



BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Greetings,

2016 has been a year of changes here at the Blake Memorial Library! Our Library Director of eight years, Ken Linge, has moved on to pursue graduate school; we hired a new Library Director, Emily Heidenreich; our website is in the process of getting a much-needed facelift; we signed on to a pilot Interlibrary Loan courier program that has increased our access to items from other Vermont libraries; and our children's book collection is getting a boost, thanks to a grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation that is providing \$1,000 worth of new children's books to our library.

But one thing that has NOT changed here at the library is the community of people who support the library through donations, fundraising events, and volunteerism. One example that comes to mind is the hot summer day in August when ten children and teens gathered to help move hundreds of books into the library for our End-of-Summer Plant and Book Sale. These young folks, with their enthusiasm and strong backs, accomplished in minutes what it would have taken the fundraising committee all afternoon to do.

But volunteer hours are not enough. **Community financial support is essential to help us serve you today while planning for tomorrow.** Only 4% of our annual budget comes from municipal funds; the rest is supplied by you, our community, through endowments left by community members past and by your donations today.

In 2015, the Board of Trustees approved a new Strategic Plan, an ambitious plan that emphasizes the changing role of libraries in the 21st Century to places that not only house and circulate books, but to "community living rooms" where people come together to learn, explore, create, and share. **Join us in realizing this plan,** and if you haven't stopped by in a while, we welcome you to drop into your community living room and see what we are up to!

On behalf of the Blake Memorial Library Board of Trustees,

Linda Weiss, President

P. S. All contributions, regardless of amount, are **tax-deductible** and greatly appreciated.

P.P.S. The enclosed **bookmark** is for you. On it you'll find our hours, our contact information, and a listing of some of the resources and services available at the library, like 24-hour access to Wi-Fi.

P.P.P.S. If you shop at Amazon.com, you can now support the library with your eligible purchases through **AmazonSmile**. Please ask at the library for more information or go to www.smile.amazon.com and choose to support Blake Memorial Library.