



2024 FINGER LAKES LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martin Toombs, President, Seneca County ('25).

Cynthia Mannino, Vice President, Tompkins County ('25).

Elaine Meyers, Secretary, Cayuga County ('25).

Patricia Schaffer, Member, Tioga County ('27).

Michelle Bogard, Member, Seneca County ('24).

Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Member, Cortland County ('25).

Bonnie Thomas, Member, Cayuga County ('26).

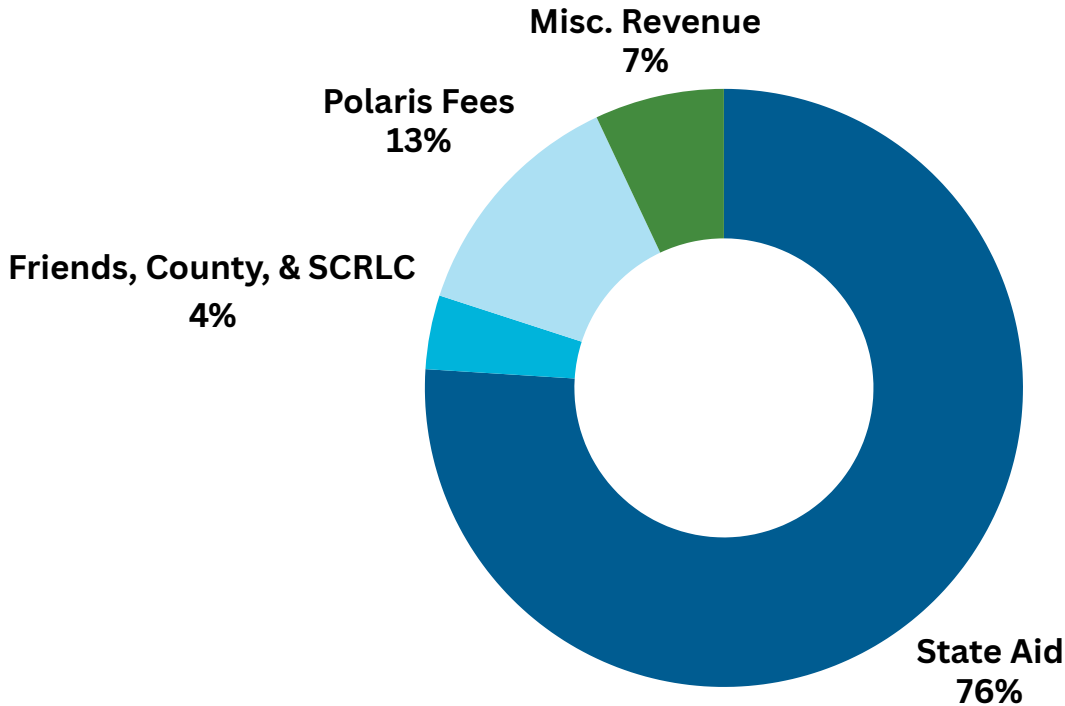
Kathryn 'Kasia' Maroney, Member, Tompkins County ('28).

Stevan Knapp, Member, At-Large Trustee ('24).

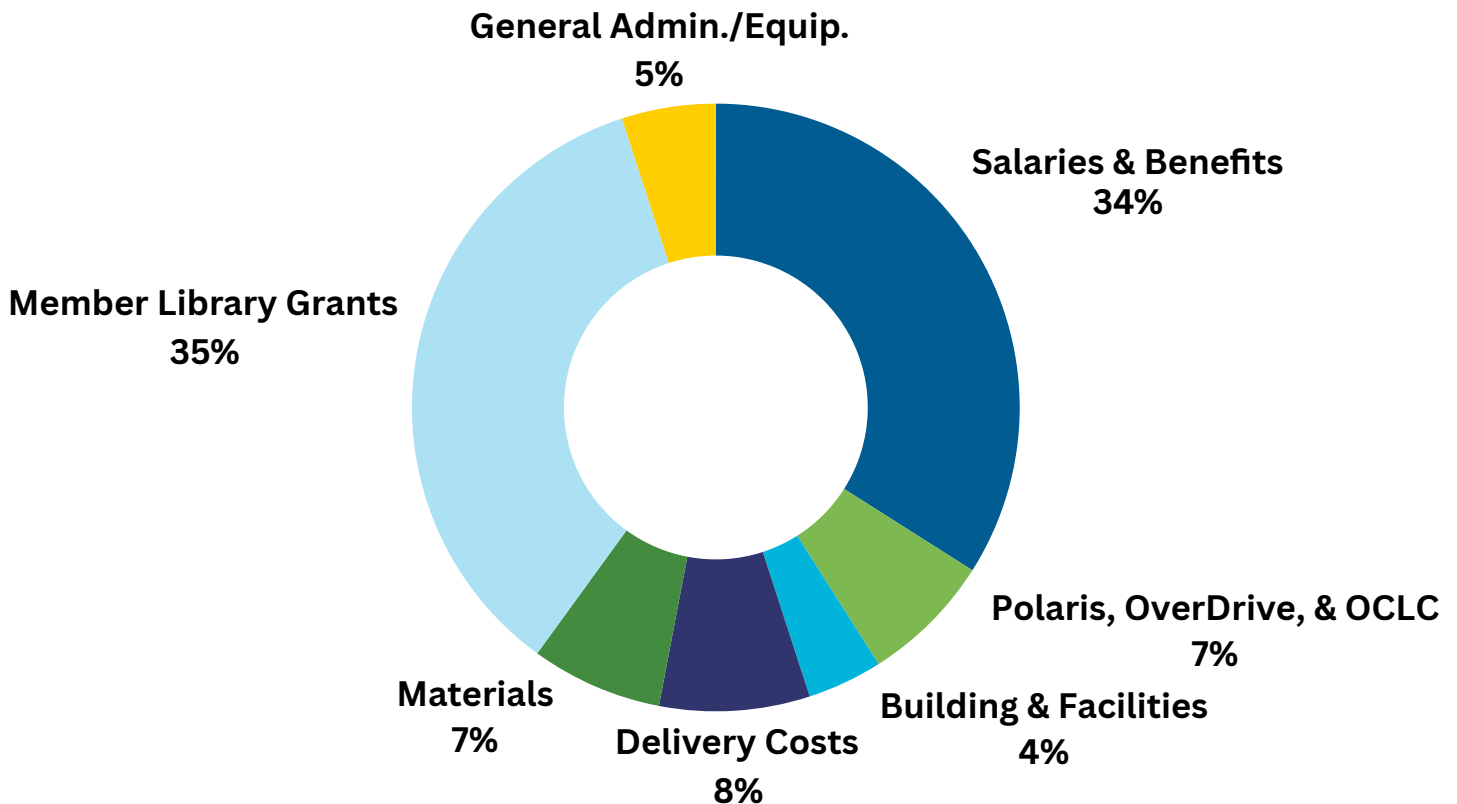
2024 SYSTEM FINANCIALS

January 2024-September 2024

Receipts



Expenditures



BALLOT FUNDING

We are happy to report that all 2024 school ballot votes were successful. This was a relatively quiet year in terms of ballot votes as there were no new libraries going on the ballot for the first time. Our largest increases were for the Coburn Library in Owego and for the Seymour Library in Auburn who held their special legislative district budget vote in October 2024. All ballot votes passed with very large percentages.

Having stable and secure funding is vital for your library's future. At Finger Lakes, we work with both boards and directors in a variety of ways to assist with ballot funding. We offer help at community meetings such as school board, town or village meetings, as well as library board meetings. Our staff can provide statistical help, create infographics, and offer social media tips and strategies. If you are unsure how to go about getting on your local ballot or need help asking for an increase, please contact Sarah Glogowski sglogowski@flls.org or Heidi Eckerson heckerson@flls.org.

County	Library	School System	2023	2024	Increase
Cayuga	Auburn-Seymour *	Special Leg. District	975,000	1,043,250	68,250
Cayuga	Aurora	Southern Cayuga Central	80,000	85,000	5,000
Cayuga	Cato-Lang	Cato-Meridian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cayuga	Fair Haven	Red Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cayuga	Moravia-Powers	Moravia Central	94,500	96,390	1,890
Cayuga	Poplar Ridge-Hazard	Southern Cayuga Central	56,825	61,825	5,000
Cayuga	Port Byron	Port Byron Central	N/A	105,147	4,000
Cayuga	Union Springs-Springport	Union Springs Central	92,000	95,500	3,500
Cayuga	Weedsport	Weedsport Central	88,058	89,819	1,761
Cortland	Cortland	Cortland-Spec. Leg. Dist.	449,602	N/A	N/A
Cortland	Homer-Phillips	Homer Central	208,605	214,330	5,725
Cortland	Marathon-Peck	Marathon	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cortland	McGraw-Lamont	McGraw Central	69,500	N/A	N/A
Seneca	Interlaken	South Seneca Central	80,000	85,860	5,860
Seneca	Lodi	South Seneca Central	80,000	85,860	5,860
Seneca	Ovid-Ford	South Seneca Central	84,000	85,860	1,860
Seneca	Ovid-Ford	Romulus	29,000	29,580	580
Seneca	Seneca Falls	Seneca Falls Central	352,000	367,000	15,000
Seneca	Waterloo	Waterloo Central	296,730	315,217	18,487
Tioga	Apalachin	Owego Apalachin Central	162,444	167,444	5,000
Tioga	Candor	Candor Central	35,000	36,050	1,050
Tioga	Newark Valley-Tappan	Newark Valley Central	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tioga	Nichols-Cady	Tioga Central	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tioga	Owego-Coburn	Owego Apalachin Central	N/A	150,000	30,000
Tioga	Spencer	Spencer Van Etten	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tompkins	Dryden-Southworth	Dryden Central	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tompkins	Groton *	Groton Central	219,886	236,886	17,000
Tompkins	Lansing *	Lansing Central	255,989	270,000	14,011
Tompkins	Newfield	Newfield	N/A	81,000	5,000
Tompkins	Trumansburg-Ulysses	T'Burg Central	127,773	135,216	7,443

* Vote is separate from school vote.

DIRECTORY

Administration Team:

Sarah Glogowski – Executive Director

Advises member libraries and trustees on trustee education, advocacy, library funding opportunities, library legal issues, training, customer service and personnel matters, and strategic planning.

Diana Leigh –Administrative Assistant

The administrative liaison to the FLLS staff. The recording secretary to the Board of Trustees who prepares packets for the FLLS Board. Handles accounts receivable records and cash deposits. Keeps system records and files in order and oversees the supplies budget line. Coordinates the Annual Meeting and other special events. Creates and publishes the Member Library Directory.

Carlos Pérez – Business Manager

Responsible for formulating and tracking the FLLS financial budget and financial policies, its accounting practices, the maintenance of its records, and the preparation of financial reports. The Business Manager manages FLLS' relationships with independent auditors including the treasurer, banks, insurance providers, and legal counsel.

Consultant Services:

Jenny Shonk – Continuing Education and Outreach Librarian

Responsible for developing methods of improving libraries and library services in the areas of outreach, DEI, reference, and adult services. Provides continuing education and support to member libraries and FLLS staff. Assists member libraries with completion of Annual Reports and completes system Annual Report. Provides support to local prisons and jails.

Heidi Eckerson - Member Services Librarian

Responsible for assuring that the unique needs of the member libraries are met, concentrating on policies, procedures, rules and regulations, marketing, & social media. Provides support for member libraries working with youth, oversees Summer Reading, and manages eContent for the system. Heidi also works with library boards.

DIRECTORY

Computer Network Services:

Eric Franks – Computer Services Specialist

Provides Integrated Library System (ILS) technical support, assists with the planning, installation and support of computer hardware/software and network equipment. Provides training on PC applications for the System and its member libraries. Oversees and makes recommendations for the System website.

Wayne Stephenson – Computer Network Services Manager

Responsible for overseeing all functions of the Integrated Library System (ILS) hardware/software, network infrastructure, System servers and computers.

Delivery Services:

Tom Smith – Fleet Manager

Responsible for the hiring and supervision of drivers for the System, delivers library materials to member libraries and agencies within the System service area, and oversees the regularly scheduled cleaning and maintenance of the System vehicles.

Technical Services (Catalog & ILL):

Deborah Geier – Technical Services Librarian

Oversees cataloging and performs database maintenance. Responsible for the accuracy and integrity of the FLLS catalog of holdings and performs original and copy cataloging in all formats. Oversees all operations of interlibrary loan services.

Arlene Krebs – Interlibrary Loan Assistant & Shelving Page

Processes interlibrary loan (ILL) materials borrowed from and loaned to libraries outside the system. Maintains records and monitors the status of ILL requests, and schedules the return of ILL packages. Assists with paging.

Aimee Dorward– Shelving Page

Unpacks delivery bags and sort materials for distribution to different departments and member libraries. Manages FLLS materials as needed.

WELCOME!

We have some new faces at FLLS that we are happy to introduce Carlos Perez, Aimee Dorward, and Wayne Stephenson.



Carlos joined our FLLS staff in February 2024 as our Business Manager. Originally from the metropolitan NY area, Carlos previously worked as an accounting specialist at Tompkins County Area Transit (TCAT), as well as being the Business and Human Resource Office Coordinator at New Roots Charter School in Ithaca. In addition to preparing financial documents for FLLS and the Board of Trustees, Carlos also administers our benefits and payroll services. Carlos has begun helping our member libraries with financial questions and has started presenting to our member library board of trustees if requested. Outside of work, you may find Carlos flying over your service area, as he is training to be a pilot in his spare time.

Aimee began working part time as a shelving page at FLLS in April. Originally from Cortland, she has worked at Cortland Free Library for over 25 years, the past 18 as the full time cataloger. She is also a life-long animal advocate and especially loves dogs and raccoons.



Wayne is our new Network Services Manager who started in July. He moved from Connecticut to the Ithaca area to support the Finger Lakes Library System. He comes from a U.S. Naval background in security. Over the years, Wayne has worked for Verizon, Foxwoods, Yale, and Pfizer. With his experience, he brings to your libraries a vast knowledge of IT systems, security, and management ideas, plus a great sense of humor! He looks forward to working with everyone and getting to know you all better.

SUMMER READING

While July and August are busy for FLLS member libraries, the months leading up to Summer Reading kick-offs and events are just as full. That's when grant writing, planning, and scheduling in anticipation of summer fun takes place. Over the winter, FLLS participated in two virtual Summer Reading Collaborative workshops with 14 other New York State public library systems. The children's workshop in February and the teen workshop in March featured program ideas from library staff around the state, including presenters from the Tompkins County Public Library and the Phillips Free Library.



Monarch butterfly on a pumpkin leaf growing in the Peck Memorial Library's raised bed garden.

We moved the 2024 Summer Reading Planning Meeting to April and expanded it to a full day of networking, activities and workshops featuring presenters from member libraries on topics ranging from Sensory Storytimes to Robot Car Racing.

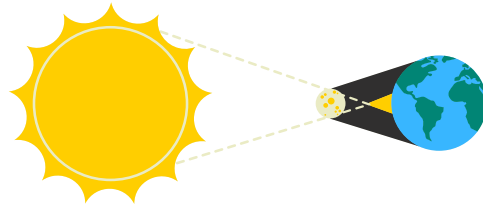
This year's Collaborative Library Summer Program theme was "Adventure Begins at Your Library" and libraries took that concept in several directions, offering programs on travel, food, dinosaur digs, and more.

In addition to in-house events, libraries partnered with local schools and municipal summer camp and recreation programs to provide engaging programs for youth in their communities. Several libraries reported record adult attendance for summer reading this year as well.

The FLLS Family Literacy Grant awards supported some of this summer's activities. The Peck Memorial Library purchased supplies and books for kids to catch the reading and gardening bug with their Raised Bed project. Other projects included building up youth collections from board books, books and magazines in Spanish to musical instruments and literacy backpacks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

2024 Total Solar Eclipse



FLLS member libraries (several of which were in the path of totality) distributed over 9000 pairs of eclipse glasses to their communities for the Great North American Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. This was made possible through the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Space Science Institute and its Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries program.

FLLS also partnered with the Sciencenter in Ithaca to create Solar Eclipse Program kits for libraries and their patrons, helping youth understand STEAM concepts around the celestial event.

FLX Library Road Trip 2024

Libraries were the place to be this summer! The 2024 FLX Library Road Trip was a promotional event that encouraged people to visit FLLS libraries and learn about all the programs and services they offer. It placed a special focus on Summer Reading programming.

Participants picked up a free Road Trip map at any FLLS library and chose their own adventure. At each library, staff stamped travelers' maps to mark the stop and track their adventures. Participants collected souvenirs after visiting a certain number of libraries.

The FLX Library Road Trip:

- Celebrated libraries and library patrons.
- Encouraged folks to visit and use libraries.
- Created awareness of everything our libraries have to offer their communities.
- Grew library advocates.



Thank you to our member libraries for contributing to the success of this project!

CATALOGING & INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Technical Services Librarian Deborah Geier continues to import and edit bibliographic and authority records for new items in the catalog and replace older records, bringing them up to current standards, and catalog items not found in OCLC.

Aimee Dorward was hired as a page and also works in the interlibrary loan department as needed. Arlene Krebs, our ILL Assistant, continues to fill ILL requests and page.

We've already fulfilled **4,209** out-of-system ILL requests in 2024!
For the same time period in 2023, only 3,181 requests had been filled! Wow!

CONTINUING EDUCATION & CONSULTING

While trainings and meetings continued to be primarily held on Zoom for convenience, we had special in-person sessions in the Spring and Fall! Some popular sessions in 2024 included *Difficult Conversations* with Courtney Breese, *Long Overdue: Enhancing Library Services for LGBTQIA Individuals & Families* with Lyndon Cudlitz, and *Outreach at Any Size* with Suzanne Macaulay. We continued to make our webinars available to our neighboring library systems and partnered with Four County Library System to offer *Long Overdue*. Our in-person sessions included the *Summer Reading Planning Meeting* in the Spring and *Basic Book Repair for Libraries* in August!



Our monthly meetings are still going strong! The Director's Meeting and the Member Library Support Group grew out of necessity during the early days of the pandemic, but continue to provide space for our member libraries to receive important updates, network, collaborate, share, discuss library services, ask questions, and support each other!

FLLS staff continues to provide expertise, advice, or referrals in all areas of librarianship to directors, member library staff, and trustees. We are happy to answer questions, assist with library issues, or listen to your concerns. Please continue to reach out via phone or email to connect with us! Not sure who to contact? Check out the FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet, available at the top of our directory: www.flls.org/staff-directory.

COMPUTER NETWORK SERVICES

The Computer Network Services department didn't take on any new projects in 2023 but we did have our annual Bulk Buy computer purchase. We had **23** libraries take advantage of the program and we purchased **63** computers including laptops and desktops. The install of the systems was delayed as the department was short staffed and Eric Franks needed to spend time working from home at the end of the year.

In 2024 we've continued with the Bulk Buy purchase and 16 libraries have purchased 38 total systems. The staging and installs are nearly complete for the year.

At the beginning of October 2023, we had **26** open support tickets. From October 2023 until October 2024, we had **569** tickets opened with **553** being resolved. We're currently working on all remaining open tickets.

In early 2024 we went through the hiring process to replace Rex Helwig. On July 1, 2024, Wayne Stephenson joined the Computer Network Services department. Wayne has visited a dozen libraries and is looking forward to visiting the rest and meeting library staff.

ECONTENT

Our digital collections saw two new additions in 2024. In February, the American Sign Language feature was added to our Mango Languages platform. And just in time for summer reading, over 5000 magazine titles in several languages expanded our OverDrive collection for econtent readers. Popular titles like the New Yorker and Cooks Country share the shelf with lesser known niche titles across a variety of subjects and interests. Magazines are available in the simultaneous use lending model, so more than one person can borrow them at a time. This means no hold or waiting for current content as well as up to 3 years of back issues for some publications.



Our OverDrive collection features over 10,000 audiobook titles and 25,000 ebook titles. Usage continues to grow. As of September 30, over 193,000 items have been borrowed in 2024. FLLS funds the annual platform fee and provides support for content purchases.

Member libraries are encouraged to contribute to the OverDrive pool or purchase content so we can continue to offer a robust collection for all system patrons to enjoy. OverDrive continues to develop new tools and reports that inform our purchasing and selection strategies.

The eContent Committee is now part of the bi-monthly FALCONS meeting. This was done to allow more member libraries to be part of the conversation about system digital content.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

FLLS currently provides services to Auburn Correctional Facility, Cayuga Correctional Facility, and Five Points Correctional Facility. Each facility has a professional librarian managing their library. FLLS services include purchasing and packaging items for the facilities, interlibrary loan & delivery, and reference services. We have provided **416** in-system and out-of-system ILL items to the facilities as of September, 2024.

FLLS also provides collection development assistance, purchasing of materials, and delivery to the jails in Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, & Tompkins counties.

We are grateful for the Friends of TCPL for allowing our correctional facility staff to select over **600** items for their collections, free of charge!

OUTREACH

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee meets quarterly to discuss and develop DEI initiatives for FLLS. We appreciate having representatives from 9 member libraries in the following locations: Auburn, Cortland, Groton, Homer, Ithaca, Poplar Ridge, Port Byron, Trumansburg, and Weedsport. The committee created the FLLS Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility, "***We encourage and empower I.D.E.A.S. at our system headquarters and 33 member libraries; Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, & Accessible Services. Programs, collections, and services at our system and at our member libraries should reflect the communities that we serve. Our libraries are for everyone.***" The full statement can be found here: www.flls.org/about-us.

The Outreach Mini-Grants help our members provide library services and resources to underserved groups in the FLLS service area; specific populations can be found at the top of the Outreach webpage: www.flls.org/outreach. Around \$15,000 is available each year. Recipients are selected by the FLLS Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council (COSAC). We are thankful to each COSAC member for contributing their time, effort, and expertise to the OMG cycle each year.

As of April 2024, FLLS and COSAC have awarded over **\$152,728** in mini-grants to **120** recipients!

2023-2024 OUTREACH MINI-GRANTS

For the 2023-2024 grant cycle, **13** libraries received **\$17,103** for projects that focused on programming for all ages & abilities. The projects focused on reaching out to people in facilities, at the laundromat, outdoors, and in the library. Pictures from some of the projects on the following pages.



WATERLOO LIBRARY



PECK MEMORIAL LIBRARY



ULYSSES PHILOMATHIC LIBRARY



SEYMOUR LIBRARY

2023-2024 OUTREACH MINI-GRANTS



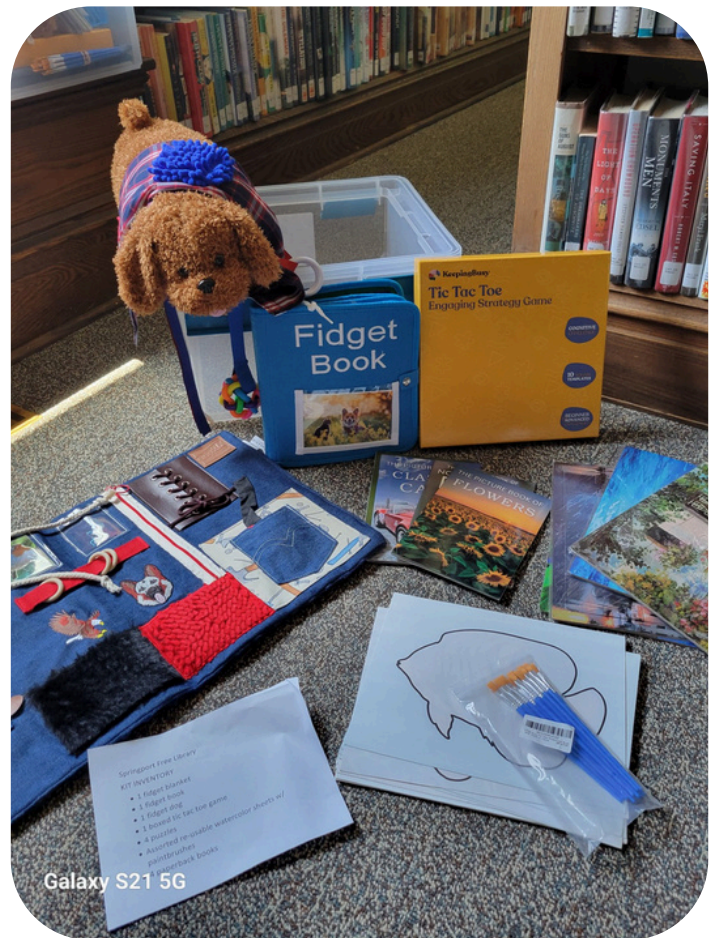
PHILLIPS FREE LIBRARY



INTERLAKEN PUBLIC LIBRARY



BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY



SPRINGPORT FREE LIBRARY

Congratulations on your successful projects!

Do you have an idea for an outreach project but lack funding? Member libraries can apply for an Outreach Mini-Grant. The next cycle will open this fall and applications will be due March 2025.

THANK YOU!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our member library directors, staff, and trustees for their unwavering commitment to delivering outstanding library services to your communities!

