



Gowanda Free Library

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





Gowanda Free Library

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Community,

I am thrilled to present my first report as the new Library Director, and to share with you the updates of our beloved library.

Thinking about my first year at our library, I have fond memories of the Summer Reading Program. The results from our Summer Reading Challenge were surprisingly high: with 110 Patrons participating in the challenge, over 750 books were read in 5 weeks (Way to Go!). Furthermore, in 2023, a total of 92 programs were hosted by the library, with an attendance of 1,583 community members. And it's not only about the numbers, but about the enriching experiences.

It is worth mentioning that 2023 was a year of transition for the library, with not only a new Director but also with an influx of new Trustees to the Board. We are working together to achieve the library goals in the best interest of you, our community!

I have to say that over the past 9 months I have had the opportunity to familiarize myself with our beloved library, our great staff and patrons, and the needs of our community. It is my belief that the Gowanda Free Library plays a vital role in our community, as a provider of resources that support literacy and education, and serving as a hub for knowledge, information, entertainment and social enrichment. It is my objective to ensure that our library remains a safe, welcoming space for all members, not only as a repository of books but also as a center for educational and cultural experiences.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome and support. I want to let you know that I am learning every day and I feel honored and pleased to represent the Gowanda Free Library.

I encourage you to stay tuned for more updates as we work together every day improving this vibrant and enriching space for everyone. I welcome your feedback and ideas, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Heidi Khawam
Director



Gowanda Free Library

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2023 In Numbers:

- **Visitors to the Library: 8,476**
- **Cardholders: 2,152**
- **Reference Provided: 780**
- **New Books: 424**
- **New Other Materials: 85**
- **Print Materials for Loan: 10,137**
- **Other Materials for Loan: 2,056**
- **Physical Items Checked out: 6,678**
- **Digital Items Checked Out: 769**
- **Programs Hosted: 92**
- **Programs Attendance: 1,583**
- **Computer Sessions: 2,624**
- **Wi-Fi Sessions: 549**
- **Visits to Library Website: 9,902**



Gowanda Free Library

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Donor Recognition:

Thank you to all the donors who gave to our solicitation for donations and collaborations for 2023. You play a crucial role in ensuring that we can continue to thrive and serve our community effectively. Your support 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.

• 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., Palm Gardens Motel, Hair Etc., Gowanda Recreation, Dand J Monument Engraving and Cleaning LLC., Crowell Home + Auto Supply, Gabel Bros. Furniture, INC., Gowanda VFW Post 5007 (Gowanda Veterans Association), Olimpia Restaurant, Jesse's Home and Gifts.

• In memory of:

Charles Peck and Rick Rosenberg.

• Estate of Charles Graves:

Thank you for your generous donation. Your gift will truly help us materialize our library's current projects.

Gowanda Free Library

2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Enjoy Some Memories!

