



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





# Gowanda Free Library

## 2024

### Report to the Community

Dear Community,

In 2024 we have made great strides at the Gowanda Free Library, and it's my honor to share the updates with you.

The Board of Trustees, the Library staff, and I have been actively working on improving various aspects of the library, this includes both upgrading the structure of our building and focusing on creating a more productive and positive environment.

We completed a long-awaited painting and trimming project, including a new entryway which has greatly enhanced the appearance of our beloved library façade, and we are very pleased with the final result and with the positive impact reflected in an increase in library visits and well-attended programs with fantastic feedback.

In 2024, we also saw a rise in donations from local organizations and individuals, which allowed us to acquire more books and host programs featuring special guests, including Explore & More Children's Museum, Buffalo Museum of Science, Creative Learning Shows, The Family Martial Arts Center, Mr. Mike Morton, and local artists like Bernadette Scott, Karen Taverna, Joyce Raimondo from the Pollock Krasner House and Studio Center, among others. The increment in donations in 2024 enabled us to offer more programs throughout the year, rather than just during the summer. This brings us great joy, and we deeply appreciate your generous support!

I am honored to continue serving as the Director of the Gowanda Free Library. It is a great privilege to be part of this community, and we will keep striving to foster cultural and social growth through our educational and entertainment programs, as well as our literary offerings. I look forward to working together to continue building the best library possible for our community.

Please stay tuned for updates as we work to enhance this vital community space. Your feedback and ideas are welcome, so please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,  
**Heidi Khawam**  
Director.





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#### **2024 In Numbers:**

- Visitors to the Library: 9,925.**
- Library Card Holders: 2,307.**
- Reference Provided: 922**
- New Books: 449**
- New Other Materials: 163**
- Print Materials for Loan: 10,780**
- Other Materials for Loan: 2,186**
- Physical Items Checked out: 5,736**
- Digital Items Checked Out: 572**
- Programs Hosted: 140**
- Programs Attendance: 2,649**
- Computer Sessions: 2,988**
- Wi-Fi Sessions: 874**
- Visits to the Library Website: 8,043**



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### Donors Recognition:

Thank you to all the donors who contributed to our fundraising efforts for 2024. Your support is essential for us to thrive and effectively serve our community. Whether it's the small change left after using library services or the checks sent voluntarily any time of the year, or in response to our fundraising letters, every contribution truly makes a difference!

#### • Individuals:

Karla Farner, Carole J. Hansen, Eleanora Andolsek, Thomas Lennertz, Ruth Rohrich, Ava & Dolly Richmond, Barbara Ozark, Phil Palen, Thomas L. Bury, Jeffrey Hatfield, Michael McClenathan, Ms. Doris Jones, Patricia Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Stellen, Allan & Shirley Kerr, Merrit Offhaus, Vivian Dewey, Larry Carlson, Susan C. Trewer, Timothy J. Regron, Mr. And Mrs. Jerry Greenlee, Lisa Hill, John Walgus, Kerry Carriero, Doris Jones, Caryn and Mark Benton, In Memory of Annette M. Gerenflo, Mary Racine, Thomas Laing, Pete Sisti, Tim Mesch.

#### • Local Businesses, Clubs and Organizations:

Kiwanis Club of Gowanda, Gowanda Community Bank, Gowanda American Legion Post 409, Gowanda Area Federal Credit Union, Honks Grape & Grain INC., Gowanda Designer Pools, B&R Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Gowanda Brewing at the Wicked Glen, Slovenian Club of Gowanda, Johnson's Plumbing & Heating Inc., Dand J Monument Engraving and Cleaning LLC., Crowell Home + Auto Supply, Gabel Bros. Furniture, Inc., Gowanda VFW Post 5007 (Gowanda Veterans Association).

#### • In memory of:

Marlene Lowis

We also thank the donors who preferred to remain anonymous.





# Enjoy Some Memories!







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