



2023

Annual Report



LIBRARY
Serving Baxter County

Inspiring Imagination | Igniting Interests | Enabling Learning

Serving Baxter County

”

.....
“The Baxter County Library is a great place for all ages to gather for resources, a wide range of services, and to explore interests.”
.....

- Kevin Litty
Baxter County Judge

2023 Library Timeline

WINTER

Introduced Homesteading Skills adult program series

SPRING

Welcomed guest authors during the Read | Write | Ignite Literary Series

Celebrated National Library Week in April with Library fine forgiveness in exchange for donations of supplies for the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas

Introduced the Ales & Tales fundraiser with local partner Rapp's Barren Brewing Co.

Introduced Unpacking the Pages Podcast with Foundation Advisory Board member Nancy Lee Scarpa

SUMMER

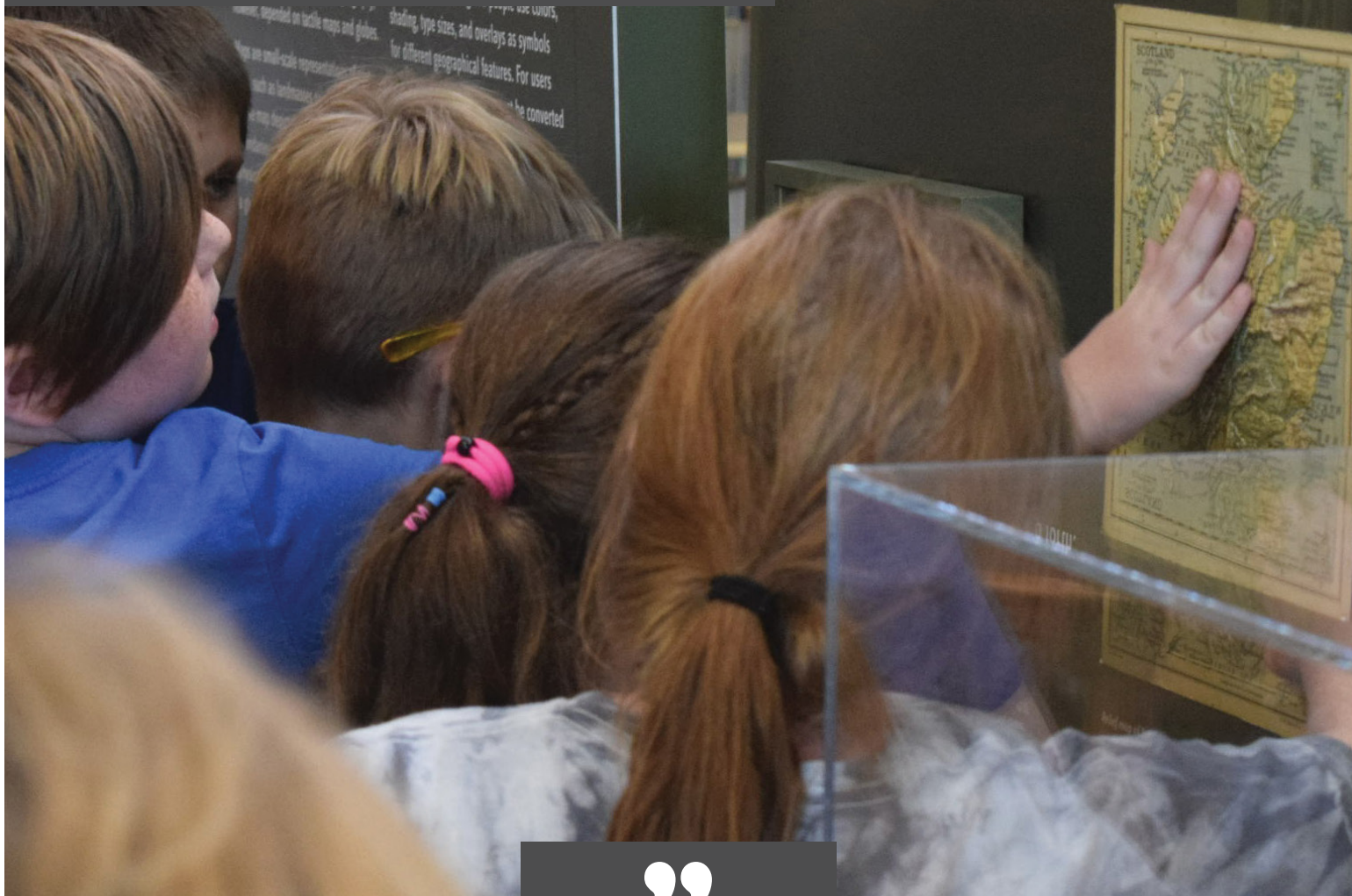
Presented Reading Programs for all ages

Introduced Little Seed Library

FALL

Hosted A Child in a Strange Country: Helen Keller and the History of the Education for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a traveling exhibit by the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind.

Library Programs



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We bus students to the Library every day after school, we take groups of students to the Library on field trips, and we look forward to the special events and activities hosted there. Library staff and volunteers never miss an opportunity to embrace our students and encourage their creativity and curiosity.

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- Allyson Dewey
Superintendent, Mountain Home Public Schools



A Child in a Strange Country Exhibit

The Library hosted *A Child in a Strange Country: Helen Keller and the History of the Education for the Blind and Visually Impaired*, a traveling exhibit by the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind in the fall of 2023. Using Helen Keller's educational journey as a lens, the exhibit used tactile reproductions and authentic artifacts to uncover the roots of modern education for children with vision loss. Library staff led organizations and groups of students from area schools on tours through the exhibit.

Homesteading Skills

The Library introduced a popular monthly program that presented a variety of topics like gardening, sustainable agriculture, regenerative grazing, natural building, solar energy, preserving harvests, and living a simpler and more sustainable life. The Library partnered with several different organizations and community members for this program such as the Baxter County Cooperative Extension Office, Fred Berry Crooked Creek Nature Center, Ponca Nature Center, and Phyllis Speer, hostess of *Cooking on the Wild Side*.

Picturing History

New in 2023, this program for 4th-6th grade students introduced historical figures, places, and events through the immersive medium of picture books. Attendees uncovered hidden gems from history and participated in enriching activities designed to deepen their understanding.

2023 Fast Facts

Library visits, total items circulated, and program attendance maintained steady or increased numbers from 2022 to 2023.



32,751

Library Card Holders



126,967

Library Visits



2,740

Hours of Operation



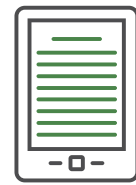
195,627

Items Circulated



23,780

eAudio Circulated



30,004

eBooks Circulated



99,754

Self Checkouts



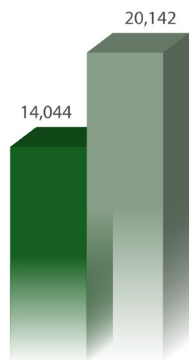
150

Units of Blood Donated

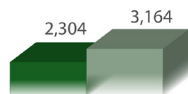


Just one donation can save up to three lives.*
Library patrons helped to save **450 lives** in 2023!

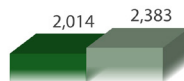
*www.hhs.gov



Children



Teens



Adults

■ 2022 ■ 2023

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

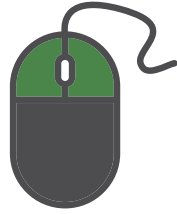
↑40%

Total

(18,362 → 25,689)

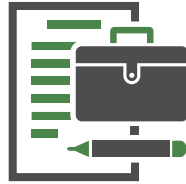
ABCmouse.com
Early Learning Academy

↑ 457%
(255 → 1,419)



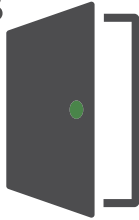
brainfuse
JobNow

↑ 68%
(80 → 134)



Meeting Room Users

↑ 29%
(3,333 → 4,300)



Computer Users

↑ 13%
(12,260 → 13,909)



WiFi Users

↑ 11%
(14,428 → 16,006)



Volunteer Hours

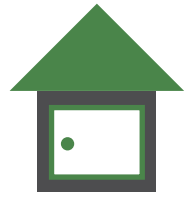
↑ 7%
(8,407 → 9,032)



Little Free Library

Books Distributed in Baxter County

↑ 125%



(1,294 → 2,909)

Followers Gained

Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter total

↑ 14%



(4,905 → 5,570)

**Dolly Parton
Imagination Library**

Baxter County Participants

↑ 2%



(1,031 → 1,050)

948 children have graduated from the program since it became available in Baxter County in March 2019!

Community Impact



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“The addition of the StoryWalk to the James and Sally Moore Recreational Trail at ASUMH provides exciting new opportunities for young readers through the connection of education and nature.”
.....

- Bentley Wallace
Chancellor, ASUMH



Baxter County Early Literacy Project

This community initiative continued to make great strides in 2023. Following through on our mission to equip all Baxter County children with the early literacy skills they need to enter Kindergarten, we distributed nearly 3,000 children's books through the Little Free Libraries located near schools, in parks, and at apartment complexes in Baxter County. Over 200 children were enrolled in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

In 2023, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library achieved remarkable milestones in fostering childhood literacy across the nation. With over 221 million books mailed out to children nationwide, the program continued its profound impact on young readers. Here in Baxter County, the Imagination Library showcased its dedication to community engagement through a series of successful outreach initiatives. At the Coulter Celebration of Lights, the project drew in 31 families for shared reading sessions and registered 9 children for the Imagination Library. This commitment to literacy outreach extended to other community events, including the Grover/Lakeview Volunteer Fire Department Open House and Jam Fest at Hickory Park. At these gatherings, the project registered a total of 10 children for the Imagination Library and engaged 26 families in the Read-on-the-Spot activity.

StoryWalk at ASUMH Walking Trail

The Library installed a StoryWalk along the James and Sally Moore Recreational Trail at ASUMH and unveiled the inaugural story "A Way with Wild Things," by Larissa Theule in August of 2023. The StoryWalk is a way for adults and their young children or grandchildren to combine literacy skills and healthy exercise as they walk around 1,600 feet to each of the 16 reading stations. Each station contains the pages of a children's book, featuring a new story approximately every three months. The StoryWalk is a free activity for all and is accessible during normal trail hours. The story begins at the James and Sally Moore Recreational Trailhead, which is located next to Gotaas Hall.

New & Exciting

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“The Little Seed Library is a wonderful addition that encourages people to garden. Gardening promotes health, provides exercise, saves money, and is good for the soul.”
.....

- Vicki Garner

Host of KTLO Radio's "Gardening in the Ozarks"



Little Seed Library

Perfectly timed for fall gardening or early spring planning, this initiative was introduced to offer patrons the opportunity to select up to five seed packets, igniting their journey into gardening. Whether cultivating a thriving garden or nurturing budding green spaces, patrons are encouraged to enjoy the fruits of their labor and donate any surplus seeds, fostering a culture of shared abundance. Conveniently located in the Library, upstairs, adjacent to the patio doors, this resource aims to inspire a community of growers.



Ales & Tales

Ales & Tales was an exciting new event in 2023. Held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at Rapp's Barren Brewing Company, it has become a popular and engaging gathering that offers attendees a unique opportunity for literary exploration and community interaction, featuring short stories or excerpts from novels read aloud. A portion of the proceeds generated from each event is earmarked for the Baxter County Library Foundation, providing vital support for essential Library programs and services.

Gale Interactive: Science

Introduced in 2023, Gale Interactive: Science is a dynamic new resource on the Baxter County Library website that brings the wonders of science to life! With interactive 3D models, users can immerse themselves in a world of exploration, zooming, rotating, and delving into intricate details like never before. Whether utilized for in-classroom demonstrations or individual study, Gale Interactive: Science offers an unparalleled learning experience, fostering a deeper understanding of scientific concepts with every interaction.

2023 Library Volunteers

The Library depends on wonderful volunteers who help provide unmatched service and support for the entire community by contributing over 9,000 volunteer hours in 2023!

Library Board

Deborah Chatman
Robert Clarke
Gwen Khayat
Carol Landrum
Joe Miles

Library Foundation Trustees

Robert Clarke
Kim Crow-Sheaner
Phil Garner
Jon Hiser
Deborah Knox
Jackie Morrison
Rebecca Murdock
Haley Plumlee
Katrina Neis
Sara Recktenwald
Christina White
Joshua Willard
Julie Wright

Advisory Foundation Board

Jeannie Alley
Ann Harned
Alison Humphry
Nancy Knopp
Shonda Litty
Heather Loftis
Joe Miles
Katrina Neis
Tobias Pugsley
Katie Risk
Jayna Rone
Nancy Scarpa
Leah Anne Stollis
Sarah Stuewe
Eric Totty
Beth VanderStek
Christina White

Friends of the Library Board

Kathy Bauwens*
Eileen Burg
Carolyn Clark
Mary Lou Duseberg*
Phil Garner
Pam Guth
Eileen Jenkins
Margie Kelly
Gwen Khayat*
Nancy Knopp
Evalyn Quinn
Maureen Rozelle
Barb Sandberg
Sarah Stuewe
Terry Wilson
JoBelle Zimmerman

Friends of the Library Book Sales

Kathy Bauwens
Mike Breton
Carolyn Clark
Ione Donahue
Jane Druff
Mary Lou Duseberg
Bonnie Harris
Suzanne Harrison
Eileen Jenkins
John Kelly
Margie Kelly
Gwen Khayat
Nancy Knopp
Rose Matta
Maureen Rozelle
Monty Shore
Ken Sickels
Scott Stuewe
Tom Tyslan
Janet Wheeler
Neal Wheeler
Terry Wilson
JoBelle Zimmerman

Volunteers

Kimberley Curtis
Jane Druff
Bonnie Elders
Ashley Finch
Linda Gantz
Donna Gibbs
Pam Guth
Bonnie Harris
Pam Johnson
Donna Kimes
Rachel Kosmitis
Susan Lee
Judy McNabb
Joan Michalek
Charlie Newsom
Kendra Pitchford
Sandy Priebe
Jayna Rone
Christina Schmid
Phyllis Speer
Elizabeth Tallman
Naomi Tallman
Susan Thomas
Jeanne Whittam
Gerald Wilde
Carol J. Wilson
Charles Wilson

Teen Volunteers

Hunter Belvedresi
Elise Clark
Teen Council
Ciera Cuckenbach
Brianna Ifland
Annie Newman
Jack Sheaner
Trevi Sheaner
Lillian Terpstra

Ales & Tales

Eric Dwyer
Kim Sachee
Christina White

Little Free Library

Sandra Heston
Jon Hiser
Ken Sickels
Kristen Wooldridge

Pollinator Garden

Sally Little
Mary Lynch

**2023 Presidential
Volunteer Award
Recipients**

Lifetime Award

Tony Faiz Khayat

Gold

Margie Kelly

Silver

Carolyn Clark

Jim Clevenger

Nancy Knopp

Charlotte Smith

David Smith

Rosalee St. Clair

Neal Wheeler

Bronze

Kathy Bauwens

Linda Brown

Vicki Donahue

Mary Lou Duseberg

Donna Enright

Eileen Jenkins

Genevieve McMillen

Jim Neff

Susan Nixon

Kathryn Nusbaum

Margaret Park

John Reckard

Maureen Rozelle

David Smith

Maggie Smyth

Barbara Soden King

Rosalee St. Clair

Sarah Stuewe

Suzanne Sutherland

Janet Wheeler

Terry Wilson

Jo Belle Zimmerman



A Friends of the Library volunteer, Tony Faiz Khayat, received a President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award for the 2023 year with over 4,000 volunteer hours.



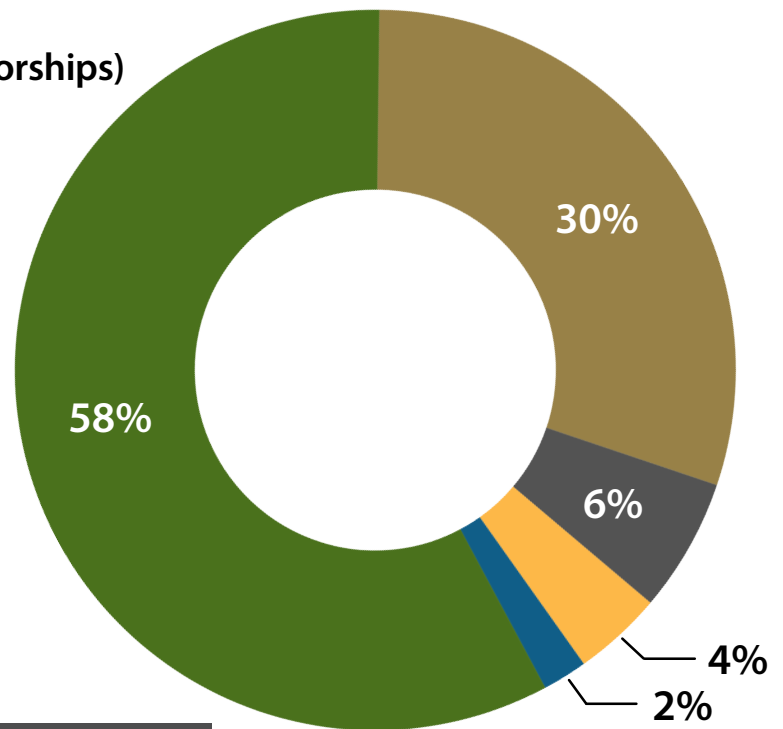
Tony Faiz Khayat was awarded the "I Partner With My Public Library Award" in an online ceremony presented by Let's Move in Libraries. This national award recognizes outstanding community partners who collaborate with their public library to transform communities through public health initiatives.

Support for the Library

The Library depends on significant revenue from the Baxter County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library to supplement a 1 mill Baxter County Property Tax, which has remained unchanged since the 1950s.

2023 Library Revenue: \$1,372,875

- 58%** Baxter County Property Taxes
- 30%** Library Foundation (Including Donations & Sponsorships)
- 6%** State Aid
- 4%** Miscellaneous (Fines, Fees, Café Rental)
- 2%** Friends of the Library



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“Our Library supports Baxter County by providing critical access to information, offering a wide range of activities for all ages, and enhancing the educational development of our community.”
.....

- Robert Clarke
Library Board Chair



Katie and Mike Risk accepted the 2023 Heart of the Library Award.

Library Foundation

The Library Foundation's year-end giving campaign, Wrap it Up for the Library, was another success, raising almost \$90,000 in support of the Library. Other fundraising events rounded out the year for the Foundation including Library Giving Day and two Ante Up for the Library Texas Hold'em Tournaments.



Friends of the Library

In 2023, The Friends of the Baxter County Library achieved yet another year of success. Building upon their established quarterly Used Books Sales and Silent Auctions, the Friends introduced exciting additions to their fundraising repertoire, including a highly popular rummage sale and quilt raffle. The Friends honored Janet and Neal Wheeler as the first couple to be awarded Emeritus of the Friends of the Baxter County Library for their years of exemplary contributions. The Friends also presented three scholarships, amounting to \$3,300, to graduating seniors from Baxter County. Additionally, they approved a funding request of \$31,100 for the Baxter County Library, affirming their steadfast dedication to fostering educational enrichment within the community.



2023 Foundation Donors

The Baxter County Library is extremely grateful to those who give to the Library. This year, the Foundation received two transfers of stock to help secure the Library's future funding. All of our 2023 donors helped support a variety of Library programs and services.

Advanced Auto Body Repair
Alan and Barbara Amman
Marilyn Allen
Jeannie Alley
Carolyn Anderson
Anstaff Bank
Stella Anthony
Arkansas Community Foundation
Dallas and Jann Arnold
Arvest Bank
Jack Henry Atkins
Auto Services Company, Inc.
John and Carol Badsky
Carl and Kathy Baker
Ballard & Company, Ltd.
Monty and Joan Barker
Jim and Karen Barnes
Baxter Health
John Beecroft
Kenneth and Carol Beeman
Steven and Susan Blumreich
David and Catherine Bodenhamer
Bookworms Cafe At The Library
Bobbi Brown
BSI-Medical Billing
Robert and Eileen Burg
Anita Buswell
Mike and Joyce Cameron
Caroline Carroll
Carter's Jewel Chest
Centennial Bank
Century Bank of the Ozarks
Neil and Jill Chandler
Ira and Deborah Chatman
Steven and Catherine Chatman
Barbara Clark
Carolyn Clark
James and Denise Clarke
Robert and Michelle Clarke
Mark and Nikki Connelly
Dave and Jane Cornue
Kelly Cowie
Cynthia Crosby
Janet Cryts
Milton and Beverly Dahlke
Sue A Daigle
Danfoss
Kevin and Jilleen Darraca
DeAtley Dental Care
David Diederich
Steve and Tracy Dunn
Dan Durham
Mary Lou Duseberg

Howard Duvall
Dvorak, Adeline A Hais Living Trust
Brenda Earp
Eric and Julie Eckberg
Jim Eikman
John and Anna Marie Eitenmiller
Jane Elder
Greg and Michele Elders
Lana Ellibee
Sarah Ellison
Thomas and Miriam Emerick
Ben and Anita Emerson
Nell Engeler
Donald and Donna Enright
Entergy
Dean and Linda Estoll
Judith Ezell
Farmers & Merchants Bank
Jeffrey and Kathleen Ferro
Fidelity Charitable
R. Scott and Neilla Flanagan
Clark and Janice Fletcher
FNBC
Tom Fox
Henry Fredericks and Marian O'Leary
Freeman Holdings Of Arkansas, LLC
Ruth Gaines
Phil and Vicki Garner
Genuine Care Pharmacy, Inc.
Robert Giovanini
Peggy Goolsby
Alyssa Gordon
Bette Gould
Rick and Jinger Gower
Barbara Graham
Gregory Company, Inc.
Mary Suzanne Griscom
Randy and Kris Grover
Evelyn Hackler
Mike and Kelly Hagaman
Tommy Hagan
Warren Haley
Dana Hammond
Jerry Hanson
Edith Harper
Michael and Sherry Harris
Robin Hawkins
Bonnie Heenan
Jon and Corrine Hiser
Jeffrey and Susan Hoeper
Ideal Weight Loss
Sandy and Mark Irby
Charles Itzig

Jason Seth James
Priscilla Jamnicky
Betty and Wallace Jardine
Jay Chafin Insurance Agency Inc.
Robert and Eileen Jenkins
Kathryn Jones
Peter and Vicki Kauth
Tony Faiz and Gwen Khayat
Donna and Bill Kimes
Gordon King
Kirby & Family Funeral Services
Nancy Knopp
Tom and Deborah Knox
Laurie Kollins Moore
Jim and Wylaine Korbek
Rachel Kosmitis
Marbella Krahn
David and Amy Kranda
Lynn and Carol Landrum
Steve and Darlene Landrum
Joy Lekin
Glenda Lenz
Bruce and Marilyn Loveless
Jane Iukowich
Janet Luter
Nicole Mardis
Dirk and Carol Martin
Robert and Cynthia Martin
Rose Matta
Matter Family Office
Clay and Heather Maxey
Kyle and Lynn McAlister
Bill and Kathy McClellan
David and Cheryl McConkey
Jason and Laney McConnell
Craig and Judith McNabb
Larry and Glynda McNair
Susan McNutt
Richard Mehl
Ann Melero
Joe and Kathryn Miles
Fred and Nancy Miller
Lynn Miller
Judy Moen
Jerold and Arlene Montgomery
Leroy Moore
Sally Moore
Jackie Morrison
Mountain Home ENT & Allergy
North Arkansas Electric Cooperative
Jim and Jackie Neff
John and Katrina Neis
Mitchell and Mary Ann Nielsen

North Arkansas Woodcarvers Club, Inc.
 Nosari Home Mortgage
 Toni DeMers Olden
 Open Arms Learning Center Inc
 Ozark Eye Center
 John and Cheryl Ozols
 Bryan and Sarah Paggen
 Richard and Dianne Pankau
 Donnie and Diane Park
 Margaret K. Park
 Steve and Susan Parsons
 Mary Margaret Pearson
 Peter and Jan Peitz
 PEO Sisterhood International
 Donna Perrin
 Steve Perry
 Cynthia Peterson
 Mary Peterson
 Kevin and Hayley Plumlee
 Danny and Nell Ponder
 Potpourri Extension Homemaker Club
 Shirley Poynter
 Jim and Nancy Priest
 Gary and Nan Quinney
 Sally Rae
 Jeanette Raino
 Reading Women Book Club
 Sara Recktenwald
 Regional Orthopaedic Health Care
 Bill and Lyda Reynolds
 Sam and Estella Rhoades
 Mike and Katie Risk

Tom and Janie Robbins
 Cathy Roever
 Stan and Shirley Rohr
 Jayna Rone
 Connie Rose
 Sherry Rossa
 Carol Rossell-Lesher
 Phil and Nancy Saar
 Barb Sandberg
 Paula Scapillato
 Mark and Ann Segura
 Sonny Sharp
 Mark and Kim Sheaner
 Tom Short
 Barbara Skeffington
 David and Charlotte Smith
 Deborah Jo Smith
 John and Cheryl Spore
 Betty Springer
 Ray and Edie Stahl
 Don Stanuch
 Chris Steiger
 Bill and Colleen Stephenson
 Steve and Rebecca Stichman
 Janelle Stookey
 Susan Embrey Storm
 Marty and Pat Stripeik
 Judy Strother
 Scott and Sarah Stuewe
 John and Cathy Sullivant
 Suzanne Sutherland
 Kelle Swanson

Rojean Taylor
 John and Kim Terrell
 Todd Gilbert Insurance
 Michael Tully
 David and Patricia Turner
 Twin Lakes Computer Users Group
 Twin Lakes Writers
 Ultimate Auto Group, Inc.
 United Way of North Central Arkansas
 Nina Vaag
 John and Deanna Van Eps
 Jess and Elizabeth VanderStek
 Trudy Vimini
 Robert and Mary Walker
 James Wallace and Mary Lee Hu
 Terre Green Ware
 Otis and Shelley Warr
 William Weeks
 West Plains Bank & Trust Company
 Neal and Janet Wheeler
 Michael and Ivy Wilcox
 Linda Williamson
 Jack and Kay Wilson
 Jo Wilson
 Julie Wright
 Yelcot Communications
 Dennis Young
 John Young
 Sherry Zelonka
 JoBelle Zimmerman
 Lang Zimmerman



Katie and Mike Risk revealed the 2023 Baxter County Library Foundation Donor Wall.

Letter from the Director



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“Portraying our first official Baxter County Librarian, Margie Dahlke, at the Baxter County Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2023, moved me greatly. It reinforced what I already knew – Libraries are the heart of their communities.”

.....
- Kim Crow Sheaner
Executive Director, Baxter County Library

Portraying our first official Baxter County Librarian, Margie Dahlke, at the Baxter County Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2023, moved me greatly. It reinforced what I already knew – Libraries are the heart of their communities. The recollections of people who grew up with fond memories of Margie and the Library spoke volumes about the value of a vibrant public library. We at the Library are proud to be a part of that legacy, providing opportunities for learning, family bonding, and life enriching experiences for the people of Baxter County.

In 2023, we saw increases in many aspects of our operations - in program attendance, circulation, WiFi users, and volunteer hours, to name a few. We introduced a Seed Library, opened a StoryWalk on the James and Sally Moore Recreational Trail at ASUMH, and doubled the number of children's books distributed through Little Free Libraries. Library staff continued to touch lives through innovative programs and exciting exhibits.

The year 2024 will kick off with a series of educational programming designed to enhance the total eclipse viewing experience with astronomical programs, a space-themed escape room, programs about the solar system, Sunscopes, Sunoculars, solar ovens, and more. Summer will feature reading challenges and educational, mini-camps for kids with the theme "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Fall will welcome The Art Odyssey Tour of artists' studios and the Read | Write | Ignite Literary series featuring an impressive line-up of authors and illustrators.

We look forward to serving our community in 2024 the same way Margie did back in 1956, with love and a commitment to inspiring imagination, igniting interests, and enabling learning.



Kim Crow Sheaner
Library Director



Library Staff



Congratulations to the Baxter County Library staff for an outstanding year of serving our community.

Inspiring Imagination | Igniting Interests | Enabling Learning

BaxterCountyLibrary.org

(870) 580-0987 | 300 Library Hill, Mountain Home, AR 72653