

Contributing about 2,000 hours annually, volunteers at Blake Memorial Library help with various aspects of library service. Some keep regular hours at the circulation desk. Others help with programs like story hour or with fund-raising events like the book and plant sales and the secret garden tour. Some help with the maintenance of our building and grounds. The value of their efforts is immeasurable. To find out how you can help out at the library, call us at 439-5338, or e-mail us at blakemem@tops-tele.com.

We are a community-driven organization that depends on people coming forward to share their skills with us.

We have been pretty successful in recent years because volunteers have made enormous contributions. We hope they will continue to. Without them, BML is a building with a bunch a books. With them, it's a welcoming and vital community center.

Vision Statement:

The Blake Memorial Library is a community resource developed by community members to promote learning and sharing. We aim to encourage the people of the Waits River Valley to read, to explore, to think critically and creatively, and to come together to share ideas and inspire each other; we strive to provide them with the tools to do so.

We encourage people to think creatively about how they can help us (and the community in general) make that vision a reality. BML is happy to serve as a facilitator, supporting your efforts to contribute to the community.

When we expand our hours in the summer, we will definitely need more people who are able to open the library and staff the circulation desk. And we can always use Saturday morning help and substitutes who don't have a regular shift but are willing to get trained and help out on occasion.

Other ways to help are by running programs. Or helping with publicity.

There's currently an active group of homeschool kids who meet weekly at the library to interact with each other and learn. The group is organized by volunteers and taught by volunteers who teach chess, Spanish, and yoga. Do you have an interest or skill you might be willing to share?

Some volunteers process and catalog books. Others help people with their taxes.

One possibility, for the right person who would be willing to take on a regular commitment, would be to help with interlibrary loan.

Are you a film buff willing to host film events?

Are you a techie able to help teach tech skills or help maintain library resources?

Are you a local historian interested in helping the library develop its collection of local history materials?

Are you an artist willing to share your work in an exhibit? Or your skills in a workshop?

Do you speak a foreign language that you could share with others in either an informal discussion group or a formal series of classes?

Are you a literature buff or history buff or poetry buff willing to lead a book discussion or series of discussions?

Are you a scientist willing to do a fun science activity with kids in the summer? Or maybe you'd be able to help kids put together a puppet show? Or simply entertain them with puppetry of your own?

One thing we've wanted to do for a while is host a carnival game day. But we've not gotten the help we've needed to be able to pull one off. If enough people are interested in making games and/or helping to organize, we could start a great new family-friendly community-building annual activity.

Could you help people apply for health care or other federal or state programs or benefits that you might have some knowledge about?

Perhaps you'd be willing to help develop the collection? One thing we hope to develop in coming years is a toy collection. Might you be able to help us with that?

Are you an entrepreneur who could help educate people thinking about starting a business?

How about helping with outreach? Could you build and/or maintain a "little free library" in the community?

We are hoping to develop an outdoor play area and social space. Would you be able to help with the landscaping and/or ongoing gardening maintenance?

These are just some suggestions.

As a democratic, grass roots organization, we depend on people from throughout the community with a variety of experiences and interests and skills to come forward and help in the ongoing effort to develop BML as a vibrant community center. How might you help in that effort?