



Community Impact Report

2024
in Review



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

Thank you for taking a moment to look through our 2024 Community Impact Report. I myself am quite grateful at the opportunity to reflect because I hardly remember what I had for breakfast this morning, let alone everything that happened at the library last year. (Donuts. It was donuts.)



2024 was filled with big moments for our library! Witnessing Livingston County Libraries at the forefront of education and programming as the entire region came together for the Total Solar Eclipse was a distinct, once-in-a-lifetime honor. I was equally thrilled to represent the library at the LivCo Special Education & Disability Resource Fair, organized by our Library Board Vice President Becky Stewart, for the second year in a row. I also watched with overwhelming pride as my colleagues stepped out of their comfort zones to offer new programs and services at the library; Kasey's Birth Stories event, Pamela's Wellness Series, and Colleen's Harm Reduction & Mental Health Resources are just a few examples.

This year, there's another big moment happening in libraries, one that causes whiplash when considered against the amazing things coming from even our small corner of the library world. At the time of this writing, the executive order eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to library funding has been temporarily halted. Without nonstop advocacy and legal action, however, federal cuts are likely to continue. Those most affected will, of course, be small, rural communities. Among the arguments in favor of these cuts is the notion that we must get rid of "luxuries" during tough financial times.

To those who call libraries a luxury, I would invite you to talk to the new parents working with lactation counselors during our Positive Expressions program, the elders who receive digital literacy training to use their smartphones in a world that demands they be online, or the folks who have saved hundreds, if not thousands of dollars each year by borrowing materials from the library. As acclaimed librarian and advocate Eleanor Crumblehulme said, **"Cutting libraries during a recession is like cutting hospitals during a plague."**

Libraries, above all else, build community, and community is not a luxury; community is vital. I feel incredibly fortunate to see that vitality in the library and around Avon every day, in the big moments and in the simple daily interactions.

So much with libraries is uncertain right now. However, as we move forward, I am confident that the sound fiscal oversight and governance of our Library Board of Trustees, along with the support of the Town and Village of Avon, the OWWL Library System, our ridiculously amazing staff, and YOU - we will have the opportunity to create a sustainable future for the critical resources provided by the Avon Free Library.

Stay tuned for important updates coming later in 2025, and thank you for your continued support of the library and community.



Grace Frenzel, Director