



2021 gratitudereport



Building beyond books

What we do

The Bozeman Public Library Foundation raises funds for capital improvements and a wide variety of vital programs, services, and community events. We do this by securing donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

Why this is important

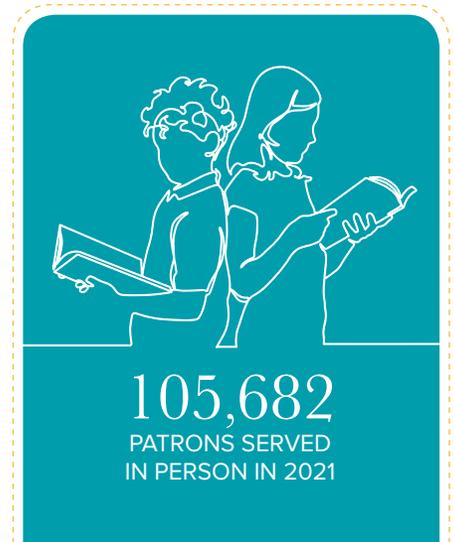
Tax dollars support basic Library operations yet aren't sufficient to fund programs and services at the level our community deserves. Our supporters provide critical funding for efforts that create lifelong learners, provide equitable access for all, celebrate Bozeman's cultural vibrancy, and build a healthy, connected community.

Here's what your support makes possible:

- Children's Summer Reading programs
- Early Childhood Literacy Outreach
- The Bookmobile
- Mobile internet hotspot and computer laptop lending
- SymBozium, a civil discourse series
- Children's Festival of the Book
- Live music events
- Adult movement classes
- Public art
- Building enhancements
- And much, much more

Front cover photo: Bozeman youngster Zamiro Bailey explores the Library's children's section with dad Gavin.

Photos (clockwise from top): The Bookmobile travels to communities across Gallatin County. | Eliana Sonntag cuddles a rabbit at a Children's Summer Reading event. | A live raptor show teaches families about local wildlife.







CIRQUE



“Kids innately love stories. They become strong readers when we make reading joyful.” – Ellie Newell | Youth Services Librarian

Your donations in action

On a stormy August day, the Library turned into a circus. Literally.

Professional jugglers dazzled kids on the front plaza, while aerial acrobats and a pizza bus added to the carnival atmosphere. The blowout party was the final act in a summer celebrating kids at the Library, and it felt particularly joyful after a dismal pandemic summer the year before.

And when the kids finally dispersed, the stacks of books they lugged home brought the biggest smiles to librarians' faces. After all, those books and the reading they encouraged were a key part of the effort.

At the close of 2021, "crisis" feels like a word we've heard all too much. Yet **children are in an unprecedented reading crisis**, stemming from school disruptions and a dearth of teachers. In the youngest grades, reading skills are at a 20-year low in some places.

The Bozeman Public Library's programs can transform these children's lives by bringing families to the Library and increasing their access to reading resources. From Summer Reading programs to take-home book bags to free gifts of books for families visiting the local food bank, **the Library's donor-funded programs tackle the reading crisis right here in our community.** You, our generous supporters, make this possible.

While the youngest children have spent most of their lives in a world that has been anything but normal, their Library has remained an anchor of creativity, support, and fun-filled learning.

Photo: A unicyclist captivates the crowd at the End of Summer Celebration of Reading.



New spaces await at your Bozeman Public Library

Thanks to support from our loyal donors, the BPL Forward capital campaign is ready to bring new spaces to the Bozeman Public Library! The renovation begins in Fall 2022.

Library and City leadership worked with design professionals in 2021 to develop and fine tune the plans for the renovation. We invited many longtime supporters and our board of directors to make early gifts to the capital campaign. **Through the generosity of these close partners, we have raised \$5.2 million toward the \$5.6 million goal.**

In 2022, we're extending the invitation to all Library lovers to invest in these impactful changes.

New spaces in your renovated Library include:

- **Learning labs** for hands-on creativity. Think cooking demos, 3-D printing, and art classes. For individual discovery, our renovated reading room will provide dedicated quiet space.
- A **new recording studio** for podcasters, musicians, and others to share their art and ideas with the community and beyond.

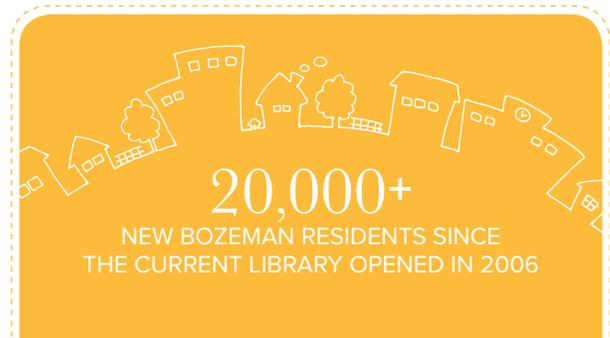
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- A **newly created Hub**, with views of Lindley Park, to meet neighbors, read, and browse the Friends of the Bozeman Public Library used bookstore. New energy-efficient lighting in the hub and across the public space will reduce energy consumption by 76%.
- Additional **meeting rooms** to come together with neighbors for informative events, community meetings, book clubs, and more.

The renovation marks the first phase of a two-step plan to improve Library service across Gallatin Valley. The second phase, due to begin in 2023, will focus on a west side branch library.

Photo: The new Hub at the center of the Library will encourage conversation and community building.

[Learn more](#)





“I am so grateful for the Library's free meeting rooms and training spaces. The space has been an amazing resource for our local nonprofit community.”

– Jill Ellwood | One Valley Community Foundation





“Thanks for a good library.
It is one of the joys in my life.” - Library Patron



A place for community where everyone is welcome

Every weekday, as soon as the Library opens, a retiree climbs the stairs to work on the latest puzzle laid out on a community table. Nearby, a homeless veteran finds a familiar corner to dive into a history book. And in the children's room, a toddler greets friends while her mother settles into a rocking chair with a newborn.

The Library's first function may be to provide access to knowledge, but for many, the most important one is that it provides community. **Virtually no other place exists where absolutely everyone is welcome to get warm, stay as long as they want, access all resources equally, and enjoy the company of others—all without spending a dime.**

A crisis of loneliness, once mostly confined to elders, now devastates people across the age spectrum, including teens. Two years into the global pandemic, the act of simply gathering together often feels fraught. Yet at the Library, with its generous spaces and welcoming nooks, community re-emerges.

Photos (clockwise from left):

Shirley Davidson and friends catch up in a Library nook. | The Read to a Dog program brings canine companionship. | Free kids' books and activities remind food bank visitors their library is there for them.

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For those community members whose burdens have become heavier these last two years, the Library has expanded crucial support. The donor-funded Open Door program discreetly connects patrons with social services for mental health, domestic violence, housing instability, and more. A partnership with the Gallatin Valley Food Bank provides free lunches and books to children who may otherwise have neither.

So while you can find many offerings at the Library, one of the most intangible—the gift of belonging—may be achieving the greatest good.



Your generosity has opened a new chapter

The Bozeman community surged back to the Library in 2021, joining in-person programs while also enjoying the convenience and safety of remote offerings. Thanks to incredible support for the BPL Forward capital campaign, the Library is poised to open a new chapter in 2022 with groundbreaking on a Library renovation.

Spent to support your Library

BPL Forward	\$590,060
Youth & Early Learning	\$18,914
Community Programs	\$10,902
Outreach/Mobile Services	\$9,539
Expanding Digital Access	\$9,934
Library Campus Improvements	\$1,846
Other	\$3,153
In Kind	\$79,155
Total support to Library	\$723,503
Foundation Operations Costs	\$230,203
TOTAL	\$953,706

Sources of support

BPL Forward Contributions/Pledges	\$2,280,296
Other Contributions	\$600,198
Other Income	\$35,385
TOTAL	\$2,915,879



Year Ending December 31, 2021

Does not include investment gains/losses or interest & dividends. Comprehensive audited financial statements are available at bozemanlibraryfoundation.org.

Dear Library lovers,

Libraries are a clear and simple good in a chaotic world. It's a blessing that our overburdened brains can rely on something so obviously and profoundly beneficial to us all. Who's welcome? Everyone. Can I afford it? Yes, everything is free. How can it help me? In almost every way imaginable.

Whether you're looking to better understand world events or yourself, whether you need support to overcome obstacles or develop new interests, or whether you're a newcomer (welcome!) or a longtime resident looking to connect with your community, your Bozeman Public Library offers programs and services that will make your life better.

In a year of challenges, I'm going to set a positive challenge before you: **to use your Library and invite your friends to do so**. Really look at which programs and services could help you, as well as which ones can help those you love.

Spread the word about the Library's lifelines to learning, health, and community. And then come pay us a visit and let us be there for you. It's that simple.

Thank you for being a champion of your community and the good your Bozeman Public Library brings to everyone within it.



Janay Johnson

Janay Johnson | Executive Director

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Bozeman Public Library Foundation

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Bozeman Public Library

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