

# Loutit District Library

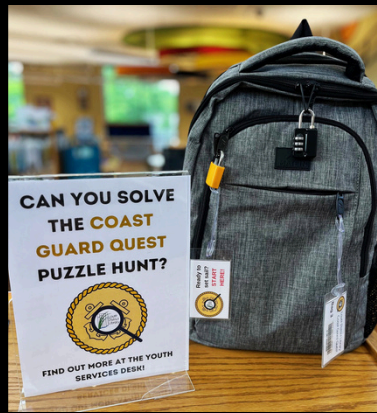
407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven MI 49417

616.850.6900 [www.loutitlibrary.org](http://www.loutitlibrary.org)

# 2024

## Report to the COMMUNITY

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024  
Fiscal Year



## Our Mission

Expanding Horizons. Enriching Minds.  
Engaging Community.



# Note from Our Executive and Assistant Director

Greetings! We at Loutit District Library are excited to share our annual report and showcase the many achievements of the last year:

- Increased numbers for materials circulated, library visits, program attendance, and community use of public computing and free Wi-Fi, printing, scanning, and faxing.
- Added Brooks Media Center: a new vinyl record collection and listening stations, as well as the capability for our community to check out vinyl and record players.
- Sunday Concerts are back!
- Impactful new programming, such as the AARP Tax Aide assistance.
- LDL's generous community passed the millage proposal, allowing us to further expand library hours and programs, add a new Outreach model (for seniors and kids), and start homebound mailing of materials for patrons unable to get to the library.

We want to thank the library's community partners, district municipalities, funders, and our amazing patrons, whom it is our absolute pleasure to serve. We also want to give a shout-out to the library's greatest resource, an incredible staff who are full of dedication, heart, and commitment to service.

Libraries are more vital than ever. We are well-placed to provide a variety of free materials, services, and programs, help bridge technological and economic divides, improve access, and warmly welcome a diverse community to gather, engage, and enrich lives.

*Ellen Peters* *Rose M. Boyer*



## Board of Trustees - 2024-2025

Caryn Lannon, President	Grand Haven Township
Nancy Collins, Vice President	City of Grand Haven
Mary Jane Belter, Secretary	GHAPS
Marc Longstreet, Treasurer	Robinson Township
Burton H. Brooks	City of Grand Haven
Penni DeWitt	Robinson Township
Lisa Menerick	City of Ferrysburg
Cathy Rusco	Grand Haven Township

## Leadership Team

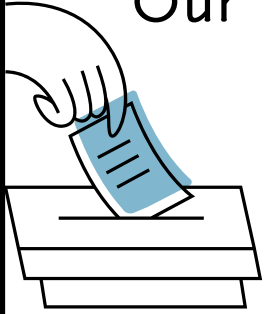
Ellen Peters	Executive Director
Anne Harrison	Assistant Director
Allison Boyer	Head of Youth Services
Katie Alphenaar	Head of Reference & Information
Kate Tobin	Emerging Technologies Librarian
Chelsea Payton	Community Engagement & Marketing
Kim Rice	Head of Circulation Services
Jeanette Weiden	Local History & Genealogy
Martin Lidacis	Head of Building and Grounds
Kerry FitzGerald	Head of Cataloging Services



Our Board of Trustees has worked hard this year, making our library such a wonderful place. They spent an incredible **1,511** minutes in discussions and passed **71** motions across **12** board meetings.

# Take a look at what we did this past year!

## Our Millage Passed!



Thanks to community support, we were able to expand general library and Local History & Genealogy hours, increase outreach, and are adding pickup lockers in Robinson Township.



## New Vinyl Collection

The newly renovated Brooks Media Center houses our vinyl collection, listening stations, and public computers! Learn more on page 7.

## Coast Guard Quest

Over **400** people took on this unique on-the-go escape room. The backpacks were checked out **108** times!

*"This was a lot of fun and got us out when we normally would be hiding inside from the giant burning star in the sky."*



## 9 StoryWalks®

Our Youth Department organized StoryWalks® containing children's books posted on signs along trails in various city and county parks for the community to read together as they hiked!



## 794 Hours Worked By Volunteers!



**23** Library volunteers helped with shelving, repairing, and pulling materials to get into the hands of patrons, as well as assisting the Local History and Genealogy Department.

## 1812 Hours Worked By the Friends of LDL!



**CHEAPSTACKS**  
USED BOOKSTORE

**34** Friends of LDL volunteers worked **1,611** hours staffing the Cheapstacks Store, **39** hours managing their Facebook, **58** hours attending board meetings, and **96** hours on the Summer Reading book sale!

## Stay Connected with the Loutit Lowdown

Our digital newsletter goes out twice a month to over **12,000** subscribers! Keep up to date on LDL news, programming, and more!

Subscribe on our website!



## Beyond the Book

Mini podcast started with 92.1 WGHN where you can learn about library fun facts, upcoming events, and "behind the scenes" at the LDL!






# 517,644 Total Items Circulated


This includes books, magazines, music, DVDs, hotspots, Chromebooks, eBooks, audiobooks, and so much more!

## Physical Materials



**279,073**  
Print  
Material  
Checkouts

+




**77,817**  
Non-Print  
Material  
Checkouts

=


**356,890**  
Physical Materials  
Checked Out

## Electronic Content



**144,766**  
Electronic  
Material  
Checkouts

+



**15,988**  
Database  
Usage

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# 160,754

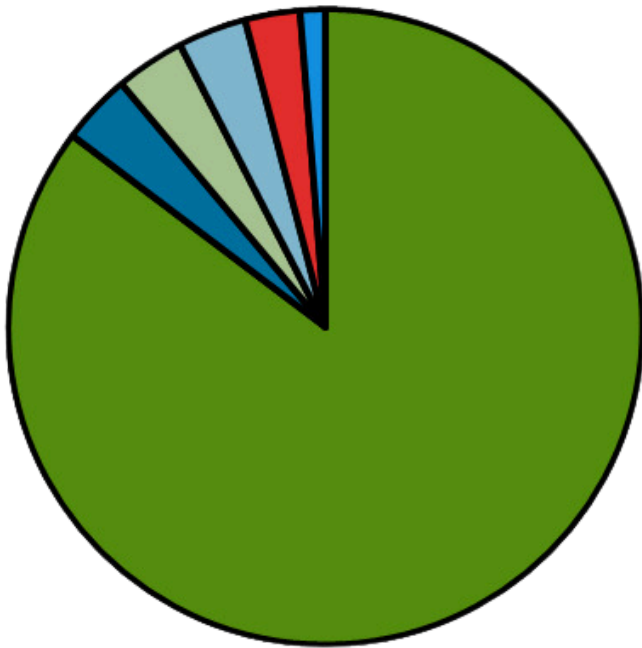
Total Electronic Content Use

## Cardholders By Municipality

MUNICIPALITY	2023 - 2024	% TOTAL
Grand Haven Charter Township	2,295	46.81%
City of Grand Haven	1,567	31.96%
Robinson Township	503	10.26%
City of Ferrysburg	411	8.38%
Port Sheldon Township*	127	2.59%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,903</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Reflects portion of the township within Grand Haven Area Public Schools district

## Revenues

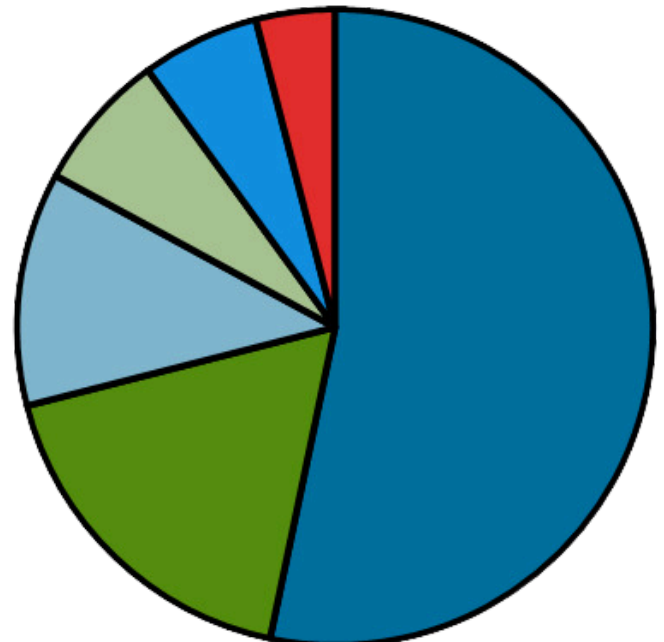


Property Taxes.....	\$2,810,963	85.30%
Investment Earnings...	\$118,173	3.59%
Donations & Misc.....	\$116,853	3.54%
General Fund.....	\$115,351	3.50%
County Penal Fines.....	\$92,364	2.80%
State Revenues.....	\$42,140	1.28%

**Total \$3,295,566**

## Expenditures

Employee Benefits & Wages.....	\$1,755,979	53.28%
Bond Debt Payments & Interest...	\$584,800	17.75%
Other Expenses.....	\$391,899	11.89%
Books & Periodicals.....	\$232,960	7.07%
Building, Utilities, & Equipment.....	\$197,657	6.00%
Professional Services.....	\$132,271	4.01%



**Total \$3,295,566**

## Behind the scenes

From book displays to programming, LDL staff have been hard at work all year to make Loutit your favorite public library in Grand Haven!

Our staff are in the business of keeping LDL's books in tip-top shape. To do this, we use some unique supplies...

- We (un)stuck to the task of keeping books fresh with over **96oz** of Goo Gone. That's almost one gallon!
- We held it together with **892in** (75ft) of book tape. For football fans, that's **25** yards of adhesive!
- We found some weird "bookmarks" in returned books. Some notable placeholders were an adult sock, a bird feather, and a sticky slap hand toy! Don't worry; we made sure these books got some extra love and sanitization.

A single staff member packed **5,000** seed envelopes for the Seed Library. Way to grow!



## Library Cats



Owning a cat is the most common librarian cliché. How many kitties are a part of the Loutit family? There are **34** cats to our **35** staff members. That's almost a **1:1** ratio! **49%** of staff own at least one furry feline friend! That stereotype might just be true...



# What Our Patrons Had To Say...

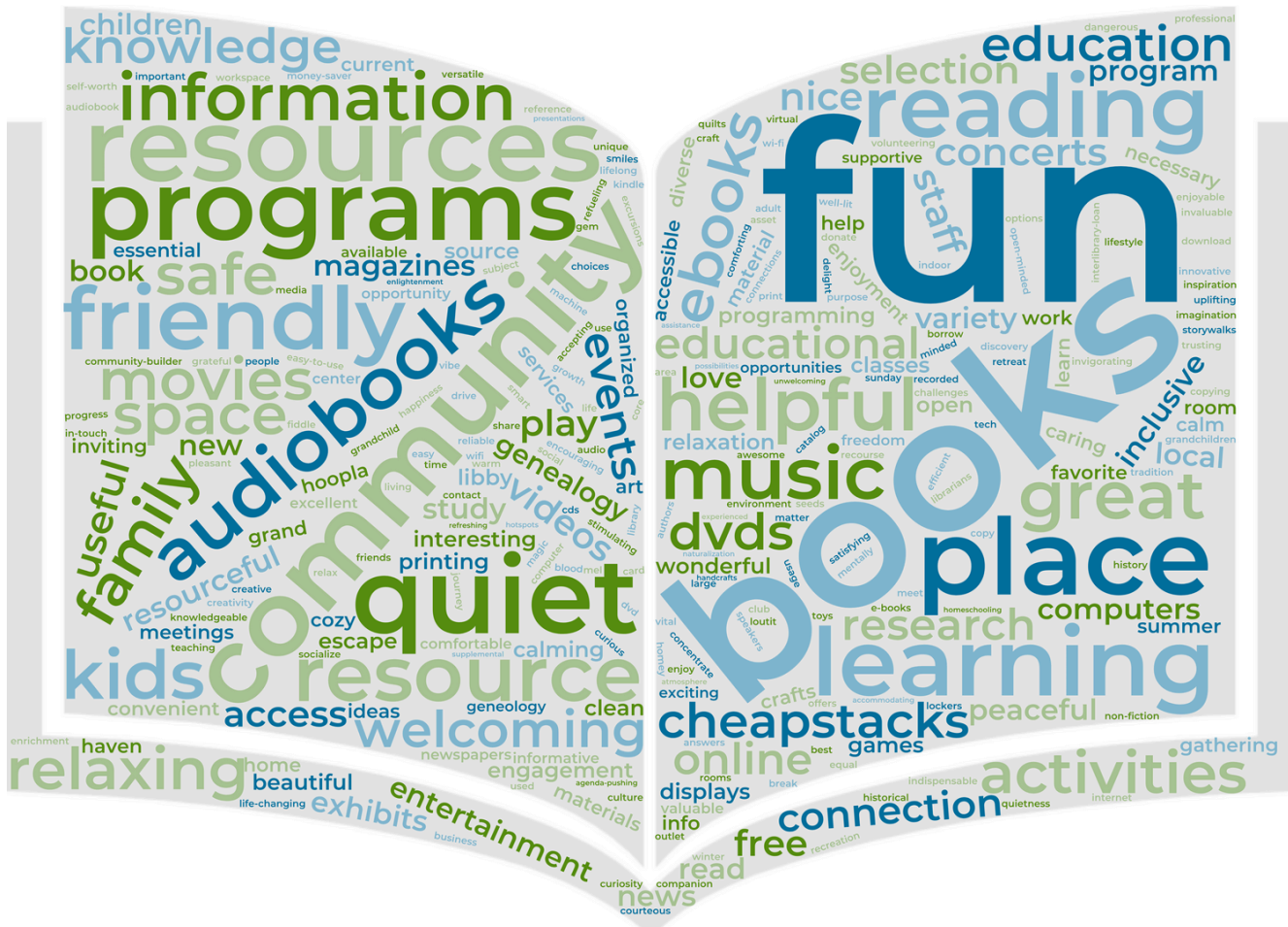
*"I don't know what I would do without this library. I love spending time here, looking at new books, movies, and audio books. I also tutor for R.E.A.D. Ottawa here. It's the best!"*

*"I still remember the first time I walked into Loutit in the 70's and my first library card. I was amazed at ALL the books, couldn't wait to get started reading them. I just moved back home to GH after 33 years in Phoenix, and I'm thrilled with the extra perks that Loutit offers that weren't offered by the big city library systems!"*

*"Thank you for all you do to support our community. The library is one of the jewels in Grand Haven's crown."*

*"I can't say enough good things about our library. Friendly staff, great programs and a top notch genealogy department!"*

# How Our Community Describes the Library



## Opening Day

On June 7, we officially opened the Brooks Media Center, a new vinyl album collection and media center area made possible through donations by Burton H. Brooks and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. At open, the center included:

- A collection of over **500** vinyl albums from the 1910s to the present day
- Cozy listening stations
- Public computers and CDs
- Solo and small group study tables
- Board games for in-library use



## Sharing the Music

Since opening, the media center collection has continued to be improved. Thanks to community donations and the help of local record store Off the Record, our collection has surpassed **1000** cataloged vinyls!

In addition to checking out albums, library card holders can also check out transportable vinyl record players. Staff also use these transportable players to connect with seniors through outreach to assisted living and retirement communities.

*"With the new Brooks Media Center, anyone can come into the library and enjoy music of all genres on high-quality sound equipment, which can provide a much-needed moment of relaxation."*

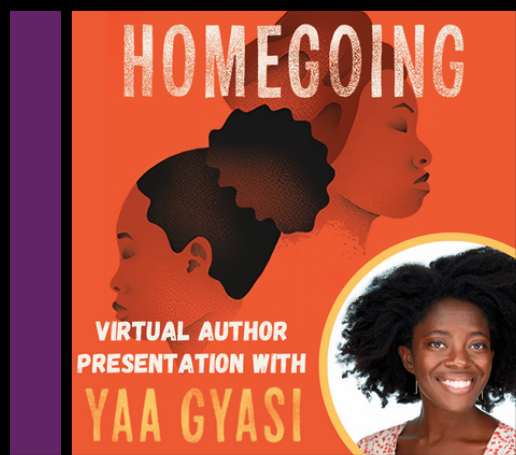




## Kindness Month

Throughout the month of February, the Loutit District Library encouraged everyone to celebrate an entire month of kindness and community connection.

Our amazing community sponsored **90** books, craft supplies, toys, and library technology through our Kindness Month initiative and contributed to our Essentials Micro-Pantry. Leftover Micro-Pantry goods were donated to The Momentum Center.



## Big Read Lakeshore

The NEA Big Read Lakeshore used the shared experience of reading to bring the community together around common books and themes. In addition to programming, we held our first community craft project, where hundreds of participants decorated a tile to represent their place in our community!



## Adopt a Book

Every holiday season, we partner with The Bookman for a season of giving to help our collection grow. Our amazing community sponsored **79** books through our Adopt a Book program. We currently have over **500** books in our collection from Adopt-a-Book alone! We can't thank our community enough for all of your years of support.



# SPARK! Places of Innovation

We hosted *Spark! Places of Innovation*, a Museum on Main Street exhibition developed by the Smithsonian Institution. A team of **16** staff members and **3** community volunteers worked hard to research and curate the exhibit. Our displays explored the innovative history of Grand Haven's waterfront, Coast Guard Festival, library, industry, agriculture, and so much more!

From Rosie the Riveter Reenactments to DIY Screen Printing, we had **362** attendees across **20** innovation-themed programs for all ages. Thousands of visitors viewed and interacted with the exhibit.



# Winter Reading Challenge



Our Winter Reading Challenge was inspired by *Where We Come From*, a poetic picture book for all ages written by John Coy, Shannon Gibney, Sun Yung Shin, and Diane Wilson and illustrated by Dion MBD. The challenge explored topics of family, history, and identity.

**482** participants took on the challenge of reading 180 minutes along with completing activity badges. From January 1-31, **4488** badges were earned, and **205,660** minutes were read! Those who completed the challenge won some cozy prizes!





## Quilt Hop

March is National Quilting Month—a celebration of quilts, quilters, and quilting! All month long, the Library’s upper-level Atrium featured quilts from the Lighthouse Quilt Guild. Along with **4** quilting-themed programs, participants enjoyed “hopping” to other participating libraries, and collecting fun prizes!



## Show Your Library Card

In September, we partnered with the Spring Lake District Library and **33** local businesses to offer deals, discounts, and free gifts to promote the benefits of owning a library card. During this program, coinciding with National Library Card Sign-Up Month, we saw an increase of **167** new library cardholders!

Thank you to all the businesses who participated!



## Banned Books

The American Library Association celebrates the right to read every year with Banned Books Week (October 1 – 7, 2023). We extended this by celebrating all October long! Patrons learned about new perspectives and celebrated the freedom to read through our educational display, programming, and reading challenge! **103** readers logged **58,955** minutes and earned **690** activity badges!





# 559 Library Programs

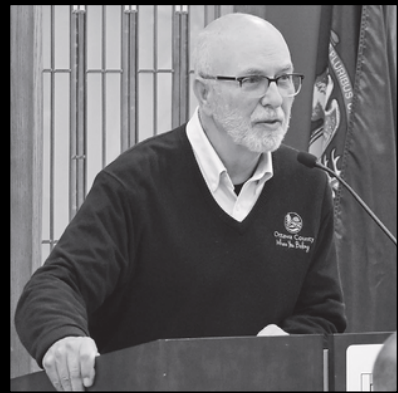
559 diverse programs were hosted, including 210 programs for kids, 292 for adults, and 42 for all ages!

We hosted 15 passive programs, including reading challenges, self-guided tours, and Storywalks®. An estimated 20,186 people enjoyed our passive programs!



# Naturalization Ceremony

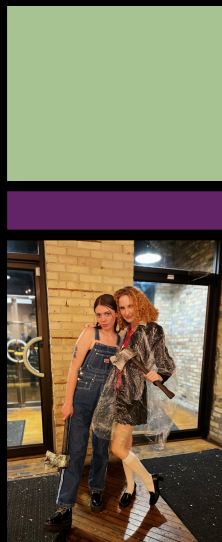
In October, we hosted the first naturalization ceremony at LDL since the COVID-19 pandemic. Ottawa County Board of Commissioners representative Roger Bergman welcomed attendees from 41 different countries, encouraging them to share their immigration stories. Ottawa County Commissioner Justin Roebuck assisted in registering the new citizens to vote to "mark the first step" in their citizenship.



*"I left my country because it's Communist, and it's hard to live there. Now it's a little better, but it was hard for Christian people to live in Cuba. We immigrated to the United States, and we are very happy. We feel a real freedom now."*

*"I was crying when they were talking. I feel like a real family, with the support and everything in this place, in this country."*

# Trivia Nights at Odd Side Ales



We partnered with Odd Side Ales to create 5 unique trivia nights. These events brought together 607 people to answer questions about Scary Movies, Harry Potter, Shrek, Marvel, and Star Wars!





# Grand Adventure Summer Reading Challenge



**2,469** people participated in our Grand Adventure Summer Reading Challenge. With an **11.64%** increase in new registrants, this was the highest registration in LDL history!

An astounding **3,233,399** minutes of reading were recorded and **21,741** adventure-themed activity badges were earned. That's over **60,000** hours of summer fun! However, reading is only half of the adventure...



We hosted **109** summer programs across all age groups. Some of our most attended were:

- Summer Reading Kick-Off Party with **402** attendees
- Touch a Truck with **400** attendees
- Foam Party with **179** attendees
- Blandford's Nature Center Wildlife Visit with **143** attendees

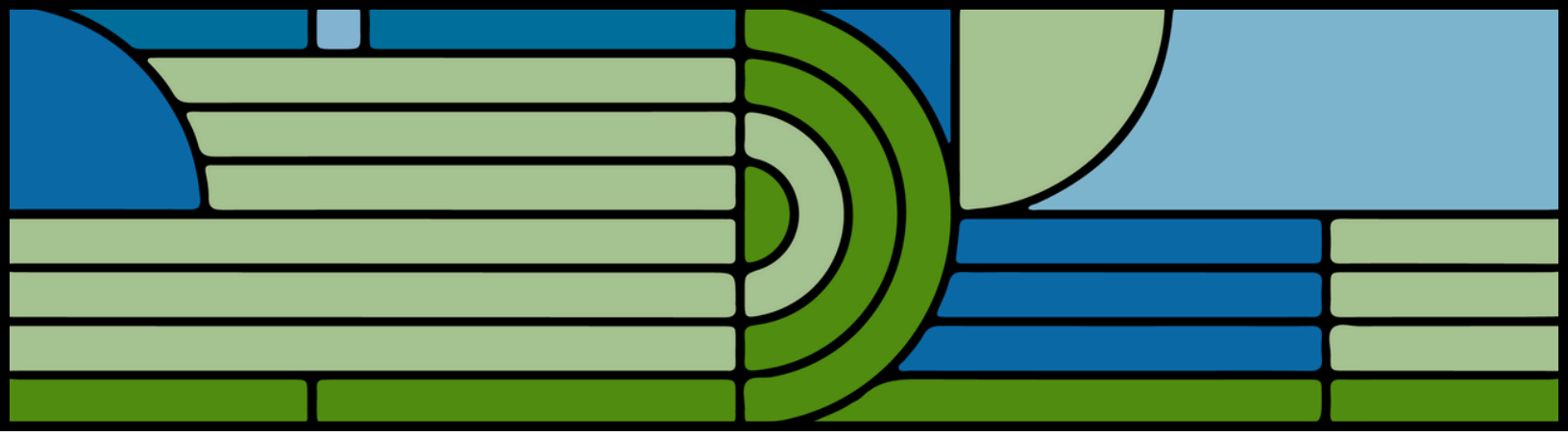
In total, we had **4,395** program attendees between June and July. We hope you'll join us again in 2025!



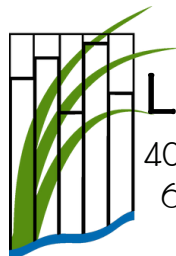
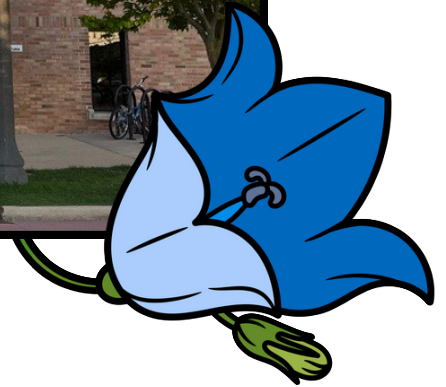
# A Special Thanks to Our Amazing Community Partners:



We could not have accomplished so much without your support!



THANK YOU FOR LETTING US BE  
YOUR FAVORITE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
IN GRAND HAVEN, MI!



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