



# ERICSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONNECT | LEARN | ENRICH



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



**JAMIE WILLIAMS | DIRECTOR**

What an incredible year it has been! After fifteen years of serving this library and community, I can confidently say this year ranks at the top! While it's challenging to pinpoint a single reason, there seems to be an abundance of activity, excitement and even more to look forward to!

Doing this work has been a true joy, and I'm excited to continue offering new services, programs, and resources that provide extraordinary opportunities for our community. I genuinely believe this library is a vital asset to the people of Boone as I get to see it every day we make a difference. I take great pride in our library's accomplishments and eagerly anticipate finding solutions to the challenges we face as a library and as a community. The annual report showcases stories and highlights statistics, and insights about our current status and future direction.

As always, my primary goal is to create a meaningful impact through our services and programs. The effects of our work can be seen daily; we transform, adapt, and shape services based on the needs of our community. A significant focus for our library staff and Board is determining how we can be more responsive to our community.

Community engagement is a priority for us, often facilitated through partnerships, as we are a small team. Collaborating with engaged partners allows us to expand our reach and effectiveness. Over the past fiscal year, we have diligently worked to identify ways to enhance our relevance within partner organizations to create a greater impact.

In FY24, we received grants for technology workshops, digitized the Boone News Republican, and planned for a book bike in the spring! We provided cultural and STEM programming, legal and tax assistance, resource-sharing activities, and conducted 96 outreach visits, reaching 3,332 people. We added various new programs like Books and Bites to reach out to our teens at the High School, and participated in Middle School club days to allow us to reach kids to provide engaging activities. Fun events like Bridgerton Garden Party, Concerts, Summer Reading Carnival, meet and greet with Rapunzel or a pizza party with a Ninja Turtle and ERICON drew people into the library for something unexpected. Our programs educated the community about available services, fostering connections. We hosted story times, stitch nights, and craft series, emphasizing well-being and mental health through activities like walking clubs, gratitude journaling, yoga, and meditation. Our Library's plan continues to guide our priorities and enhance services!



# THE IMPACT

With a strong focus on our Library's goals we continue to accomplish more to impact our community and hope to continue this trend to FY25!

## ACCESSIBILITY | CONNECTION | TECHNOLOGY GOALS



We upgraded our printer in FY24 to enhance printing capabilities and offered more convenient ways for our patrons to print directly from their devices. This allowed patrons to walk into the library and send their print jobs easily and conveniently- saving time and money! We increased access to online library services by providing user-friendly web and library catalog enhancements, and we also increased awareness of library technology offerings. Hotspot checkouts continue to be popular, and we replaced a couple of outdated units with new ones. Another way we addressed technology goals was by digitizing more content from our local newspaper from 2007 to 2023. Increased access to digital content allows not only those in our community to research the collection from anywhere but also those outside of the library walls. Boone Newspapers from 1865 to 1926, and 2007 to 2023 are available in a fully searchable database from our website! Give it a try! We also offered technology workshops to help seniors and those wanting to learn more about how to use technology!

## EDUCATION | LEARNING | WELLBEING GOALS

Libraries are an essential community hub bringing people together for a variety of activities and events. While we provide our community with a variety of programming, like book clubs, writers workshops and wellness programs, Activating Community Voices focused on mental health and the Wisdom Corridor project in FY24. This group, comprised of sixteen partners, continued to focus on immersive and educational learning experiences to understand dimensions of equity. It is a crucial strategy for fostering inclusive and engaged communities. Libraries play a critical role in promoting community health and wellbeing. Not only did we have great participation, we helped build meaningful connections in the community and awareness of programs, which increased community building and conversations to spark more informed and engaged citizens!



## SPACES | GOALS

We upgraded our security system and also addressed building enhancements to ensure that our facilities are welcoming, comfortable and safer than ever.

We evaluated and updated our meeting room spaces to the fullest extent. We currently offer four spaces to be reserved by the public for meetings. This includes the second floor meeting room, the children's meeting room, the children's activity room and the main floor iMac lab. Reservations can be made easily and conveniently from our website! We had 2,977 people use our meeting rooms in FY24. Our meeting room spaces also offer OneScreens for technology needs of our community. **STAY TUNED FOR OUR UPDATED LONG RANGE PLAN & GOALS IN FY25!**

# THE NUMBERS



Electronic Materials  
Used



Public Computer  
Sessions



Physical Materials Circulated



Website Visits



Electronic information  
Used



Wi-Fi  
Sessions

# THE FUN



Program  
Attendees



Total  
Programs



Views of  
program content  
recordings



Hours open to  
the public



Library  
Card Holders

# THE FINANCES

## Income Sources

City of Boone

General Fund

Capital Income

Contract Cities

Boone County

State

Fines/Fees

Gifts/Grants

Capital Income (private)

\$422,360

\$41,767

\$1,160

\$75,725

\$7,715

\$8,412

\$64,746

\$ 12,964

## Operating Expenditures

Materials

Salaries

Benefits

Other Operational

Expenses

## Capital Expenditures

\$81,396

\$327,764

\$157,312

\$144,603

\$54,732



# THE STORIES

## Impressive programs and library

"I brought my granddaughter to your Swifty Dance Party! My husband and I did get our library cards. And enjoyed talking with some of the friendly staff and seeing what the library has to offer. VERY IMPRESSED!" -*Cynthia on Teen program and the library*

"Great experience and so happy that our library had this program. I'd love to have it be a recurring session." -*Angie on Forest Therapy program*

"I credit this book discussion group for the inspiration and the librarians for the assistance in finding that book. I used the NYT list you have posted in the library to select the book and then the librarians extraordinaire helped me find it and other books. I LOVE THE LIBRARY! I haven't read that much so quickly in decades. Thank you and everyone for re-awakening my love for reading!" -*Jane and David on Books at the Brewery*

## Grants and donations help us do more!

In fiscal year 2024 we accomplished several important things from our strategic plan as mentioned with the **\$64,746** in extra funding. Without this funding we would not be able to offer a BookBike, AdventurePass, technology classes, exciting and educational kids programming in the summer and throughout the year, snacks, Storywalk, books for wellness visits at the BCH, Hoopla, digital BNR and much more! Funding all these services or projects was only possible through grants or donations.

We want to thank our **Friends, Boone Bank, ALA/PLA, Lowrey Foundation and the Fenton Trust, United Way of Boone County, Lions Club, Rotary, BooST, Kiwanis, State Historical Society, FORCE Board and of course all our generous donors!** What an impact this has made in our community!



702 GREENE STREET  
BECOME A MEMBER  
TODAY



## Thankful for the Library!

"Thanks so much for doing the awesome program last night. I learned a ton. Now I want to see the PBS doc! We were later than we intended but major draw for my hubby was the cars. He also thought the program was interesting tho. Well done!"

-*Sue on Library Programming*



"Every week when I get the newsletter from the library, I am amazed at all that is available at our library. I am not able to participate as much as I would like to, but sure hope everyone is aware and taking advantage of what you offer to all age groups. Thank you." -*Delores on Wowbrary newsletter*



Foundation Offering Recreation & Community Enrichment



## Bringing health and mental health to our community

"Mindful Monday has been my Community with Intention! We are slowing down, increasing our awareness and growing together as we learn more about ourselves, our Health and the World around Us. It has connected me to so many amazing Souls and am grateful for the Connection it's brought into my Life!" -*Victoria on Mindful Monday*



## Helping our writers

"As I write from Louisville, he has just come from speaking to a publisher who has asked to see both the first three chapters of his novel..."

This is a great accomplishment for him, and the Ericson Library can also be justly proud of the support that it gives to the local writers, and you can tell Ms Williams that one of your programs is delivering tangible results."

-*JMI on Writers Workshop results*

# THE TEAM

## Our Staff is one of a kind!

The Library Staff is dedicated, caring and creative with big ideas and big hearts! I am grateful every day that they show up ready to help and bring their best.

Thank you to the following full time staff members who are dedicated to this profession:

**Andrea Williams**, MLIS | Assistant Library Director | serving EPL for 11 years!

**Zach Stier**, MLIS, Ed.D | Children's Librarian | serving EPL for 13 years!

**Grace Hanley**, MLIS | Librarian | serving EPL beginning this year!

**Candy Noelck** | Librarian | serving EPL for 6 years

**Ronda Kelley** | Librarian | serving EPL for 11 years!

I also would like to thank our part time staff who do so much to help and take care of our community: Melinda, Mindy, Megan, Rebecca, Theo, Norah, Eliana and Keira

AND Mike, who takes care of our beautiful, historical building so well!



## Our Library Board is committed to the very best Library for you.

Made up of eight city residents and one rural resident. Library Board (city) members are appointed by the Mayor with Council approval and the rural member is appointed by the Boone County Board of Supervisors. Terms are six years.

Heather Frese (rural), 2028

Michael Carr, 2028      Sue Gradoville, 2028

Sarah Dvorsky, 2026      Lowell Davis, 2030

Levi Baber, 2030      Rachel McKeny, 2026

Barbara Rardin, 2026      Barbara Madson, 2030

A big thanks to the Library Board of Trustees who are always keeping the library relevant and supported in our community!



## Friends of the Ericson Public Library!

Our Friends are wonderful volunteers that run their own nonprofit, 501(c)3 to fundraise for the library. They meet quarterly as a board to plan fundraisers and decide how to best support the library. They fund different library resources, programs and services that are above and beyond what our budget can support! This includes:

- Hotspots
- Baby books and packets for parents & newborns
- Annual Reading Programs
- Online research databases
- Book discussion books, large print books
- BRIDGES and other online resources

## Our Volunteers

Not only do our Friends of the Library Board members volunteer, our Friends members volunteer and help with programs and fundraisers! They manage book sales, put together baby packets, assist with fun events totaling thousands of volunteer hours! We also had 42 community volunteers volunteer 240 hours in FY24.



## Our City Leaders

City administration, department heads, staff, Mayor and City Council support and work with the library in different capacities from assisting with projects, building issues, programs, funding and more!



## Our County Leaders

County supervisors and staff also support the library with funding, projects and programs.

## Our Community Partners, Organizations and Businesses

We rely heavily on organizations like Aging Resources, Boone County Hospital, Boone Schools, Iowa Legal Aid, ACCESS, RSVP, ISU Extension, Fareway, BSVRR, Boone Bank, Chamber, Dutch Oven Bakery, Book Shoppe and many other local businesses to support us and we are SO grateful. We have over 50 partners and growing!