

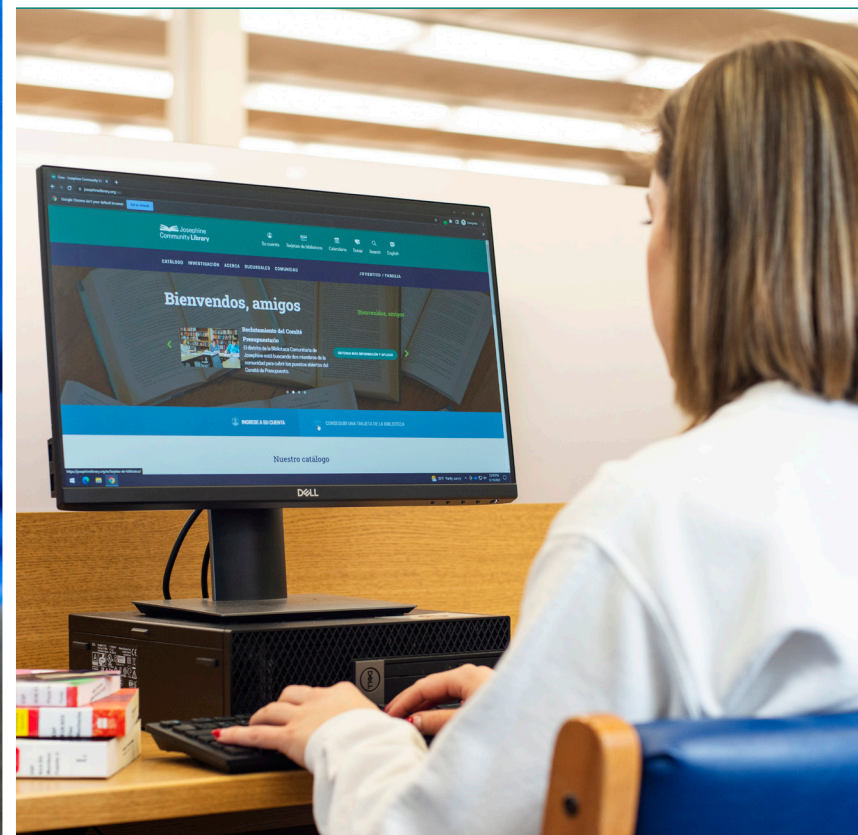




INTRODUCTION

Fiscal year 2022-23 reflects the fifth full year of operations as a library district and continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following annual report presents a comprehensive overview of the library district's achievements, resources, and impact on the community during the past fiscal year. Delving into the institution's diverse programs, patron engagement, and operational efficiency, this analysis aims to illuminate the vital role played by the library as a valuable knowledge hub and community asset.



CORE SERVICES

The core services of the library define the fundamental constant in the library's work, laying the foundation for strategic planning, materials and program development, and services for all ages.

- **Collection.** Maintain and circulate a curated and balanced collection of cataloged books and other materials selected for a wide range of interests for adults, youth, and children in the community.
- **Facilities.** Provide a pleasant experience and convenient space for library users, with trained volunteers and professional staff available for guidance in the acquisition of information.
- **Technology.** Provide access to the Internet and a variety of digital media with subsequent digital skills training.
- **Early Literacy.** Provide special programming to encourage children's literacy.
- **Lifelong Learning.** Provide adult programs that encourage lifelong learning.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

The library's strategic plan is the overarching document developed by the Board of Directors that guides daily operations, including mission, vision, values, goals, projects, and key performance indicators. In FY23, the library fulfilled its third year of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and finalized plans for a new strategic direction for 2024-2027.

The 2021-2024 Strategic Direction builds on the core services with a focus on basic needs, diverse perspectives, civic engagement, and library systems with a goal to achieve the vision of a community where ideas and people come together to share knowledge, experiences, and perspectives as described in the summary statements below. These focuses represent the goals of the library system from 2021 to 2024 during the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most challenging times in recent history:

1. Residents fulfill basic needs and gain life skills through library services, library partner services, and referrals to community resources.
2. Residents of diverse backgrounds have their information needs addressed equitably, their perspectives welcomed, and their group represented at the library.
3. Residents have the information and learning opportunities they need to participate in local, state, and national issues and decision making.
4. Residents benefit from a well-managed library that employs efficient operating systems and structures.



COLLECTION

The library makes materials available in a variety of formats in an effort to provide access to information resources for all community members, such as print, audio, and digital materials including books and magazines, audio books, electronic books, research and subscription databases, and web resources based on community information needs.

In FY22-23, overall usage of library materials and participation in programs increased as the library continued to rebuild and repair services to meet pre-pandemic statistics and new demands for access to technology in Josephine County.



Number of Items Borrowed

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Grants Pass	199,509	210,921	199,329	68,284	152,080	197,242
Illinois Valley	36,862	38,520	32,891	26,804	27,087	31,487
Williams	11,350	10,470	8,337	3,708	8,365	10,527
Wolf Creek	7,522	8,258	6,236	7,099	6,843	8,019
Total	251,768	268,169	246,793	105,895	194,372	247,275

*COVID-19 facilities restrictions began March 2020

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

*FY22 facilities restricted 6 months with full access reinstated January 2022

Figure 1: FY23 Monthly and annual circulation of materials increased by 21%. Data does not include ebook borrowing.

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
New library cards	2,953	2,487	1,282	*2,353	*3,179
Materials added	13,469	8,436	8,875	6,824	9,087
Computer use	12,889	11,010	328	4,310	8,387
WiFi use	66,911	73,430	51,914	**29,831	31,329

*Of new library card registrations, 572 were online electronic cards in FY22 and 395 in FY23.

**FY22 WiFi usage counts averaged for six months due to IT issues.

Figure 3: Year-over-year comparisons of new library card registrations, materials added, and computer use demonstrates a steady recovery from the impact of pandemic restrictions.



SPANISH LANGUAGE COLLECTION

The library is also a virtual space where individuals can gain access to information, resources, and all the rich experiences the library offers. In FY23, website usage declined in all areas except Spanish language resources, which almost doubled.

To better serve Spanish speakers in Josephine County, the library partnered with Project Youth+, which works to prepare low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented youth to thrive in school, careers, and life. Project Youth+ helped the library hire a high school senior to support Spanish outreach as a library assistant, sponsored by The Ford Family Foundation. She works in the children's library assisting patrons, processes translation on the library website, and translates documents for all four branches. The library also offered a weekly English Language Learners program and a monthly Spanish-language parent support group (Noche en Comunidad) and developed a Spanish-language version of its Kindergarten Toolbox program.

GUADALAJARA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2022

The Guadalajara International Book Fair is the second-largest book fair in the world and an important cultural event in the Spanish-speaking world. Publishers from all over the world attend and offer books published in many different languages.

Two members of the library's collection development team were granted passes from the American Library Association's Free Pass Program, which included arrangements to attend the book fair, as well as lodging and breakfast. Materials selected during the book fair enhanced the Spanish-language collections at all four branches for patrons of all ages.



PROGRAMS

In FY23, the library offered a substantial increase in weekly and monthly early literacy and lifelong learning programs. From bilingual storytimes to creative writing workshops, library programs and services recovered from two years of facilities restrictions. Total adult programs, both virtual and in person, equaled **87** with **1,258 participants**, representing a **40 percent increase** from the prior year. Youth programs totaled **117 programs** with **7,285 participants** recorded, not including the 2023 Summer Reading Program. Some more popular programs included K9 Reading Buddies, Teen and Tween Book Boxes, Kindergarten Toolbox, Everyday Civics, and creative writing workshops.

FINE FREE LIBRARY

Libraries in Josephine County are fine-free. Research has shown that late fines are not effective and have no impact on return rates. In fact, fines have the unintended consequence of preventing a community's most vulnerable populations from using library services. Patrons continue to be responsible for damages and materials not returned.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The library offers an annual Summer Reading Program for all ages as its signature program. Summer reading programs are vital as they prevent learning loss, foster a love for reading, enhance literacy skills, and encourage lifelong learning habits among students and adults. Approximately **813 participants** registered for 2023 Summer Reading Program and participants recorded **331,000** minutes of reading through a new, customized online engagement tool sponsored by the library foundation. These statistics exceeded last year's benchmarks by **20-25 percent**. As part of the Summer Reading Program, **15 Storybook Walks** were offered offsite at all four branch areas with more than **200 participants** from partnering agencies. Several partnerships supported the program, including Grants Pass School District 7, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Josephine County Historical Society, Evergreen Federal Bank BearFest, Bugs-R-Us, Southern Oregon University Extension Services Food Hero program, YMCA, and more.

The library partnered with the Grants Pass Daily Courier in FY23 to deliver information about the Summer Reading Program to families across Josephine County. This partnership was sponsored by **10 local businesses**, equaling \$10,000 for paid advertisements, featuring fun activities to keep kids reading over summer. Sponsors included Affordable Truck & RV, Cynthia Harelson – CPA, Evergreen Federal Bank, Hill Dentistry, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Jim Sigel Chevrolet of Grants Pass, Josephine Community Library Foundation, Robinson Orthodontics, and the State Library of Oregon.



EVERYDAY CIVICS

SIMPLE STEPS TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY

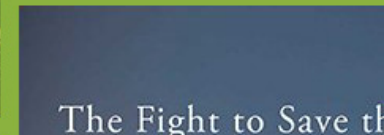
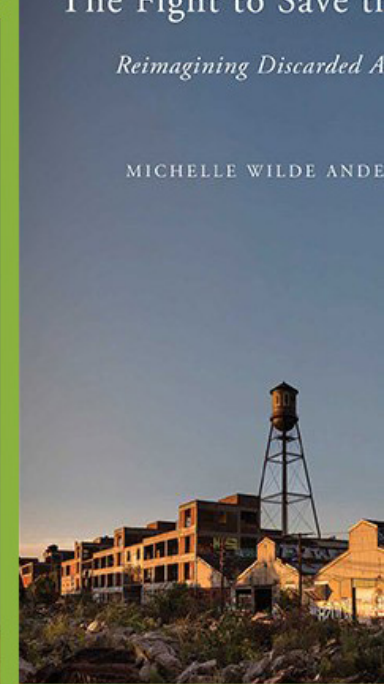
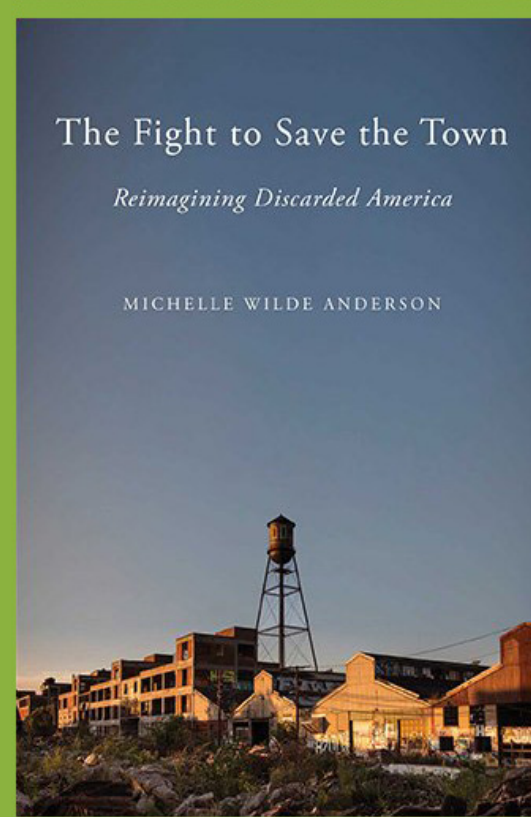
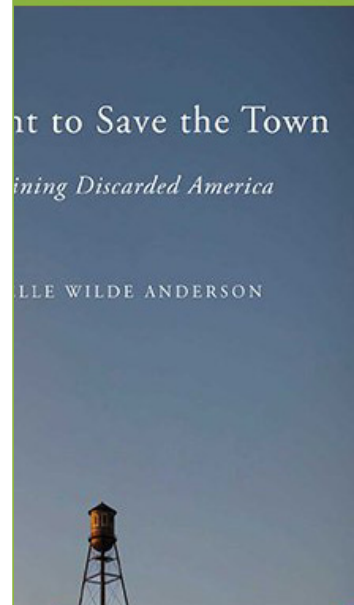
In FY23, the library continued to provide residents with the information and learning opportunities they need to participate in local, state, and national issues and decision-making. The Everyday Civics online subject guide continued to be updated with information about civil rights, liberties, the Constitution, local election information, and city and county government resources.

In November 2022, the library hosted a virtual lunch-and-learn reflective conversation featuring author of "The Fight to Save the Town," Michelle Wilde Anderson and key community leaders. During this program, Michelle shared research and findings from her book surrounding Josephine County. In a facilitated discussion, key community leaders considered how new generations of local leaders are figuring out how to turn poverty traps back into gateway cities.

LIFE HAPPENS

Life Happens is a program series for adults that featured topics to help manage life's everyday challenges in a constantly changing world. During FY23, the library partnered with local experts to bring community members programs and resources on topics including:

- Navigating healthcare and health insurance
- Advance care planning
- Healthy cooking
- Resume building and interviewing
- Cooking with and for kids





EARLY LITERACY/LIFELONG LEARNING

Early literacy and lifelong learning programming included the Library of Things, which lends useful tools and object to patrons of all ages, such as a sewing machine, disc golf set, ukelele, and more. Other programs included Sprout a Reader and Baby's First Book to encourage early reading at home. These programs, along with others, promoted early literacy through interactive activities, fostering essential skills like reading, while also facilitating lifelong learning and community engagement.



TECHNOLOGY

Public library technology is crucial for equitable access to information. It bridges digital divides, offering free Internet and digital resources to all. Modern library technology fosters learning, creativity, and literacy, keeping communities informed and engaged, and empowering individuals for lifelong learning and participation in today's digital world. More importantly, while the library offers the technology, staff and volunteers provide technical support and one-on-one instruction in computer basics to bridge the digital divide and help patrons get the resources they need. The library continued to offer **50 high-speed Internet access computers** at all four branches with a total of **8,387 logged users**, a **48 percent increase** over the previous year. Patrons also benefited from **40 hotspots** available for checkout and an additional **10 laptops** with Microsoft Suite for in-home usage. In FY23, WiFi access allowed patrons to log **31,329 unique sessions** connecting to the Internet both inside and outside the facilities using personal devices.



JCLD Website Engagement

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	Noteable changes
Visitors	30,551	32,144	43,876	35,761	-22%
Page views	87,750	160,256	167,095	118,978	-40%
Sessions	48,685	68,650	78,904	61,709	-27%
Spanish language	22	233	502	970	+93%
JosephineLINK	n/a	1,724	2,203	1,879	-17%

Figure 6: Annual website usage compared.



PARTNERSHIP

The district partnered with local, state, and national nonprofit organizations to offer programs and services which strengthen the district's mission, increase community engagement, and support community initiatives that align with library core services of providing materials and programs, early literacy, technology, lifelong learning, and open facilities. Library partners fall into three categories – service partners, funding partners, and associations. Service partners are organizations working with the library to provide programs, workshops, storytimes, or other children's and adult services for community members. In FY23, the district had **30 service partners**.

In addition, library staff are deeply involved with local and state community organizations, serving in leadership positions for the Chamber of Commerce, Literacy Council, Rotary Club, Oregon Library Association, and Oregon REFORMA.

JOSEPHINE COMMUNITY LIBRARY DISTRICT FY23 SERVICE PARTNERS

Asante Three Rivers Medical Center
 Chamber of Commerce
 City of Cave Junction
 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 Four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County
 Foster Grandparents of Southern Oregon
 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
 Grants Pass Daily Courier
 Grants Pass Museum of Art
 Grants Pass School District 7
 Illinois Valley Home Schoolers
 Illinois River Valley Arts Council
 Josephine County Cultural Coalition
 Josephine County Historical Society
 Josephine County Parks Department

Josephine County Public Health
 KAJO/KLDR Radio
 Kiwanis Club of Grants Pass
 Latinx Interagency Committee (LINC)
 Literacy Council of Josephine County
 Oregon Humanities
 Project Youth+
 Rogue Valley NaNoWriMo
 SO Health-E
 Southern Oregon Amateur Radio Club
 Sugarloaf Community Association
 Sunny Wolf Charter School
 Three Rivers School District
 Therapy Dogs International
 Williams Community Preschool

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

In partnership with the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County, the library administers Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails free books to children. Every child under the age of five in Josephine County is qualified to receive a book by mail, at no cost to their families every month until their fifth birthday. Every year, a diverse batch of books is selected for each age group including bilingual books in Spanish and English, with options for braille and audiobooks. In FY23, more than **25,000 books** were mailed to children in Josephine County and **468 children** graduated out of the program. Since launching, **4,682 Josephine County children** have received **113,839 books**.



TEEN AND TWEEN BOOK BOXES

Thanks to funding from the Roundhouse Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Grants Pass, **225 Josephine County teens and tweens** received age-appropriate seasonally-themed book boxes containing books, craft supplies, and snacks.

TAX ASSISTANCE AFTERNOONS

In partnership with United Community Action Network (UCAN), the library offered community members the opportunity to file their taxes online for free using their TaxSlayer software. UCAN VITA took appointments and walk-ins twice a week for taxpayers who received basic documents at the Grants Pass branch during the months of February and March 2023.





VOLUNTEERS

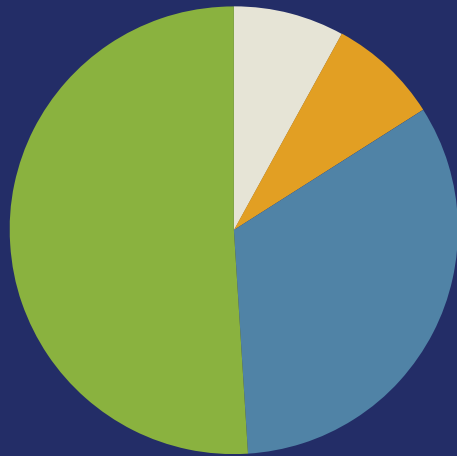
The library system in Josephine County has a unique history that informs its special and enduring relationship with the community it serves. Because of a county funding crisis in 2007, all four library branches were completely shut down. In response, a small group of volunteers – who understood the vital importance of libraries to the life opportunities for children and adults in the area – banded together to raise awareness, funds, and more volunteers for the cause. They succeeded in reopening the four library branches in 2009 as a nonprofit organization. This nonprofit provided library services to the people of Josephine County, on the strength of a largely volunteer staff and donated funds until funding approved the formation of a special district in 2017.

Given this exceptional backstory – in which the very existence of the libraries in Josephine County relied on the passion, dedication, and generosity of ordinary citizen volunteers – it could be said that deep engagement and collaboration with the community are baked into the “DNA” of Josephine Community Library. Even now as a tax-funded library district, Josephine Community Library still has a robust volunteer program that is synonymous with deep community engagement coupled by an amazing cadre of about **200 volunteers** per year. These volunteers catalog books, issue library cards, answer questions at the information desk, check books out and in, shelve returned books, facilitate programs, and help patrons with computers and other technology.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

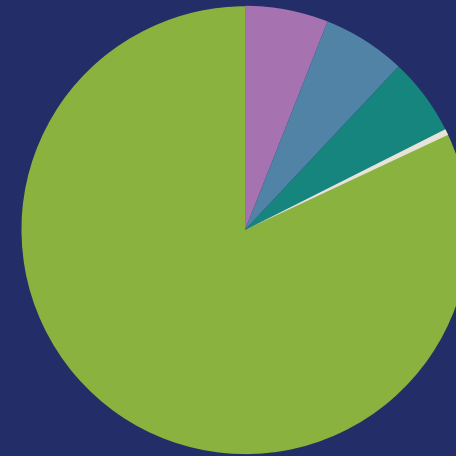
In its fifth year of library operations utilizing a budget of \$3 million, the library completed several facilities and equipment upgrades, including a shelving reconfiguration project at the Wolf Creek branch, additional security cameras at the Williams branch, and upgraded fluorescent lighting to LED at the Grants Pass and Wolf Creek branch facilities. With the assistance of the Grants Pass Fire Department, the branch updated and addressed fire safety and compliance with required fire regulations. Highlights of technical service purchases included the upgrade of the Polaris integrated library system, and additional hardware and software to support the library system in case of equipment failure. Pauly Rogers & Co. completed the district's annual audit in June 2023 with a clean opinion.

FY23 District Expenses

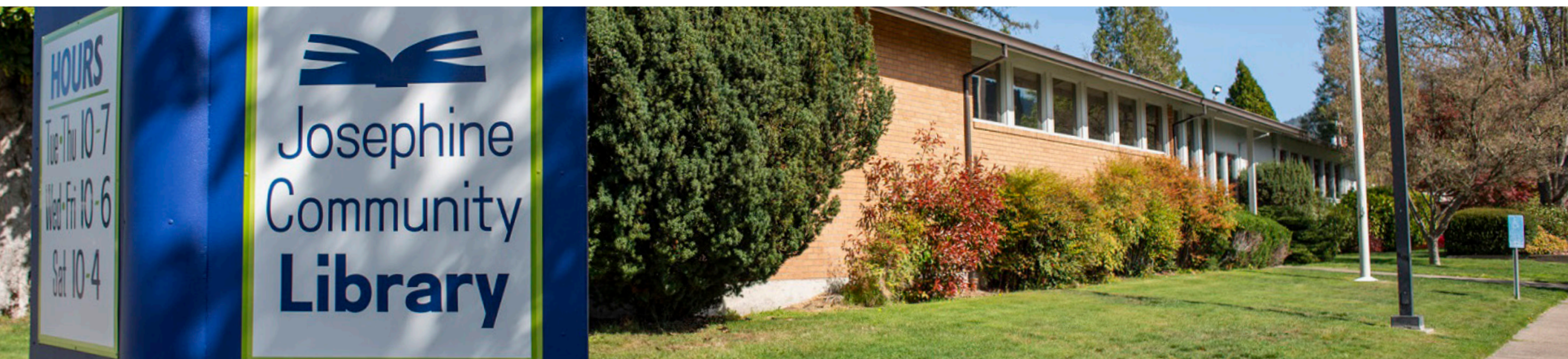


■ Personnel ■ Services
■ Maintenance & Repairs ■ Administration

FY23 District Revenue



■ Taxes ■ Grants ■ Interest
■ Fees ■ Other





GRANTS

JCLD seeks grants to fund projects beyond the provision of the standard operations budget. In FY23 the district expended \$103,260 in restricted grant revenue. The largest grant received included \$25,000 from the Dorothy Thompson Fund. The complete list of grant funders includes AllCare Health, City of Cave Junction Community Development Block Grant, Dorothy Thompson Fund, The Ford Family Foundation, Josephine Community Library Foundation, Kiwanis, Roundhouse Foundation, and State Library of Oregon for Ready To Read Grant.



JOSEPHINE COMMUNITY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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.

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

During FY23, all four library branches were in various phases of renovation, construction, or planning for new facilities through partnerships with the library foundation and the City of Cave Junction.

THANK YOU FOUNDATION BUSINESS SPONSORS

A Greater Applegate
AllCare Health
American Rescue Plan Act
Affordable Truck & RV
Avista Corporation
Bennett Fund
Carpenter Foundation
Clouser Drilling
Cynthia Harelson, CPA
Dorothy Juszczuk Fund
Dorothy Thompson Fund
Echo Fund
Evergreen Federal Bank
Ford Family Foundation
Four Way Community Foundation

Grants Pass Kiwanis Club
Hart Insurance
Herb Pharm
Hill Dentistry
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Jim Sigel Chevrolet of Grants Pass
Josephine County American Rescue Plan Act
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Cultural Trust
Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc.
Robinson Orthodontics
Southern Oregon Sanitation
State Library of Oregon
State of Oregon Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds
Welch Investment Group



FACILITIES

The library district owns two of its four library buildings, including the Williams and Illinois Valley branches. Josephine Community Library Foundation owns the Wolf Creek building, and Josephine County government retains ownership of the Grants Pass facility. The district renewed its lease with the county in December 2018 for use of the Grants Pass building for a fee of \$1 per year through 2025 with the option of a five-year renewal. Josephine County government offered a reduced fee for lease as part of its commitment to supporting its residents.



Planning and fundraising for construction of a new Williams library was completed in FY23 with construction and the grand opening slated for early FY24. The new construction will allow for running water and a bathroom at the rural branch. An extensive remodel is planned for Illinois Valley library facilities as part of a Community Development Block Grant scheduled to break ground in September 2023, with the renovations expected to be complete in FY25. Additionally, the library foundation purchased a city block in downtown Grants Pass in June 2023. Concept designs envision the creation of a community center featuring access to information, technology, and community gathering spaces, which support education, connection, and local economic development.



FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Recognizing that a library system needs appropriate space – for collections, for people, for programming, and for functional operations – the district and the Josephine Community Library Foundation have established a partnership to improve facilities. To achieve this goal, the foundation funded the development of a Facilities Master Plan, published in February 2019, which has formed the basis of a community capital fundraising campaign.

Since that time, the foundation has raised funds for both Illinois Valley and Williams capital projects, totaling \$5.5 million in revenue. Funding for these projects was made possible by grants from grantmaking organizations, government funds, and donations from thousands of individuals. For more information about capital campaign projects and the construction timelines, visit jclfoundation.org.



Community celebration with 125 attendees at the site of a new Grants Pass branch located at 6th & 7th and K and J Streets, July 22, 2023.





GRANTS PASS

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

ILLINOIS VALLEY

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

WILLIAMS

158 Tetherow Road
Williams, OR
541-846-7020

WOLF CREEK

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