



Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville

2023

Annual Report



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Hello! I hope you join me in looking forward to 2024! In this report on the past year of 2023, I am led to an optimistic outlook when I review the many successes of the twelve months just past.

In the first year of implementing our 3-year Strategic Plan, we increased our programming in response to community direction. We ended up having very popular food preparation and tasting programs, and many more crafting programs (as well as some permanent crafting groups). We launched a new Nest of Things Collection, specializing in tools and devices to expand our Maker Space activities to our patrons off-site. Our Music Series continued and had some very successful free concerts on Friday nights after hours. Our community room(s) and meeting rooms were very popular once again. (They can be reserved online!)

Our walk-in traffic increased 23% to 86,170 (maybe in response to our shifting our open hours to 9am to 8pm most weekdays), and our 2023 circulation check outs set a new record that was over 5% more than our previous all-time best.

“Re-vamping” our Makerspace, the Hive, was just one of the big projects of the past year. We also started an annual event hosting a Volunteer Expo, and we additionally hosted the Senior Capstone project for JD High School. We again are hosting Red Cross Blood Drives. We hope to have Electrical Vehicle Chargers in place this year in partnership with the Town of DeWitt, and thanks to financial aid from the NY State Library Construction agency.

If you have not been to the Library lately, please stop by in 2024 and see our beautiful award-winning design, our materials for checkout (from video games to movies, and of course books), **OR** visit our website and check out our digital audio books, our digital books and magazines, and even digital movies!

As always, I’d like to thank the Library Board of Trustees and the community for their dedication and ongoing support.

Charles Diede, Executive Director

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2023 By the Numbers



Visits	86,170
New library cards	693
Total circulation	342,283
Digital downloads/streams	59,076
Items added	6,241
Reference questions	10,195
Programs/workshops	576
Total program attendance	11,908
Meeting room reservations	2,470
Computer sessions	4,755
Wi-Fi log ins	8,268
Social Media visits	38,061
Website hits	64,291

Summer Learning Program

All Together Now



READsquared
Habit Forming

The “All Together Now” **Summer Learning Program** (which ran from June 26 to August 20) was a ginormous success, and reading was tracked using READSquared, a reading program software. The Library ran reading programs for Early Literacy/Pre-K (ages 0-5), Children (Age 6 -11), Teens (ages 12-18) and Adults.

Children Participants: 391
Minutes Read: 253,122

Pre-K Participants: 62

We had an increase in Children’s participation by 68%,
and pre-K participants increased by 87%!

Teen Participants: 91
Minutes Read: 123,498 (up 39%!)

Adults Registered: 162
(Adult registration more than doubled!!!)

LIVE Onsite Summer Learning Presentations

As part of the Summer Learning Program, the CLD&J offered programming focused on family and children. These programs were generously **sponsored by the *Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville***. The shows and presentations were very successful and highly attended.

Among the special events: **Music with Donna B.; Circus for All; The Great & Powerful Dave; Dusty and Dott on the Road!**; and **Tie Dye for Kids**. All of these programs were geared for kids in grades K to 5, and these programs, out of all our great summer programs, brought hundreds of kids and their parents to the library.

2023 Library Service Highlights

School Supply Exchange

The School Supply Exchange, now located in the children's room, continues to go strong! Since beginning the exchange in 2022 we have received hundreds of item donations. Those donations are going out regularly to students in need.



Home Delivery Service

This service is a free, monthly, and contactless delivery of library materials to residents of the Library's Jamesville & DeWitt service area who are unable to visit the library due to a temporary or permanent illness, disability, or compromised immune system. It's also available to mothers of newborns.

One-on-One Tech Appointments

Ongoing since even before the pandemic, the Library offered tech appointments for patrons needing digital assistance and training. These one-hour appointments are held in The HIVE Makerspace Staff, and are very popular, with usually every slot reserved.

Outdoor Activities

A **Sidewalk Obstacle Course** created by our Children's Librarians (a few years ago), encouraged playful learning activities in colorful chalk. Children and their parents were frequently seen engaging in the physical activities depicted on the sidewalk

Outreach in the Community

Book Club for Seniors

In its third year of 2023, the book club at the Nottingham Retirement Community has continued to be popular, with a steady attendance growing to as many as 40 participants. The book club meets monthly and is hosted by Outreach Services.



wrapping around our building to our rear patio. But two teen volunteers refreshed it last summer (much needed) and it's again in use and much appreciated!

Hygiene Pockets

Individuals are often in need of items like toothbrushes and paste, wet wipes, socks, deodorants and soap or hand sanitizers. Such items are now available in our restrooms for the taking. Donations appreciated!

Color Printing in the Library

At the very end of 2022, color printing as an option was added to our wireless printing network. After a year, we are glad to say that printing usage was tripled in 2023.

Art in the Library

The Library's Art Committee had many successful showings in the Wendy Scott Art Gallery, including our now annual group show. The Black Artist Collective showing garnered particular public acclaim.



Library Highlights

Bringing Programs & Services to Patrons

The Library is not contained within our great facility alone; we also work outside our walls to serve DeWitt & Jamesville.

Some highlights included:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Briana Galea continued as the Head of the Children's Department, and Jeanie Nguyen as Children's Librarian (previously our Children's Services Specialist).

Meghan Wilson continued on the team as our Children's Paralibrarian, and we created more programs for Homeschool youth.

Some noteworthy highlights:

Toddler Tea Parties

Miss Jeanie hosts these VERY popular special times for our pre-K kids.



Children's Services Librarian Jeanie Nguyen attends the tea party as Belle.

Homeschool Art & Science Club

Each month, the group met and focused on a science and/or art topic. There was exploration, examination, team work, and creativity, all while making learning together a fun and exciting endeavor. And yes, socialization.

TEEN PROGRAMMING

Paige Walsh served their 2nd year as Teen / YA Librarian, as well as serving on the Outreach Services team.

Some great teen events took place:

Super Smash Brothers Tournament

A tournament for this popular video game was successful enough that a sequel is planned.

Gingerbread House Decorating

Teens came to the library to assemble and decorate their own gingerbread houses. They got to take home the houses when they were done!

Capstone Project Reception

The Library served as the host venue for the 2023 JDHS Capstone event, featuring the projects of seniors at JDHS. Those projects were showcased to friends, families and the public at an evening event throughout the Library

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Cassidy Miller continued in her role of Assistant Director for Technology. While our Hive Maker Space was rejuvenated and practically exploded with new programming, another effort she led was the introduction of a new collection—The Nest of Things, physical tools and objects to extend maker skills outside the building.

3D Printing

Patrons were able to remotely order 3D printing back in 2021, but 2023 saw both remote orders and in-person usage increase greatly.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Alyssa Newton begins 2024 as the new Assistant Director for Patron Services. New plans are afoot while we continue with great existing programs.

CLD&J Music Series

In 2023, we were pleased to continue the CLD&J Music Series. The series, held on Friday evenings, is hosted in the Library afterhours. This allows us to take advantage of the library's open space and offer a wonderful cabaret-style experience for both performers and attendees.

Fiber Arts Club

The enthusiasm of participants in our Hive Makerspace programs led to the formation of a weekly club that met throughout 2023; it's members are very consistent attenders!

Food Based Adult Programs

Adults were invited to be educated while sampling/tasting various foods, such as cheese, honey, and even mushrooms! Experts from the community and business owners partnered for these "sold-out" events.



Buried Acorn brews up a tasting of their craft beers at a tasting program in 2023.

Mystery Book Club

Last year, the monthly club explored 3 themes: mysteries by Jewish authors, capers set in Florida, and finally, cozy mysteries in library or bookstore settings in New England.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sara Jo Brandt continues in the role of Community Engagement Coordinator and Outreach Services Librarian. Many outreach opportunities started up in 2023, as well as keeping up long-standing activities.

Volunteer Expo

The Library hosted this opportunity for various volunteer staffed groups to recruit much-needed assistance. It was held throughout the building and was very popular.

Virtual-Hybrid Book Clubs

We continued our successful monthly Page Turners book club which reads modern fiction and nonfiction. Additionally, we had a book club meet virtually with our sister Library in Ghana!

New Collections & Partnerships

The Nest of Things Collection

As the popularity of our Hive Makerspace and its programming exploded in 2023, our team thought to let patrons “take home” the maker experiences with a group of items and tools that could be checked out.



Items include such diverse “things” such as jewelry repair kits, sewing tool kits, flower presses, button makers, bongo drums, and the ever popular Cricut Joy machine (A Cricut is a digital die-cutting machine that is able to cut many different materials for a crafter to use in a plethora of craft projects.) This new collection made its debut in September of 2023.



Cricut Joy
Part of the Nest of Things Collection introduced in 2023.

CLD&J's
Great Give Back

The Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville's

Great Give Back

As part of our outreach initiatives, the CLD&J features local non-profit organizations that serve as vital resources and highlights the work they do in support of our shared community.

The Library draws attention to local non-profit organizations that serve as vital resources for our community.

The CNY Diaper Bank, providing free diaper supplies to needy families, and the Syracuse Rescue Mission were organizations featured in our lobby, which served as a collection point for materials, as well as being featured in our newsletters and our social media.

Additionally, our Volunteer Expo, first hosted in 2023, represents a time, venue and opportunity for volunteer groups to recruit new members, maximizing their chances to advance their goals for their many worthy causes.

Partnerships with DeWitt and Jamesville

The Library supported and participated in community events, such as Halloween Trunk and Treat in DeWitt, and tree-lighting and holiday events in Jamesville and DeWitt. Additionally, the Library partners with the Town at the Food Sense Pick Up program and with the Senior Center.

Partnering with the Klim Center

The Library partners with the community at the Center's PM program and the People in Action program.



2023 Financial Summary

2023 Operating Revenue

Tax Levy	1,575,857
Library Charges (lost fees, etc.)	2,730
Grants - programs	2,168
Book sales	3,489
Library system services aid	5,545
Copier/printing	2,414
Interest	6,025
Misc.	562
Gifts/Fundraising	27,927
Total 2023 Revenue	1,626,717

2023 Operating Expense

Payroll/benefits	903,034
Mortgage/Mortgage Covenant	127,106
Mortgage interest	116,716
Building operations /maintenance / repairs	160,350
Insurance	31,126
Collections	128,503
Programs, workshops, events	18,210
Tech licenses/Software	12,043
Library system charges	26,040
Supplies/postage	8,031
Continuing education	3,550
Equipment/Computer	2,497
PR/marketing	601
Telecommunications	6,802
Misc.	1,796
Audit	11,250
Consulting/professional services	8,365
Fundraising Expense	1,245
Payroll/svcs	6,150
Total 2023 Expenses	1,573,775



The complete 2023 DeWitt Community Library Audit Report with the 2023 990 Form will be made available to the public on the Library web site at <http://cldandj.org/> after the report has been approved by the Library Board of Trustees. Audit figures may differ slightly from the above due to auditors' adjusting entries completed after publication of this report.

Thank You, Donors & Friends

The support of community residents, businesses, partners, Friends of the CLD&J and volunteers all helped us adapt to the ever-changing difficulties of providing programs and services during 2023. Thank you for your generosity and support!

2022-2023 Annual Fund Drive Donors (11/1/2022—3/31/2023)

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CNY Irish Cultural Society
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Special Thanks to:

The Friends of the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville for their ongoing support of our Summer Reading Program and other educational programming.

