The mission of the library is to support literacy, life long learning, and cultural enhancement for all generations of our diverse community.
A Note From The Library Services Director

Dear Library Supporters and Patrons,

This has been another fantastic year at the library as we strive to meet the ever changing needs of the community we serve. The Beardsley Library has been part of Winsted's landscape since the late 1800s, and it continues to stand at the end of Main Street serving as a bright spot in town. As you read through the pages of this report, you will see highlights of the ways in which we fulfill our mission of supporting literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enhancement for all generations of our diverse community. The library is no longer simply a quiet place to locate books and information, it is a community center providing access to many valuable resources both physically and electronically. We could not deliver on our promise without the hard work and dedication of our Board of Trustees, Staff, Friends of the Library, and Volunteers. I thank each of them for their love and commitment to the library, the people who visit here, and all the residents of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Winsted.

Sincerely,

Karin Taylor,

Library Services Director

The Year At A Glance:

Total Collection Size:
37,847

Total Circulation:
58,732

Total Program Attendance:
4,450

Library Patrons Added:
570

Computer Usage:
2,800

Reference Questions Answered:
1,390
Promoting Literacy

Library 2 You

Last July, the Beardsley Library launched a program to utilize a group of volunteers from the community to deliver library materials to residents of Winsted, Barkhamsted, and Colebrook who are unable to come to the library due to physical limitations and medical conditions. We began by soliciting volunteers, and were overwhelmed by the response from the community. Not only did individuals agree to support the program by becoming volunteer delivery drivers, Klebe Fuel Company in Winsted also came on board as a source for the delivery of materials.

Since the launch of the program in July of 2016, 25 residents have registered to receive deliveries and 12 volunteer drivers have delivered over 700 items to those people. The types of items delivered have included all the materials available at the library, including such things as tax forms, DVDs, and audiobooks. People registered for the homebound service have access to any and all materials and information they would have access to within the walls of the library.

Outreach Services

The library began an outreach literacy program this year to engage patrons from local group homes and adult day care facilities. Once a month, groups visit the children's room to enjoy reading books and doing crafts with our children's services librarian. Other groups visit weekly and engage in library activities with their caretakers.

A Center for The Community

The library serves as a meeting place for numerous groups, including book clubs, a Scrabble club, the Northwest Knitwits, Girl Scouts, and many more. Last year nearly 1200 people met at the library for public sponsored programs.
Reaching Out

You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

-------Dr. Seuss

The Library was joined by members of the Winsted Pirates baseball team on our Pet Parade float this year. Special thanks to Laurel City Towing for providing the truck!

Children's Services

——Carol Parent, Children's Services Specialist

July, 2016 found us already deep into our Summer Reading Program theme, “Exercise You Mind, READ!” From decorating Frisbees to designing paper Indian Kites, visiting with exotic creatures to Mad Scientists, we had 950 people attending our regular and special summer programs.

Studies have shown that children who participate in reading programs during the summer maintain or improve their reading skills when they return to school in September.

Over 500 of our total attendance for July and August joined us for Story Time! Story Time programs for preschoolers also offer many benefits including the development of listening skills and helping children become better readers and learners.

2017 started off with a fun and noisy New Year’s Party, a blow out Beauty and the Beast extravaganza in March and a series of outreach story times with the Colebrook Kindergarten students and two first grade classes in Barkhamsted which continued through June.

During April, Libraries celebrate National Library Week which coincide with our area school’s spring vacation. We held special programs about bugs and butterflies and brought in an entertaining magical magician.

In May through June the home school science classes began again and we also started further collaboration with area schools by promoting the 2017 Summer Reading Program during several assemblies.

11,350 Children's items circulated in 2016-17

Over 500 children’s programs were offered and attended by over 2,500 people.

The library was a magical place during Spring Break in April 2017!

Two children's room patrons enjoying a treat at the New Year's Party.

The Library was joined by members of the Winsted Pirates baseball team on our Pet Parade float this year.
Teen Literacy

— Talisha Blackburn, Teen Services

The Teen Services Department was a busy place this past year. The teens made mittens out of old donated sweaters in November of 2016, and donated the mittens and unused sweaters to the Homeless Shelter at the Winsted YMCA.

For Prom season, different business vendors came out to Beardsley to help the students get ready for prom time. Among these vendors were Sheer Dimensions of Torrington, and Men’s WearHouse of West Simsbury. Gift certificates were also donated by T&T Nails of Winsted. Dresses were donated from members of the community, and Time After Time Boutique of Winsted.

During Summer Reading, teens worked on different STEM related crafts that encouraged them to build, create, and use their imagination and their critical thinking skills. At one such workshop, the teens built miniatures using Project blocks (1 inch painted foam blocks).

The YA room added a new shelving unit, and also a new seating area. On a bookshelf near the seating area, we’ve added new maker space boxes for teens to use in house. These boxes have different crafts for them to do such as; felting, artist markers, pixel beads, and duct tape crafts.

2,240 items from the YA collection circulated this year.

150 Teens attended library programs.

Making mittens for a cause.

Bristle Bot robots using small batteries, tiny motors, and the head of a toothbrush. They then raced their completed robots. The next workshop, teens had to draw the blueprint of a medieval castle, and then construct it into a 3-D model.

2nd Annual Once Upon A Prom

Community Connections
The Genealogy & Local History Room (G&LHR) continues to expand its resources, in response to a growing interest in local history and family roots. In addition to research requests and in-house projects, scholarly research has increased. In 2016/17, two historians extensively researched The Gilbert Home for Children. Another researched the Civil Conservation Corp in CT, including camps in Winsted and Barkhamsted. Both searches resulted in programs at the library.

The G&LHR is increasingly sharing resources with museums, historical societies, and civic organizations, within the community and beyond. The American Mural Project recently invited me to be interviewed and to describe my job at the library. Local history topics might be included in future exhibits at AMP.

The G&LHR encourages the donation of local history memorabilia and has recently received audio-visuals, books, documents, maps, journals, photographs, scrapbooks, and other items relating to Winsted and surrounding communities. The Winsted Journal donated 31 bound volumes of the newspaper, dating from 1999 to 2015. They available in the library’s Biography Room.

A new patron computer was recently installed in the G&LHR, to provide access to the library’s web-page, Ancestry.com, and other genealogy websites. A second computer is being used to access the Winsted newspapers on microfilm, which date from 1856 to the present. My newspaper column, “On Winsted and Winchester,” which has appeared in the Winsted Journal for several years, will soon be available on the library’s webpage.

Several volunteers have been of great assistance, in researching topics such as Winsted’s camps, cemeteries, streets, and natural disasters. They have also indexed and organized many resources in the G&LHR and assisted with searching through the newspapers on microfilm.

The bookshelf located outside the G&LHR offers circulating copies of many resources that were formerly for reference use only. It has been very well received by patrons. The glass display cases, across from the G&LHR, continue to feature historical topics and are done in collaboration with Talisha Blackburn, our Young Adult Librarian.

Many Winsted resources have been digitized and placed on the Local History webpage, including city directories, centennial publications, history books, and a number of smaller works. Future goals for the G&LHR are to digitize additional resources and to increase our subscriptions to genealogy-based websites.
Cultural Enhancement

The library offered over 30 educational and entertaining programs this past year and has ongoing opportunities for learning. Below are a few highlights of what we've been doing.

Life Long Learning

This year the library held a series of programs called "Try It Tuesdays" where patrons learned a variety of new skills and were able to try out different arts and crafts activities.

The Winchester Land Trust sponsored a visit from White Memorial for a program entitled "Nature's Not So Cuddly Creatures".

4,450 people attended programs at the library from July of 2016 to June of 2017.
The library supported information literacy by hosting a series of one-on-one training sessions for older adults to learn how to utilize technology, including computers, smart phones, and tablets. Local college and high school students volunteered as mentors for the program. Over 40 sessions were held.

"Jessica helped me use Skype to connect with my family overseas. I'm so grateful for her help!" ~Sylvia G.

This year the library offered ongoing one-on-one career, resume, and job search coaching thanks to the generosity of our volunteer, Jeff Crothers. Over 60 sessions were held for adults seeking Jeff's assistance with career counseling.

Northwestern Regional 7 student volunteer, Jacob T., teaches a patron how to create an email account and compose and send a message.