





INTRODUCTION

Fiscal year 2020-2021 was a year like no other as Josephine Community Library continued to shift and pivot services in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Josephine County residents witnessed historic change – change in our workplaces and schools, in our families, and in our community. On March 16, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the library to restrict all facilities well into the next year. The pandemic continues to affect every aspect of library service, which will be noted throughout this report. Library statistics, such as circulation and turnover rates, program attendance and participation, and public computer usage should be viewed through this lens.

In Josephine County, residents are served by Josephine Community Library District, formed in May 2017 as a special library district as defined by ORS 357. In its third complete year of operations, the district continued to provide stable library funding with new programs, improved materials, integrated technology, new media, digital inclusion, and information literacy support.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As part of Josephine Community Library's commitment to enriching the community through access to quality library services across Josephine County, JCLD conducted its first community needs assessment in 2020. In previous years the library has conducted an annual community survey as the main component of its community outreach which would then inform strategic planning. However, in 2020 the library took a more qualitative approach and conducted its first community needs assessment, which included a community profile, collection and program assessments, and community outreach. The findings of the community profile revealed the need for the library to focus on those underrepresented as library users. Therefore, the community outreach component sought to learn the information needs of two groups who might be underrepresented throughout Josephine County and in the library: Latinx and young adult community members. A copy of the 2020 Needs Assessment is available upon request.



STRATEGIC PLAN

A strategic plan is the overarching document that guides library operations, including mission, vision, values, goals, projects, and key performance indicators. In FY21, the JCLD Board of Directors worked with staff, volunteers, and community stakeholders to update and develop a new 3-year strategic direction. Resources used to support long-term strategic planning included the 2020 Community Needs Assessment, Oregon Library Association Public Library Standards, and American Library Association Library Bill of Rights and Code of Ethics. The 2021- 2024 Strategic Plan was adopted in April 2021 and provides a framework to ensure that library services and programs support the community.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In FY20-21, the library shifted collection development to include more electronic material as facilities were restricted due to the pandemic. While print material usage decreased, virtual and ebook usage increased, partly offsetting the impact of limited in-person services. Print collection development usage measured during the pandemic demonstrates a significant decrease in usage, while electronic media saw a drastic uptick.



Number of Items Borrowed

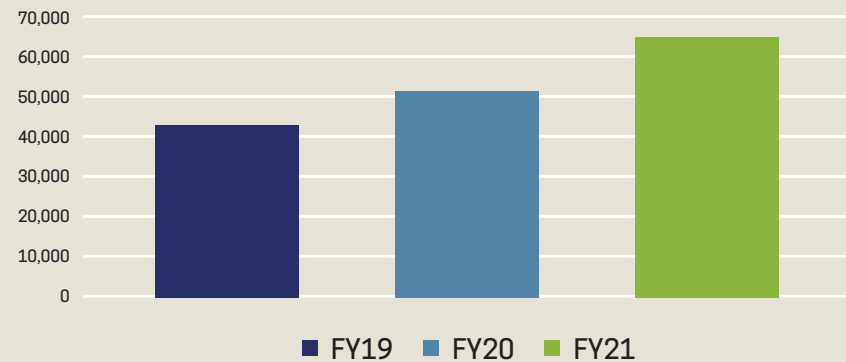
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Grants Pass	199,509	210,921	199,329	68,284
Illinois Valley	36,862	38,520	32,891	26,804
Williams	11,350	10,470	8,337	3,708
Wolf Creek	7,522	8,258	6,236	7,099
Total	251,768	268,169	246,793	105,895

*COVID-19 facilities restrictions began March 2020

*FY21 facilities restricted 11 months with full access reinstated June 2021

Figure 1: Monthly and annual circulation of materials decreased significantly due to facilities restrictions. Data does not include ebook borrowing.

Annual ebook circulation compared



*Overdrive consortium ebook checkouts: 55,936

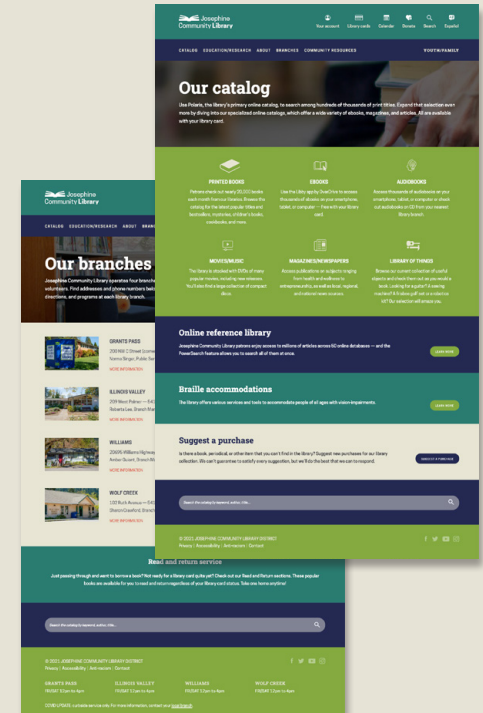
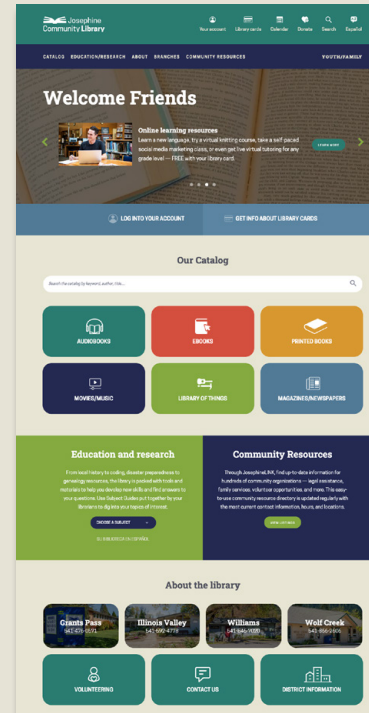
*Advantage JCLD-owned ebook checkouts: 9,799

Figure 2: In FY20-21, the district loaned 65,735 ebooks, representing a 30 percent increase in usage over the previous year's number of 50,827.

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE RESOURCES

The library's website can be considered a unique branch of the system providing 21st-Century library services to fulfill community information needs. With two complete years of enhanced online services, the library was able to increase website traffic and online resource usage through the addition of Spanish language resource, community organization information, and curated subject guides specific to Josephine County residents' needs. This ongoing work is funded in part by Collins Foundation and Josephine Community Library Foundation.

In FY21, the library purchased and continued to integrate new online resources for patron use, including Chilton car manuals, EBSCO Core Collections, Mango language, NoveList Select, CreativeBug, Brainfuse live tutoring for students, job seekers, and veterans, Scholastic ScienceFlix, and Udemy for professional development learning. This pilot effort to provide virtual library services through online databases demonstrated much lower engagement than that of in-person service. Expense for new databases was primarily paid for by grants, though continued subscriptions may not be viable.



JCLD Website Engagement

	FY20	FY21	Notable Change
Visitors	30,551	32,144	
Page Views	87,750	160,256	+83% (engagement)
Sessions	48,685	68,650	+41% (engagement)
Pages Per Session	1.8	2.33	+29% (engagement)
Spanish Language	4%	10%	+150% (inclusivity/accessibility)
Organic Searches	8,952	17,083	+90% (findability)



EARLY LITERACY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Summer Reading Program was offered online with some opportunities for in-person service through limited Grab & Go open hours. Some of the innovative virtual programming made available during this challenging year included How To Sprout a Reader storytime for families with toddlers, teen and tween book boxes, arts and crafts kits, and a Winter Reading Challenge through the Beanstack online program, and a personal Shelf Shopper program for readers' advisory. The library also partnered with the Grants Pass Daily Courier to deliver information about the Summer Reading Program to the community as well as activities that families could do at home.



Reading Colors Your World! Josephine Community Library

2021 Summer Reading Program

It's August – that means the community has announced a whole new set of FREE recommended reading, fun activities, and more through the library's Summer Reading Program. Look for updates each week in the Sunday edition of the Grants Pass Daily Courier and Midweek's Community Weekly. The program is available for all ages and includes fun crafts, books, and more. For more information, visit josephinecommunitylibrary.org or call 541-476-0571.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Community members can register an account at josephinecommunitylibrary.org to join the free summer reading challenge. The challenge features the Beanstack Tracker app, which is available for free. Participants who already have a Beanstack account can use their existing login information. Call 541-476-0571 or email info@josephinecommunitylibrary.org for help.

AUGUST ADULT CRAFT KIT

In addition to the regular monthly craft kit, the Josephine County Cultural Coalition has prepared a more extensive craft kit for adults while supplies last. In August, receive everything needed to make a felt dahlia flower craft. Registration is required and craft instructions are available in English and Spanish. To register, visit josephinecommunitylibrary.org for more information.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN

"Pete the Cat: Rock On!" by James Dean
 "Freedom, We Sing" by Anya Leon
 "I Feel That" by Lashon Hill
 "Are You Strong Like My Dinosaur?" by Leslie Helakoski

For more recommended reading, visit josephinecommunitylibrary.org.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

By supporting the Summer Reading Program, our sponsors are investing in education and literacy for our community for years to come. Sponsors include AllCare Health, All Star 24 Hour Towing, Evergreen Federal Bank, Hart Insurance, Hill Dentistry, Jim Sigel Automotive, Les Schwab, Sara Richman, DDS, the State Library of Oregon, Steve Marney of John L. Scott Realty, Thomason Hospitality Group, and Valley Animal Hospital.

WEEK 8: TRAVELING WATER EXPERIMENT

Test your science skills! All ages will be impressed with this color-mixing activity.

Supplies:

- 7 clear plastic cups or glasses
- Red, yellow, and blue food coloring
- Water

Directions:

- Place 1 cup in a row and pour water in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th cup. Approximately 1/2 cup for 7th cup.
- Add 5 drops of red food coloring to the 1st and 3rd cup.
- Add 5 drops of yellow food coloring to the 3rd cup.
- Add 5 drops of blue food coloring to the 5th cup.
- Take a half sheet of paper towel and fold in half lengthwise and in half again lengthwise.
- Depending on the size of your cups, trim the ends of the paper towel so there isn't too much excess paper towel that will stick up in the 2nd and 6th cup.
- Put the paper towel in the 2nd and 6th cup and one end in the 1st cup. Continue until all 7 cups are connected by paper towels.
- You should see at the end of the hour or day (depending on your paper towel), everything needed to make a felt dahlia flower craft.

How it works: The water moves up the paper towel through a process called capillary action. This is the same process that helps water climb from a tree's roots to the leaves at the top.

NEW CHAPTERS CROWDFUND:

Throughout the month of August, the Library Foundation is working to raise the additional funding needed to complete the Illinois Valley Preservation Project. Donations are accepted via PayPal. Checks and cash can be dropped off at any library branch or mailed to PO Box 3884, Grants Pass, OR 97528. Look out for more information at josephinecommunitylibrary.org or follow Josephine Community Library Foundation on Facebook.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR YOUTH

"Eyes That Kiss in the Corners" by Joanna Ho
 "Lowlands in Space" by Carly Carver
 "Mars and the Rings of Saturn" by Bronn Harris
 "Soggy in Mille" by Thuy N. Utique
 "Tennis/Tennis" by Aiden Thomas
 "Displacement" by Kiko Hughes
 "Felix Ever After" by Aaron Calabrese
 "I'll Be One" by Sifa Lee

For more recommended reading, visit josephinecommunitylibrary.org.

NEW CHAPTERS CROWDFUND:

Look out for updates and more information about the Illinois Valley Preservation Project at josephinecommunitylibrary.org.

COME IN, WE'RE OPEN!

All four library branches in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek are back to regular hours of operation. Stop by to browse the collection in person. Visit josephinecommunitylibrary.org or call 541-476-0571 for branch hours and contact information.

150,000 was raised

Reading Colors Your World! Josephine Community Library

2021 Summer Reading Program

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 Summer Reading Program. This week, almost 400 community members of all ages collectively read over 100,000 minutes!

Reading during the summer is great for all ages, but especially to help combat summer slide in school-aged youth. Summer slide is the loss of academic skills and knowledge over the summer months of vacation, recess, or countries that have lengthy breaks in the school year. We hope you continue reading over the next few weeks of summer and wish you a happy one-school year!

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Thank you sponsors and partners!

Josephine Community Library and the Grants Pass Daily Courier partnered to ensure children of all ages continued reading over summer. By supporting the Summer Reading Program, our sponsors and partners are investing in education and literacy for our community for years to come. Sponsors for the 2021 Summer Reading Program include AllCare Health, All Star 24 Hour Towing, Evergreen Federal Bank, Hart Insurance, Hill Dentistry, Jim Sigel Automotive, Les Schwab, Sara Richman, DDS, the State Library of Oregon, Steve Marney of John L. Scott Realty, Thomason Hospitality Group, and Valley Animal Hospital.

WEEK 10: DIY YARN BALLS

This week, gather the family and try out making felt yarn balls. These make adorable hanging decorations, festive centerpieces, or table toppers to fill a decorative basket or basket. Even young kids will enjoy dropping the yarn through the glue.

This one can get messy so it would be a great outdoor activity.

Supplies:

- Felt in various colors
- Water
- Round balloons
- Scissors
- Flak tray or shallow bowl
- Newspaper or craft to protect the table

Instructions:

- Blow up a small round balloon.
- Mix white glue and water (50/50) very well on the tray.
- Soak or dip yarn into the glue mixture, twisting evenly.
- Start wrapping the glue yarn around the balloon randomly.
- Allow the glue to dry for at least 24 hours.
- Once dry, use the yarn by gently pressing the balloon in places where it is joined.
- Remove the balloon to reveal your decorative creation!

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE LIBRARY OF THINGS?

Use your library card to borrow a variety of fun and educational items from the What Library? Some recent additions to the collection include a digital film scanner, a Digital and Design scanner, a 3D printer, and a ukulele.

To check availability and see what else is in the collection, browse the Library of THINGS from the CALDWELL instabot at josephinecommunitylibrary.org.

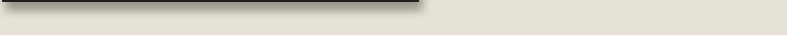
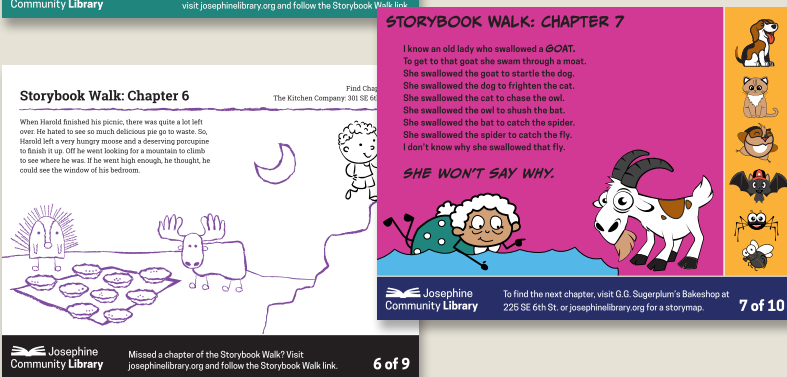
150,000 was read



Reading Colors Your World!

Children's Reading Challenge



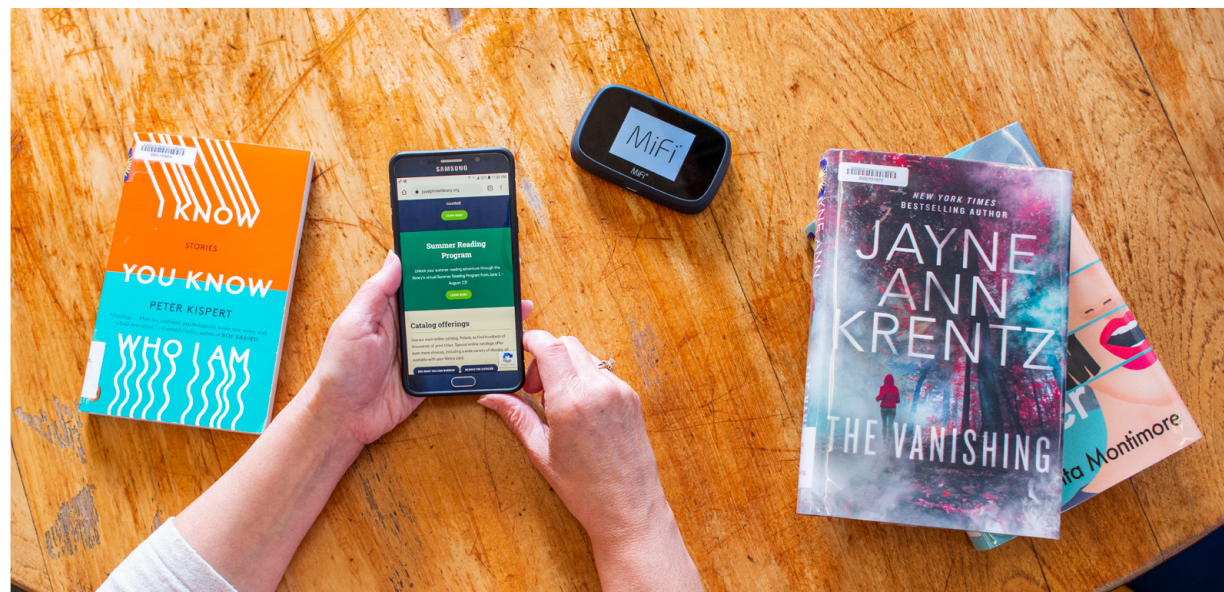


LIFELONG LEARNING

As curbside service remained in place from the beginning of the fiscal year through June 2021, in-person library events were suspended and partners converted presentations to virtual for the foreseeable future. A monthly virtual book club for both adult and middle school students was developed and implemented with ebook versions of the readings available through the website.

In partnership with 30 local business, the library hosted Storybook Walks in both downtown Grants Pass and Cave Junction. This outdoor reading and walking experience featured a children's story displaying the pages or chapters of a story placed in the windows of businesses as a walking path. Families were invited to stroll through the downtown areas on their own time at their own pace to read the featured story. Stories included Stone Soup, the Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, Robert Frost, and Harold and the Purple Crayon.

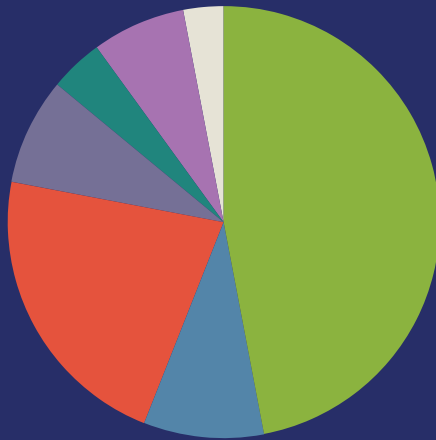
Other programming included the Library of Things lending of useful tools and objects, such as Internet hotspots and laptops with Microsoft Suite. In FY21, the library circulated 42 hotspots and 18 laptops as part of its commitment to provide access to the Internet during the pandemic.



FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

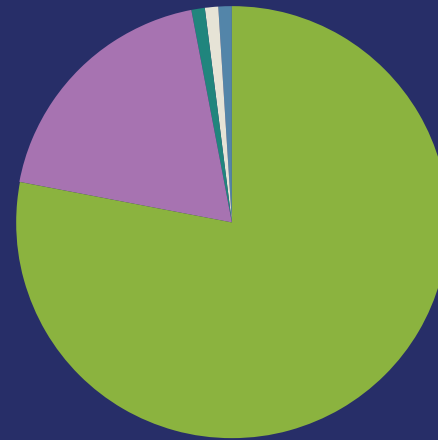
Utilizing a budget of \$2.7 million, the library was able to accomplish its strategic goals while remaining frugal, saving an additional \$378,000 for a reserve fund and future expenses. The district's annual audit was completed in December 2020 with a clean opinion.

FY21 District Expenses

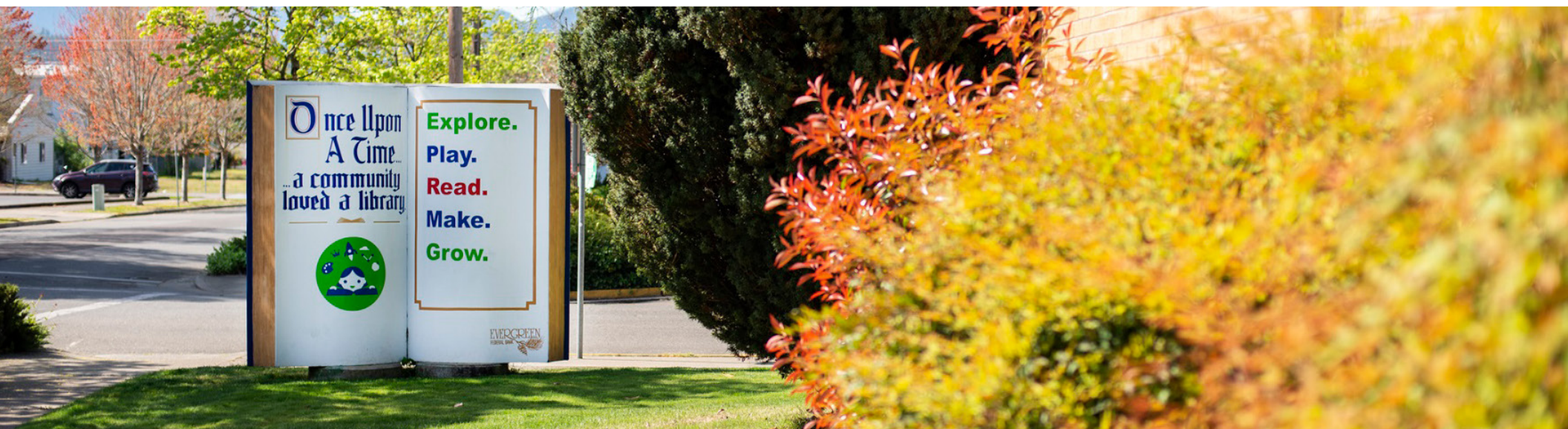


■ Personnel ■ Services ■ Grant Projects ■ Materials
■ Administration ■ Facilities ■ Utilities

FY21 District Revenue



■ Taxes ■ Grants ■ Interest
■ Non-resident Card Fees ■ Other





GRANTS

JCLD seeks grants to fund projects beyond the provision of the standard operations budget. In FY21 grant revenue expended equaled **\$309,478**. The largest grant received was the Coronavirus Relief Fund, federal CARES Act funding for municipal government entities, including special districts, administered by the State of Oregon. It reimbursed for a variety of expense categories related to Covid response. The library received **\$166,741** in reimbursements for its COVID-related expenses incurred between March and December 2020 including public safety measures, distance learning tied to school closures, communication efforts around the pandemic, disinfecting supplies, telework capabilities, and protective equipment.



PARTNERSHIP

The library partners with local, state, and national nonprofit organizations to offer programs and services that strengthen its mission, increase community engagement, and support community initiatives. Library partners fall into three categories: service partners, funding partners, and associations. Service partners work with the library to provide programs, workshops, storytimes, or other children and adult service for library patrons and community members. Currently the library has 30 service partners, 14 funding partners, and belongs to 10 associations.

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

In partnership with the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County, the library administers Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a book-gifting program that mails free books to children every month from birth to age five in participating communities. Since launching, more than 3,400 Josephine County children have received 62,300 books.



JOSEPHINE COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT FY21 SERVICE PARTNERS

Asante Three Rivers Medical Center
Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley
Chamber of Commerce
City of Cave Junction
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
Easterseals Oregon
Four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County
Grants Pass Museum of Art
Grants Pass School District 7
Hearts with a Mission
Illinois Valley Home Schoolers
Illinois River Valley Arts Council

Josephine County Cultural Coalition
Josephine County Historical Society
Josephine County Public Health
Kiwanis Club of Grants Pass
Latinx Interagency Committee (LINC)
Literacy Council of Josephine County
Oregon Humanities
Project Youth+
Sugarloaf Community Association
Sunny Wolf Charter School
Three Rivers School District
Williams Community Preschool



Josephine Community Library Foundation funds special library projects which are beyond the reach of the library's tax-funded operations budget such as capital projects.

JOSEPHINE
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY 
FOUNDATION

Improving our facilities is critical to the ongoing and future success of the libraries in our community. The district and foundation have established facilities improvement as a top priority.

In partnership with the library district, the foundation and district boards approved the following phases for the capital projects outlined in the Facilities Master Plan.

- Phase One: Finalize the purchase of property for a new library site in Grants Pass and renovate the Illinois Valley branch building
- Phase Two: Construct a new Williams branch library
- Phase Three: Construct a new Grants Pass library

The foundation signed an option to purchase a property for the downtown Grants Pass branch located between 6th and 7th, and "J" and "K" streets for \$2 million, which as extended to June 2023 due to the pandemic.

THANK YOU FOUNDATION BUSINESS SPONSORS

AllCare Health
All Star Towing
Avista
Cauble, Selvig, and Whittington LLP
Evergreen Bank
First Community Credit Union
Gooseberries
Hart Insurance
Herb Pharm
Hill Dentistry

Jim Sigel Automotive
John L. Scott Realty
Les Schwab
Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc.
Sara Riechers DDS
Southern Oregon Sanitation
Suzie Matney - JL Scott Realtor
Thomason Hospitality Group
Valley Animal Hospital
Welch Investment Group, LLC



Newly paved parking lot at the Illinois Valley branch



Rural libraries serve as community technology centers



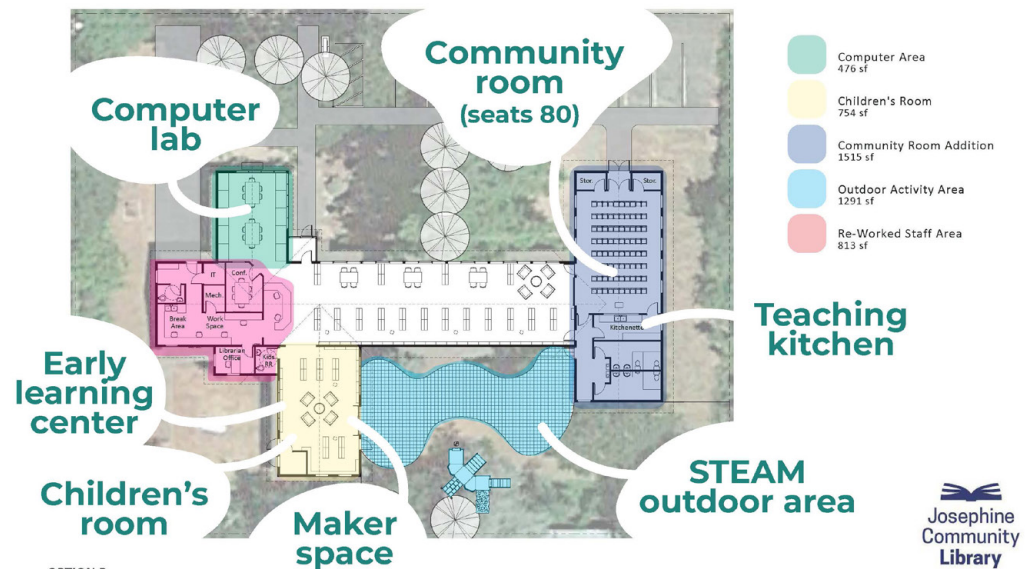
Outhouse and hand-washing station in Williams where the branch does not have running water

FACILITIES

Beginning with the Illinois Valley Renovation Project, the foundation worked with an architectural company and Illinois Valley residents to develop a conceptual plan based on the community's feedback. To better serve the needs of the community, renovation plans for the branch include an addition of a community room with a teaching kitchen, create an early learning center with a Maker Space, and provide an outdoor area set up for STEAM programs.

The foundation was selected as a recipient of \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, designated by State Representative Lily Morgan. \$900,000 of these funds are designated for the renovation of the library in Illinois Valley and \$300,000 are designated for the new library in Williams.

The City of Cave Junction partnered with the library district to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for \$1.5 million to help fund the renovation of the Illinois Valley library. The CDBG is a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and focuses on communities that have a majority of low to moderate household incomes. The City of Cave Junction and the wider Illinois Valley area meet these criteria.



OPTION B
August 5, 2021



WHAT IS NOT IN THIS REPORT

The annual report measures the outputs of library services to demonstrate relevancy of materials and usage to a community. This includes data such as how many items were checked out, foot traffic, program attendance and participation, website traffic, partnerships, and more. These standard measures are staples of library reporting; however, during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on access to buildings, these data points offer a limited sample of the work the library staff managed during these challenging times.

It should be noted in this report that the board and staff worked tirelessly to pivot and shift library services to online, virtual, and curbside service by developing ongoing and flexible service plans, mitigating changing guidelines, rules, and quarantining of materials, all without the support of volunteers who, in normal times, work nearly 500 hours a week. During FY21, rather than close the libraries and furlough or lay off staff, library leaders reinvented services to provide online storytimes, distribute free book boxes and art kits to all ages, host virtual book clubs, and manage curbside delivery.

While these efforts are not reflected in boosting annual usage statistics, they are paramount to what libraries do for communities — meet the information needs of those they serve no matter what. For more information about library statistics in Oregon, please visit [State Library of Oregon Public Library Statistics](#).

Together we thrive

“People are at the center of the library’s mission to inspire learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen community.”

- The Aspen Institute

Thank you to the staff, board, volunteers, and partners who worked with flexibility to ensure continued library services during this most challenging year.





GRANTS PASS

200 NW C St
Grants Pass, OR
541-476-0571

ILLINOIS VALLEY

209 West Palmer
Cave Junction, OR
541-592-4778

WILLIAMS

20695 Williams Hwy
Williams, OR
541-846-7020

WOLF CREEK

102 Ruth Ave
Wolf Creek, OR
541-866-2606

 **Josephine
Community Library**

josephinelibrary.org