 05255
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(802) 362-2607
info@mclvt.org