



Geauga County
Public Library

2021
Annual
Report

CHALLENGES

SOLUTIONS

PROGRESS



Engage. Connect. Inspire.

YOUR LIBRARY CARD HAS VALUE

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



I'd like to think that years from now we will all look back at 2021 as a time of great strength and resilience while dealing with so much uncertainty. The Library was no exception. We remained committed to serving Geauga County residents, not only through traditional means, but new ones as well.

By opening an expanded Branch in Bainbridge and a new Branch in Thompson, we increased the community's access to space and opportunities to meet and learn all while remaining under budget on both projects. Additionally, in 2021, we offered fun and educational in-person and virtual programming at all Branches for all ages, along with enhanced Home Delivery options for Mobile Services patrons.

As the community's needs changed we found new ways to serve. In 2021, we opened the Inspiration Station maker space at Bainbridge and trained over 800 patrons to use the equipment, distributed over 38,000 Covid test kits funded and supplied by the Ohio Department of Health, and introduced grant funded circulating wifi Hotspots for patrons without reliable internet access at home. The community's appetite for digital and streaming movies, books, and music set several GCPL records for digital checkouts.

The fact that we accomplished so much in 2021 is due to our dedicated staff, community partners, volunteers, donors, The Partners, The Foundation, and Board of Trustees who support us so we can help our community members connect, engage, and be inspired at GCPL. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2022.



**In addition
to books,
physical or digital,
your library card
grants you access
to a wealth of
information and
resources for
education,
personal growth,
and
entertainment.**

DATABASES

ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR LIBRARY CARD



LinkedIn Learning

WITH Lynda.com® CONTENT

eBooks.
Audiobooks.
Graphic Novels.
Movies. Music. TV.
Instantly with

hoopla

 THE
GREAT COURSES
LIBRARY COLLECTION

 **Qello**
CONCERTS



When I saw there were almost 8,000 documentaries, many things off the beaten path that I had never seen, I couldn't believe it. -- Jamie Ward, on Kanopy

MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW KNOWLEDGE

2021 had a 35% increase from the previous year in all digital checkouts.

90,807 patrons attended 2,527 library programs.
1,210 of these programs were virtual.

Total Circulation: 2,333,446
A 23% increase from 2020

The pandemic caused us to innovate and change our service model in real time. Our staff demonstrated great flexibility and creativity. Based on patron feedback, some of these innovations will remain a part of our service model, including:

- Curbside Pickups
- Virtual Programming Options
- Enhanced Remote Options (Online Reference Assistance, Print/Scan/Fax Services, Print from Home, and More)
- ECards
- Public Wifi extended to parking lots for 24/7 access

We always loved Geauga West but appreciate libraries so much more since the pandemic started. It's impressive how creative the programming has been and all you have done to distribute Covid tests. That was definitely not anything the library staff could have expected.

-- Shannon Meyer-Bell

A RESILIENT STAFF

From our staff to our patrons, these challenging times proved again and again the power of an engaged and connected community.



IN 2021 GCPL ...

- Distributed over 38,000 Covid Test Kits
- Innovated programming with Virtual access
- Answered over 190,000 reference questions
- Added two Family and Local History Specialists

Since its opening last June, over 800+ patrons were trained on Inspiration Station maker space equipment. 23 of those became "Master Makers", having completed training on each machine available. These numbers continues to grow.



IN 2021 You made a difference!

GCPL Red Cross Blood Drives

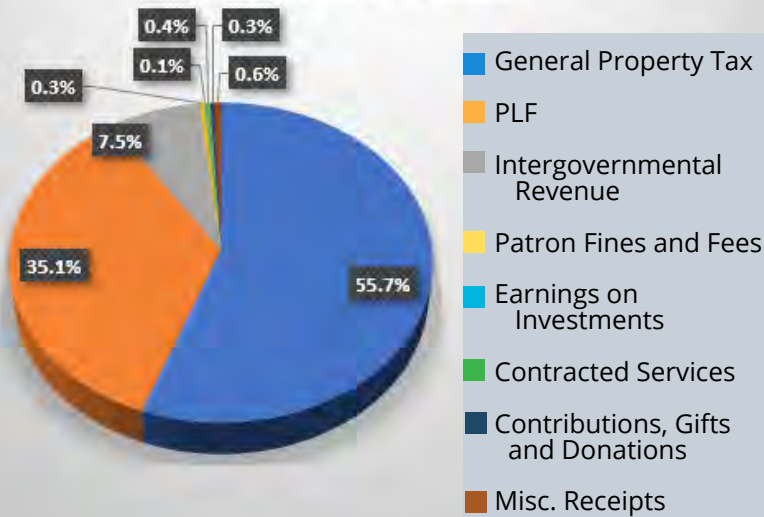
collected **533** pints of blood with the potential to impact up to **1,601** people!

Thank you all who donated.
Your selflessness is appreciated.



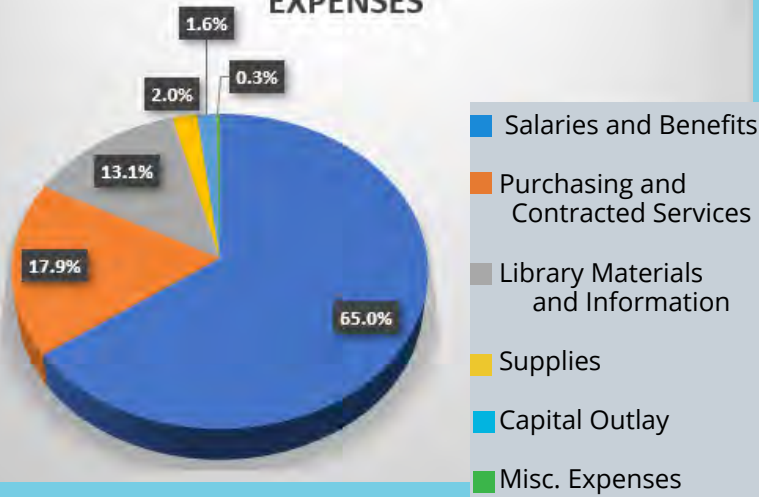
A MESSAGE FROM THE FISCAL OFFICE

REVENUE SOURCES



In 2017, Geauga County voters supported the library by passing a bond issue to fund new buildings and building renovations throughout the County. In 2021, new buildings constructed with bond issue revenue opened to the public in Bainbridge and Thompson. The renovation and construction projects were all completed under budget and the remaining funds have been set aside for a future project in Chardon. Careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars remains at the forefront of all Library decisions, strategic planning, and management.

EXPENSES



In addition to our brand new buildings, our Geauga West and Middlefield Branches underwent significant renovations.

This included:

Middlefield Branch

- New Circulation Area
- New Reference Desk
- New Carpeting in Public Space

Gauga West Branch

- Remodeled Men's and Women's Restrooms
- 3 New Study Rooms
- 2 Family Restrooms
- Public Copier Room
- Renovation to common Areas

NEW AND IMPROVED FACILITIES

Our new Thompson Branch, which opened in late 2020, won one of only two 2021 honor awards in architecture from the American Institute of Architects, Cleveland Chapter. It features:

- 8,956 Square Feet
- 2 Study Rooms and 1 Large Conference Room
- Frances Spatz Leighton Reading Room
- Perennial Garden Maintained by the Thompson Garden Club

Our new Bainbridge Branch opened Feb. 1, 2021 and features:

- 30,000 Square Feet
- 6 Conference, Study and Multipurpose Rooms
- A Messy Programming Room
- The Inspiration Station Maker Space
- Multiple Outdoor Seating Areas

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

All community organizations are only as strong as their neighbors. We are continually impressed and energized by our many community partnerships and the many doors these relationships open.



We have collaborated with United Way to promote and support 2-1-1 services to the community to help our patrons reach essential and often hard to find services.

We are also excited to be part of the Connecting Ohioans in Rural Areas Through Distance Learning grant with Kent State Geauga. This grant, funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will support Kent State Geauga by offering distance learning opportunities at our Branches. This will extend access to education for 7th-12th grade students, offer credit classes for degree programs for adult learners, and provide workforce training programs for area employees.

GEAUGA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION



The Geauga County Library Foundation was established in 1989 as a nonprofit organization to support Geauga County Public Library through philanthropy and community engagement. Though tax dollars are used to fund public libraries, private gifts enrich and supplement its programs and services.

In 2021, the Foundation launched the Partners of the Geauga County Library Foundation. This committee is the primary volunteer corp. for GCLF and engages residents of all ages in supporting the library. Their main fundraising initiative is processing donated books for resale via online, by ongoing book sales at GCLF Branches, and in person sales such as the Great Geauga County Fair book sale over Labor Day weekend.

Baby's First Book

All newborns in Geauga County start off life with a book of their own.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Challenges parents to regularly read with their children.

Rascal's Readers

Ensure that every kindergartner in Geauga County receives a certificate to redeem at the library for a free book, stuffed raccoon, and a customized library card.

GCLF Programs supported by GCLF in 2021 include:

The 100 Book Challenge

For adults to complete within two years. Everyone who completes receives a fleece jacket or vest.

Ohio Governor's Imagination Library

Delivers a free book in the mail to every registered child age birth - 5 years in Geauga County, encouraging early literacy.

Winter Reading Program

Rewards readers of all ages by earning prize drawing entries for each book read during winter months.

Summer Reading Program

Keeps families engaged in reading outside of the classroom to prevent "summer slide." Features fun events, programs, and prizes all summer long.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jake Yanchar
President



Karen Delano
Trustee



Kathryn Pitrone
Vice President



Kristen Brickman
Trustee



Paul Newman
Secretary



Larry Pitorak
Trustee



BRANCH LOCATIONS

A Administrative Center Branch
12701 Ravenwood Drive
Chardon, OH 44024
(440) 286-6811

B Bainbridge Branch
17222 Snyder Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
(440) 543-5611

C Chardon Branch
110 East Park Street
Chardon OH 44023
(440) 285-7601

G Geauga West Branch
13455 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
(440) 729-4250

M Middlefield Branch
16167 East High Street
Middlefield, OH 44062
(440) 632-1961

T Thompson Branch
6654 Madison Road
Thompson, OH 44086
(440) 298-3831

Mobile Services
6654 Madison Road
Thompson, OH 44086
(440) 298-3831

Website:
GeaugaLibrary.net



Joshua Hutchinson
Trustee

It was a pleasure to serve as the board president during a year of transformation. From the opening of an expanded Bainbridge Branch, the opening of a new Thompson Branch in a new location, and the completion of the three-year system-wide major renovations project, I was busy all year long. But facilities are not people, and that is especially true during a hard year like 2021. The GCPL Board of Trustees recognizes that our staff is our most valuable resource. We invested in staff through necessary wage increases and enhanced training and continuing education opportunities. We thank our staff for their continuous dedication, initiative, and commitment to improvement of services.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Library as we continue paying close attention to the needs of the community.

Joshua Hutchinson, 2021 president
Geauga County Public Library Board of Trustees

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