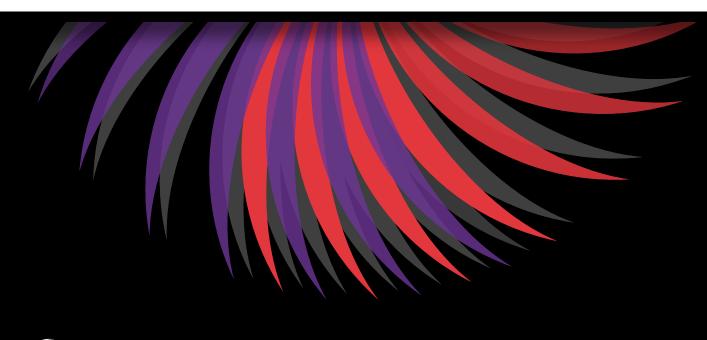


## **GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY**

2024 Annual Report





## Message from the Director

Dear Friends.

Looking back to 2013 when I started as the Director of Genesee District Library, I remember a GDL that was still reeling from the 2008 housing crisis. We had experienced layoffs, low staff morale, a large unfunded OPEB balance, and no reserve fund. Thanks to previous management GDL survived that crisis.

Looking at GDL today, I see new Youth Services and Digital Services Librarian positions, improved staff morale, a fully funded OPEB, and a healthy reserve fund. GDL is thriving thanks to our fiscally responsible choices and the hard work of the current management team, staff, volunteers, and Friends groups.

Looking forward, I see GDL continuing to adapt to the needs of the many communities it serves. We will continue to be a responsible steward of taxpayer funds, to partner with our municipalities in providing welcoming library branches, to provide important services to patrons of all ages, and to provide inspiration to those who walk through our doors or browse through our website.

Sincerely, David Conklin, Director

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## About the Genesee District Library

The Genesee District Library (GDL) is a public library system serving the residents of Genesee County, Michigan. Our service area covers all communities within the county, with the exception of the City of Flint, which is served by the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.

The GDL system consists of 19 locations and includes services such as the Robert T. Bolo Business Center (Grand Blanc-McFarlen), the Talking Book Center and Homebound Service (William F. Delaney Headquarters Library), and three Seed Libraries (Fenton-Winegarden, Forest Township, Montrose-Jennings).

In an average year, well over one million items are borrowed from the GDL such as books, movies, music, and magazines. Residents within our service area also have online access to over 20 million digital items such as movies, music, magazines, TV series, graphic novels, eBooks, audiobooks, databases, and much more.

The GDL was formed on January 1, 1980 through a partnership between Genesee County and Grand Blanc Township. It is governed by an eightmember volunteer board. Funding is provided through a .9981 county-wide millage (excluding the City of Flint). The remaining revenue comes from fees and fines, state aid, grants and gifts.

### **Genesee District Library**

- **▶** Class VI Library
- Population Served: 300,000 500,000
- Third largest Library System in Michigan
  - Serving:
  - 32 Municipalities
- 20 GISD Constituent School Districts
  - 103 Separate Schools in Those Districts
  - 15 Public School Academies
    - 18 Non-Public Schools
      - 136 Schools Total

### **Board of Trustees**



Library Director
David Conklin



Linda Ryals-Massey, Chairman



Dale Hostetler, Vice Chairman



Robert Crites, Treasurer



Joan Towarnicky, Secretary



Valaria Conerly-Moon, Trustee



Julie Steffey, Trustee

Not Pictured
Todd Barnes, Trustee

#### **Years of Service**



Left to Right: Al Berry, Olivia Williams, Nancy Abbey, Shari Suarez, Amy Goldyn, John Ekleberry, Kara Kvasnicka.

5 Years	20 Years	35 Years	
Olivia Williams	John Ekleberry	Kara Kvasnicka	
10 Years	Shari Suarez		
Nancy Abbey	25 Years		
Al Berry	Amy Goldyn		

#### In-Service Entertainment



Johnnie Jones, Library Assistant, and Vaughn Mortimer, Delivery Driver, provided entertainment by singing a comedy spoof on the song, Takin' Care of Business, referencing GDL staff. They also played La Bamba/Twist and Shout. Jones performed a ukelele rendition of Sixteen Tons, changing the lyrics to reflect library work.



William F. Delaney Headquarters Librarian Curtice Taylor provided a rousing comedy spoof of the song Mambo No 5, about life in a library.

#### **TAG Volunteers**

The Teen Action Group (TAG) is a group of teen volunteers who help with a variety of youth library programming including volunteering at programs (set-up/clean-up, help with crafts and activities), suggesting teen programs and services, and assisting with the planning of teen programs. TAG had four active members in 2024 and they contributed a total of 61 hours to Genesee District Library. Warmest thanks to our teen volunteers!

## **Above & Beyond Award**



Library Assistant JoEllen Lynch was presented with the 2024 Above & Beyond Award at the annual In-service at Genesys Conference & Banquet Center on October 14.

#### Volunteers Make a Difference

Genesee District Library is happy to welcome volunteers into our branches. The GDL had nine active branch volunteers in 2024, and they contributed 494.75 hours. Warmest thanks to these volunteers!

## Friends of the Library

Generous. Enthusiastic. Dedicated. The Genesee District Library is fortunate to have several wonderful Friends groups that support our libraries in dozens of ways. We are grateful for their service:

- Baker Park Friends Group
- Clio Library Board
- Fenton Library Board
- Friends of the Burton Memorial Library
- Friends of the Clio Area Library
- Friends of the Fenton-Winegarden Library
- Friends of the Flushing Area Library
- Friends of the Forest Township Library
- Friends of the Goodrich Library
- Friends of the Grand Blanc-McFarlen Library
- Friends of the Johnson Library
- Friends of the Montrose-Jennings Library
- Friends of the Mt. Morris Library
- Friends of the Perkins Library
- Genesee-Johnson Library Board
- Grand Blanc Library Board
- Linden Library Board
- Vera B. Rison Library Friends

#### **SRC Statistics**

- ▶ 2,320 People Registered
- ▶ 1,433 Active Readers

**1,541,610** 

Minutes Spent Reading

- ▶ 1,001 Book Reviews
  Submitted
  - ▶ 885 Completions
- ▶ 26,859 Badges Earned
- ▶ 885 Participants (38%) Completed the Challenge
- ▶ 135 Prizes Given Away
  - ▶ **397** Completion Book Prizes
- ▶ 17.9 Average Hours Read by Active Readers

# Programming Highlights

1,252 Total In-Person Programs

32,606 Attendees

36 Virtual Programs

4.910 Viewers

17 Take & Make Kits

965 Patrons Served

93 Outreach Events

6,488 People Reached

**46 Library Visits** 

2,716 People Visiting

**Grand Total Programs-1,268** 

Grand Total Patrons Served–37,516

2,692 Niche Academy tutorials were viewed on our website, making it easier than ever for patrons to access out digital services.

## **Summer Reading Challenge**

The Summer Reading Challenge ran from June 8 to August 3, and the theme was Adventure Begins at Your Library. There were 135 total prizes given away in prize drawings and 397 prize books given away for completions.

## **Old and New Reading Challenges**

**So Many Reading Challenges!** Genesee District Library held the traditional reading challenges such as Summer Reading Challenge, National Library Card Signup Month Challenge, Winter Reading Challenge, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, and March is Reading Month Challenge.

Several new reading challenges were added, including Hallow-Read, Read Grateful, Genre Challenge Bingo, 1,000 Books Before Third Grade, 40 Books Challenge, Early Chapter Books: A Shannon Hale Reading Challenge, Exploring the Animal-Human Bond: A Katherine Applegate Reading Challenge, Novels Through Poems: An Elizabeth Acevedo Reading Challenge, Retelling Heroes and Magic: A Dhonielle Clayton Reading Challenge, and Reading Wrap-Up.

## **National Library Card Signup Month**

In 1987, Secretary of Education William Bennett stated: "Let's have a campaign ...
Every child should obtain a library card and use it." Since that time, National Library
Card Signup Month has been held across the country each September to mark the
beginning of the school year and to ensure that every child has a library card.

In that spirit, GDL once again promoted a September campaign to encourage library card signups:

- Reached out to all Genesee County schools to assist them in obtaining cards for their students.
- Offered a free GDL lunch bag or cloth tote bag to anyone who came into the branch to sign up for a card between September 1–30.
- Entered those people in a drawing to win an Apple iPad.

In September, the Genesee District Library issued 971 new library cards to patrons, compared to the monthly average of 827.

## **Black History Celebration**

The 23rd Annual Black History Month Brunch was held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Genesys Conference & Banquet Center with 500 guests attending. Awards of Excellence were presented to Mr. Dwayne Harrington, Sr., Mr. Isaiah Oliver, and Pastor Kevin Thompson, Sr. The Partner in Progress Award was presented to Bethel United Methodist Church. Television Judge Glenda Hatchett provided the keynote address, and the Kuungana African Drum & Dance Company performed. Matt Franklin from ABC12 emceed the event.



Television Judge Glenda Hatchett provided the keynote address at the 23rd Annual Black History Month Brunch.

#### **Gifts & Donations**

Thanks to the following people and organizations for giving generously to the Genesee District Library in 2024:

- 18 Anonymous Donations
- Education Dept. of U of M-Flint
- McPhee, B. Belle
- Rhoades, Roxanne
- · Banacki, Dana
- Bloom, J.E.
- Friends of the Mt. Morris Library
- · Cherry, Kay
- Malnar, Frances
- Marton, Kristy
- Rice, Janet
- Zales, Dorothy
- Flushing Women's Club
- Forest Twp. Library Friends
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Hodges, Lois

- Kruse, Lynn
- Grand Blanc Care
   & Library Bridge-A-Rama
- Johnson, Thomas
- Johnson, Thomas R
- · Chan, Alexander
- Brown, James S.
- McClure, Rhonda
- Fossett, Victoria
- Girl Scout Troop #77403
- Olga O. Swarthout Living Trust
- Schwartz, Shelley
- Ettinger, Dr. Ralph & Dr. Anna
- Shantaram, Rajagopal
- Panzlau, David & JoAnne

- Friends of the McFarlen Public Library
- Community Foundation/William Piper
- Leiteritz, William
- Sheaffer, Patricia
- Friends of the Genesee-Johnson Library
- Friends of the Fenton-Winegarden Library
- Gintsis, Dorothy
- Flint Lodge #222 Benevolent Does
- Estate of Leonard Ireland
- Mt. Morris Historical Society
- Scheidemantel, Marilyn
- · Garrett, Samantha
- Burk, Patricia

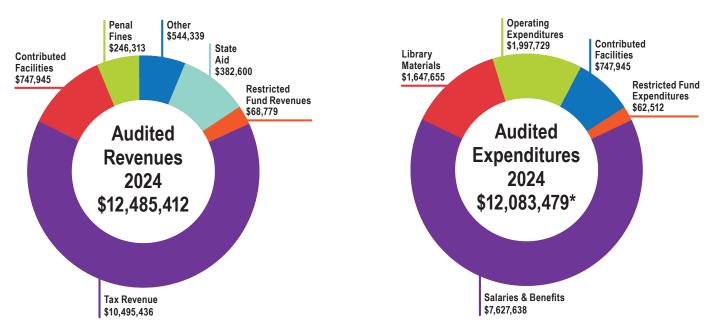
## **Community Partnerships**

We have many valuable partnerships throughout Genesee County. Some are new, and some are long established:

- Academy West
- Argentine Early Learning Center
- Atherton Elementary School
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Barron's Fest, Gaines
- Burton Senior Center
- Carman-Ainsworth Senior Center
- CASES Community Approaches to Strengthening Economic Supports
- Central Elementary School, Davison
- City of Grand Blanc
- City of Linden
- Cook Elementary School
- Davison Senior Center
- Delta College Public Media, Michigan Learning Channel
- Dillon Elementary
- Dowdall Elementary School
- Eisenhower Elementary
- Erik Jones Foundation
- Federal Communications Commission/ Affordable Connectivity Program
- Flint & Genesee Literacy Network
- Flushing Community Schools
- Flushing Early Childhood Center
- Flushing Senior Center
- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
- For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum
- GCCARD Head Start
- Genesee Community Health Center

- Genesee County Board of Commissioners
- Genesee County Parks & Recreation
- Genesee Health System
- Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center
- Genesee Intermediate School District
- GISD Career Coaching
- GISD Literacy Birth-3rd Grade and School Readiness
- Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
- Grand Blanc Community Schools
- Grand Blanc High School (Trades II Class)
- Grand Blanc Senior Center
- Greater Flint Health Coalition –
   Connecting Kids to Coverage
- Greater Flint Health Coalition Flint Water Crisis
- Great Start Collaborative and GISD Center for County-Wide Programs
- GSRP and Parents as Teachers
- Hamady Elementary School
- Hamady Middle School
- Hill-McCloy High School
- Hyatt Elementary School
- KinderCare Learning Center, Fenton
- Lake Fenton Middle School
- Linden Charter Academy
- Linden Elementary School
- Loose Senior Center

- McLaren Health
- McMonagle Elementary School
- Michigan Financial Wellness Network
- Michigan State University Extension
- Mid-Michigan Therapy Dogs
- Morrish Elementary
- Mott Community College
- Mt. Morris Head Start
- New Standard Academy
- North Road Elementary School
- Northridge Academy
- Parents As Teachers, Perry Center, Grand Blanc
- Pawsitive Changes Therapy Dogs, Inc.
- Randels Elementary School
- Reid Elementary School
- State Representative John D. Cherry
- St. George Preschool
- St. John Preschool
- St. Robert School, Flushing
- Swartz Creek Senior Center
- Syring Elementary School
- United Way of Genesee County
- Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid
- WJRT ABC12
- Woodland/Summerfield Elementary
- World of Wonder, Fenton



\*Includes a one-time \$1.75 million retirement fund contribution from reserves.

## **Return on Investment (ROI)**

	Circulation/Use	Estimated Value	Cost
Print Books	431,080	\$31.25	\$13,471,250
Magazines	3,807	\$17.95	\$68,336
Audiobooks	4,437	\$40.00	\$177,480
DVD/Bluray	143,019	\$24.00	\$3,432,456
Playaway View	132	\$79.00	\$10,428
Playaway Launch Pad	431	\$110.00	\$47,410
PC usage	53,110	\$25.00	\$1,327,750
eBooks	265,020	\$22.50	\$5,962,950
eMagazines	46,445	\$14.95	\$694,353
Database Search	70,805	\$25.75	\$1,823,229
eMusic	109,307	\$1.29	\$141,006
eVideo	7,215	\$5.99	\$43,218
eAudio	171,171	\$35.00	\$5,990,985
Interloan Requests	19,645	\$48.25	\$947,871
			Total \$34,138,721
<b>Operating Budget</b>			\$10,333,479

## ROI Summary

For every \$1 spent on the library it provides \$3.30 in services.

## **GDL** vs. Peer Libraries

Library	Service Population	Branches	Hours Open	FTEs	Millage Rate	Per Capita Spending	Annual Budget
KDL	439,194	18	47,361	247.35	1.28	\$61.84	\$27,160,680
GDL	334,609	19	41,962	83.05	0.9981	\$29.05	\$9,969,716
CADL	244,451	14	21,475	133.7	1.53	\$46.07	\$11,262,329
GCFPL	81,252	1	1,215	30.78	4	\$42.96	\$3,490,341

(KDL- Kent District Library, CADL- Capital Area District Libraries, GCFPL- Gloria Coles Flint Public Library); \*2023 State Aid Report Data

## Circulation

BRANCH	2024	2023	%
Baker Park	18,808	18,530	1.50%
Beecher-Vera B. Rison	12,380	13,593	-8.92%
Burton Memorial	27,487	28,247	-2.69%
Clio Area	46,297	47,348	-2.22%
Davison Area	80,635	87,865	-8.23%
Fenton-Winegarden	61,599	62,935	-2.12%
Flint Township-McCarty	21,487	19,960	7.65%
Flushing Area	38,910	41,343	-5.88%
Forest Township	16,317	18,631	-12.42%
Gaines Station	2,199	1,990	10.50%
Genesee-Johnson	13,388	16,051	-16.59%
Genesee Valley Center	13,107	6,945	88.73%
Goodrich	13,314	13,906	-4.26%
Grand Blanc-McFarlen	112,272	122,461	-8.32%
William F. Delaney Headquarters	30,740	35,545	-13.52%
Linden	19,932	22,526	-11.52%
Montrose-Jennings	17,627	18,916	-6.81%
Mt. Morris	25,883	23,122	11.94%
Swartz Creek-Perkins	22,899	24,454	-6.36%
Talking Book Center	28,782	29,454	-2.28%
Physical Items Total	624,063	653,822	-4.55%
eDatabases	70,805	71,752	-1.32%
eAudio	293,249	227,717	28.78%
eBooks	265,020	242,701	9.20%
eVideo	7,215	5,347	34.94%
eMusic	109,307	115,972	-5.75%
eMagazines	46,445	25,992	78.69%
Digital Items Total	792,041	689,481	14.87%
Grand Total	1,416,104	1,343,303	5.42%

## **Visits & Access**

BRANCH	2024	2023	%
Baker Park	20,539	20,517	0.11%
Beecher-Vera B. Rison	14,351	14,685	-2.27%
Burton Memorial	25,352	26,786	-5.35%
Clio Area	31,753	30,457	4.26%
Davison Area	53,417	53,919	-0.93%
Fenton-Winegarden	59,966	55,790	7.49%
Flint Township-McCarty	19,913	20,897	-4.71%
Flushing Area	37,514	35,999	4.21%
Forest Township	21,478	21,426	0.24%
Gaines Station	1,134	1,118	1.43%
Genesee-Johnson	10,532	10,386	1.41%
Genesee Valley Center	26,943	14,107	90.99%
Goodrich	15,264	17,492	-12.74%
Granch Blanc-McFarlen	108,226	104,723	3.35%
William F. Delaney Headquarters	36,836	39,153	-5.92%
Linden	23,017	23,572	-2.35%
Montrose-Jennings	17,282	19,579	-11.73%
Mt. Morris	17,279	15,979	8.14%
Swartz Creek-Perkins	34,031	32,097	6.03%
<b>Physical Visits Total</b>	574,827	558,682	2.89%
Virtual Visits Total	669,438	659,331	1.53%
Grand Total	1,244,265	1,218,013	2.16%
PC Usage (Logins)	73,792	71,065	3.84%
PC Usage (Hours)	53,110	50,183	5.83%
Wi-fi Logins	91,370	62,209	46.88%
Wi-fi Logins	91,370	62,209	46.88%

## **Genesee District Library and Your Hometown**

A Unique and Mutually Beneficial Partnership

Genesee District Library (GDL) was formed in 1980 through a partnership between Genesee County and Grand Blanc Township.

These two forward-thinking entities collaborated to create a unique and mutually beneficial arrangement, uniting in the establishment and operation of a district library. The result is 19 libraries throughout Genesee County making library services affordable for all.

As such, each participating municipality is responsible for providing and maintaining a building to house the library. Genesee District Library is responsible for providing the necessary staff, materials, and equipment.

By sharing library costs and responsibilities, the Genesee District Library system provides convenient, free library services in 19 locations throughout Genesee County.

Genesee District Library currently provides books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, comics, video games, graphic novels, music streaming, TV series, databases, eBooks, audiobooks, computers, and programs, in addition to services like wi-fi, print, copy, and fax. Patrons have access to over 20 million digital items.

GDL is governed by an eight-member volunteer board. Funding is provided through a .9981 county-wide millage (excluding the City of Flint). The remaining revenue comes from fees and fines, state aid, grants, and gifts.

