



PRESQUE ISLE DISTRICT LIBRARY

AMBASSADOR

TOOLKIT



Note from the Director

Greetings! As we embark on a collective journey to champion the Presque Isle District Library's mission, I am pleased to introduce our Ambassador Toolkit – a comprehensive resource designed to empower and guide you in becoming passionate advocates for our beloved institution.

As we reflect on the rich history and enduring legacy of the Presque Isle District Library, it becomes evident that each of you plays a pivotal role in shaping the library's narrative within our community. Established in 1993 as a district library system, the library has evolved into a dynamic hub, offering diverse services and programs centered around education, engagement, empowerment, and entertainment. Now, more than ever, the significance of libraries is pronounced, and your role as ambassador is key to ensuring our continued success.

This toolkit is your go-to resource, equipping you with the tools and information to effectively communicate the library's mission, values, and impact. From understanding the four E's to highlighting the library's crucial role in our community, this toolkit is designed to empower you as influential voices in support of the Presque Isle District Library.

Thank you for stepping up into the role of ambassador and for your dedication to preserving the library's tradition of excellence. Let's amplify the library's presence, foster community connections, and build a more inclusive world for all.

Thank you,

Amber Alexander

Library Director

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS TOOLKIT

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Presque Isle District Library Overview

OUR MISSION

To engage and empower our community by providing educational and entertaining collections and programming that includes diverse artistic and cultural interests.

OUR VALUES

In fulfilling our mission, Presque Isle District Library is guided by the following Core Values:

Focus on Relationships – We build, sustain, and strengthen genuine community relationships; we seek and respond to requests for partnerships and collaborations.

Growth and Innovation – We commit to continuous learning and innovation in the pursuit of excellence, responding to present situations and anticipating future needs.

Integrity – We value responsible stewardship of all the resources with which we have been entrusted. We are accountable for ensuring the proper use of public funds and will be transparent in all our reporting. We take seriously our responsibility to maximize the efficiency of staff time and talent.

Intellectual Freedom – We support, without restriction, the freedom to hold, receive and share ideas.

Privacy and Confidentiality – We believe all people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. We will advocate for, educate about, and protect people’s privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Quality Library Collections, Services and Programs – We provide books and other library resources for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all those we serve.

Quality Service – We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources, equitable service policies, equitable access, and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

Source: Excerpt from *Proving Your Library’s Value* by Alan Fishel and Jillian Wentworth

Challenges Libraries are Facing

Have you ever heard any of the following statements?

- We don't need a library because everything is online.
- Libraries are obsolete.
- I don't need the library, so why should my money support it?
- Libraries may be nice to have, but they are hardly essential, and we need to focus our support on what is essential.

No doubt you have a reply, but before responding, it is crucial to know this: you are hearing these comments because of a gap in understanding that presents you with two major hurdles to overcome. In order to most effectively change the dynamic around these perceptions and conversations, it's critical to know that libraries face a Reality-Perception Gap.

What Is the Reality-Perception Gap?

1. Perception: Far too many people view libraries as either “nice to have” or “obsolete.”
2. Reality: Libraries are not “obsolete,” nor merely “nice to have,” given that they provide essential services in the areas of Education, Empowerment, Engagement, and Entertainment.

Why Does the Reality-Perception Gap Exist?

1. The “past perception hurdle”
 - Many people view libraries based on their past perceptions – they see libraries as a good place to go to borrow books, or quietly study, but believe that they are now largely outdated.
 - Other people have the view that libraries are primarily about providing information, but they think that any information they need can now be found online. These people view libraries as being far less important than they were before the widespread use of the internet.
2. The “lack of a single dominant activity” hurdle:
 - Libraries do many great things; they do not, however, have one dominant activity.
 - Most entities that are viewed as essential have one dominant activity (e.g. schools educate, and hospitals heal).

...the good news is that by applying the right strategies, you can overcome these hurdles, position yourself in a crucial way to advocate for your library, and have stakeholders on your side in viewing the library as a key entity in the community.

Our Story

The roots of the Presque Isle District Library were established in 1945 as a county library and have since grown to serve our greater community through services and programs that educate, engage, empower, and entertain. This includes five library locations across 658.7 square miles and the Rogers Theater the only theater venue in the county.

The need for libraries remains important. Libraries have evolved into dynamic and multi-faceted institutions that play an essential role in our communities. At their core, libraries provide vital services in the areas of Education, Engagement, Empowerment, and Entertainment.

The 4 **Es**:

1. **Education** – Libraries are vital centers for lifelong learning
2. **Engagement** – Libraries are prioritizing civic literacy and engagement, as well as providing social opportunities and personal enrichment
3. **Empowerment** – The Library offers opportunities for personal advancement, and perhaps most crucially to vulnerable populations
4. **Entertainment** – The Library places a value on entertainment and strives to provide resources and programs that are fun and enjoyable

It is the mission of the Presque Isle District Library to serve as a friendly connection to a world of resources over a lifetime. Equally as important as the resources it provides are the people it serves. The Presque Isle District Library is an invaluable collection of information, materials, and people. The various collections, digital resources, technology services as well as educational and social programs offer something for people of all ages and interests. When you walk through the door you feel welcome in knowing your Library has something for you.

We believe in providing diverse information and respecting different views. Our goal is to create an inclusive environment where all are welcome. The Library is many things to many people.

To a parent and child, the Library is a place to gather, build relationships, and play. To a teenager, the Library is a safe place to gain knowledge, insight, and connect with others of like interests. To a young adult, the Library is a conduit to possibilities beyond high school including college and employment as well as a resource to research and pursue various opportunities. To an adult, the Library serves as a gateway to adventure. To senior citizens, the Library is a service that enhances their quality of life. To schools, the Library is a support arm for educators to enhance learning. To students, the Library is access to

books. To business owners and organizations, the Library is a place to come together with others who share the role of making our community strong and vibrant. To those who may feel isolated or disconnected, the Library is a place where they can feel a sense of community and belonging. To vulnerable populations, the Library is a resource that provides a safe space to tap into their worth and potential.

The Presque Isle District Library offers these things and more through programs and services that exist to meet evolving community needs:

- Storytimes that focus on early literacy
- Art programs for all ages that engage a variety of senses
- Book Clubs where patrons of all ages can connect over a shared love of books
- Playgroups for parents and children that aid in social and emotional development
- Programs that encourage financial, technological, and health care literacy
- Access to local government and community information
- Printing, faxing, copying, and notary services
- A welcoming, safe place for the community to gather
- Support for vulnerable populations such as services for seniors and veterans
- Programs and services that focus on employable skills
- Reading challenges that encourage all ages to form and maintain a daily reading habit
- Supplement the school's library with an Outreach Librarian
- Classes that provide opportunities for lifelong learning
- Access to technology tools that will take our community into the future
- Entertainment through cultural programming and film screenings at our Rogers Theater venue

Although the Library has expanded its role from lending books to offering meeting spaces, providing technology, high-speed internet, creating unique spaces for children and teenagers, the important role of books remains a foundational part of all we do.

For example:

- In meeting spaces, we need books to spark creativity to inspire people who are good at imagining new solutions.
- In STEM programs, we need biographies of scientists who changed the world because we need to support people who think deeply about the impact they can have for the better.

- In our social gathering spaces, we have an opportunity to bring people together around books as a great way to share other people’s experiences, allowing us all to learn and grow

Over the years the Presque Isle District Library has built on its history by making advancements that meet the growing needs of the community, preserving an environment where people feel welcome to explore, find information, and discover new things. A visit to the Presque Isle District Library has a familiar feeling that connects us through a sense of belonging.

At its heart, the Library is a community-owned institution, reflecting the collective values, priorities, and aspirations of local residents. It is a place where people can come together, connect with one another, and engage in meaningful dialogue and learning. The Library represents the best of community spirit and collaboration, embodying the idea that by working together, we can create a better, more inclusive world for all. From its earliest beginning, the Library has been driven by the energy and enthusiasm of staff, volunteers, advocates, and community leaders. Over the years, the Library has evolved and expanded, but its core mission remains the same: to serve as a friendly connection to a world of resources over a lifetime.

10 Second Elevator Speech

The Presque Isle District Library serves as a friendly connection to a world of resources over a lifetime providing vital services in the areas of Education, Engagement, Empowerment, and Entertainment.

30 Second Elevator Speech

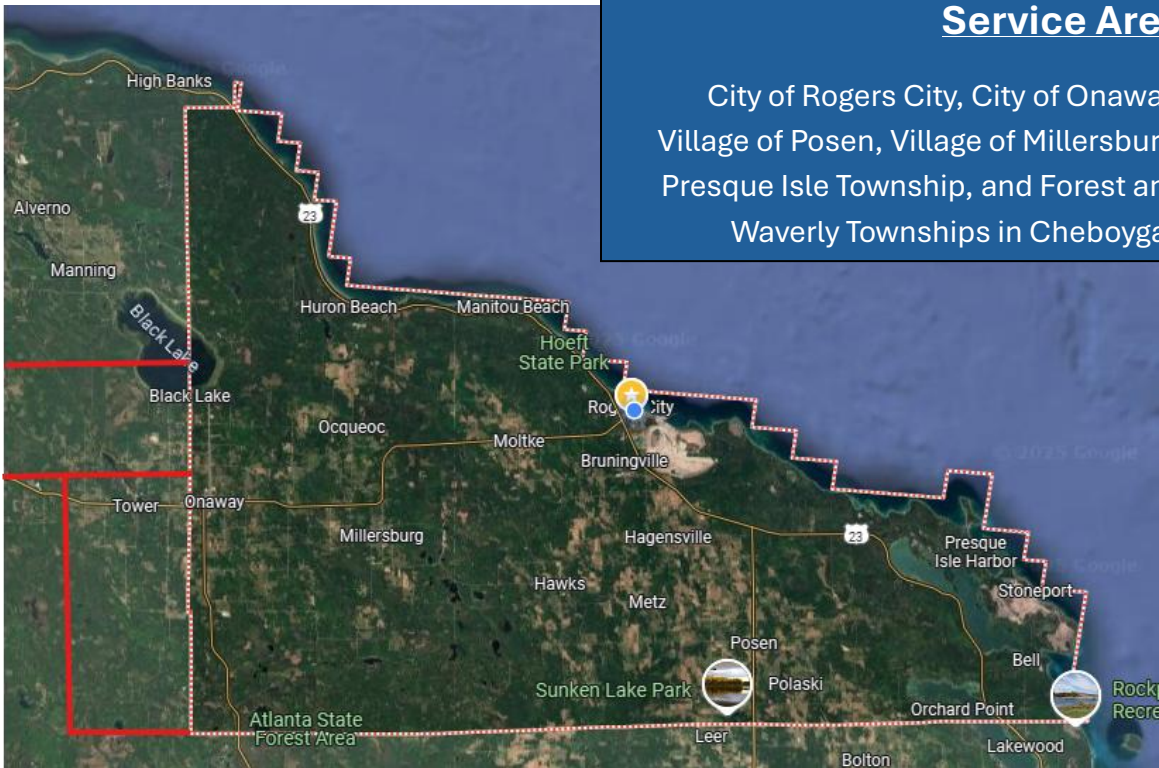
The Presque Isle District Library serves as a friendly connection to a world of resources over a lifetime providing vital services in the areas of Education, Engagement, Empowerment, and Entertainment. Residents of our five partner municipalities are the Library’s priority and it exists to meet their specific needs through the 4 E’s:

1. **Education** – Your center for lifelong learning
2. **Engagement** – Your information hub for prioritizing civic literacy and engagement as well as providing social opportunities and personal advancement
3. **Empowerment** – Your opportunities for personal advancement
4. **Entertainment** – Your place for resources and programs that are fun, enjoyable, and free

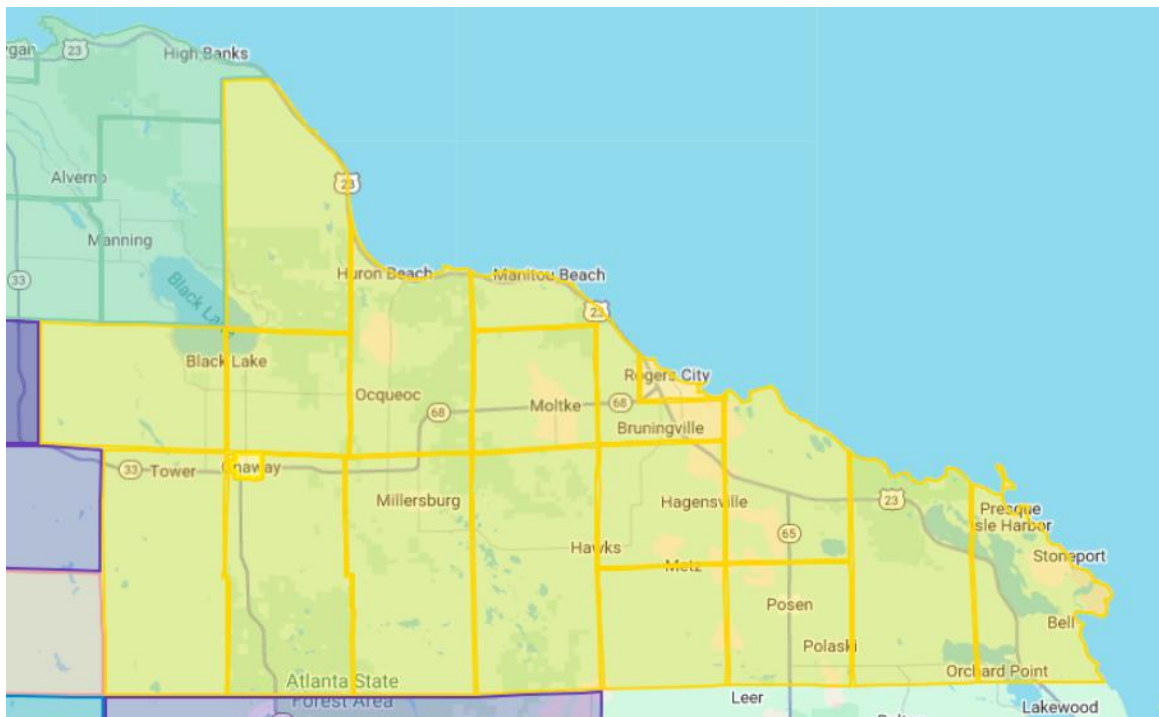
Our Reach

**Presque Isle District Library
Service Area**

City of Rogers City, City of Onaway,
Village of Posen, Village of Millersburg,
Presque Isle Township, and Forest and
Waverly Townships in Cheboygan



Our Service Area Population is: 14,332
The Median income for Presque Isle County: \$59,321
Per Capita Income: \$38,038



Our Focus

Planning for the Future

As Presque Isle District Library continues to grow both in services and outreach, we are continually asking what else we can do for our communities. Some areas that we are looking to expand on are the Library of Things and our Formal Wear Closet. Bringing in new and different educational and cultural programming which includes expanding into major events through our venue property at Rogers Theater. Expanding into our schools to assist with reading and resources. Continued infrastructure improvements. Our biggest long-term project is increasing the size of administrative offices and the main branch to better serve the needs of patrons and staff.

Areas of focus include:

- Achieve organizational and operational excellence
- Maximize use of resources
- Strengthening partnerships and relationships
- Increase community engagement

Vision for the Future

The Presque Isle District Library envisions a community enriched through **E**ducation, **E**ngagement, **E**mpowerment and **E**ntertainment.

Education:

- Early Childhood Learning
 - Reading to children
 - Helping children learn to socialize with others
 - Providing learning strategies for parents to use at home
- K-12 Education
 - Supporting Homework
 - Empowering the students through an Outreach Librarian
 - Keeping kids engaged during the summer
- Adult Education
 - Supporting university or community college education
 - Providing classes of various types
 - Trades Education

Our Focus

Engagement:

- Learning
 - Cooking, sewing, dancing, exercise, art, writing, and life skills classes
 - STEAM centers to learn and create
 - Educational competitions
 - Reading Challenges
- Social
 - Sponsoring books clubs, author visits, and book club kits
 - Providing meeting room, or venue for celebrations, performances, and networking
- Community
 - Participating in festivals and cultural events
 - Outreach to community to help define needs and gaps (the community connector)

Empowerment

- Financial, Technology, and Health Care Literacy
 - Technology Classes
 - Tax preparation forms
 - Health care information
 - Caregiver support
- Civic and Legal Literacy
 - Access to local government and community information
 - Voter resources
 - Legal aid resources
 - Candidate forums
- Support for Vulnerable Populations
 - Services for veterans
 - Services for seniors
 - Book delivery to assisted living facilities
- Skill Building
 - Access to online training and expert guidance
 - Collections and materials that support skill building

Our Focus

- Employment Support
 - Resume preparation support
 - Job search resources

Entertainment

- Collections
 - Providing access to high-quality, relevant, and popular materials
 - Providing a variety of formats and offerings for diverse interests and needs
- Programs
 - Providing lighthearted and fun programs for every age
 - Providing programs that ignite creativity and learning
- Outreach
 - Providing outreach in our community that is engaging and interactive
 - Providing outreach to the community that creates more accessibility to our services

Our Promise

For our community we will provide diverse information and respect differing views in an environment where all are welcome.

For our partners we will demonstrate the best of community spirit and collaboration, embodying the idea that by working together we can create a welcoming community for all.

For our donors we will demonstrate the highest standards of gift stewardship and ensure contributions are aligned with community needs. We will provide opportunities for individuals to be involved and support their library in meaningful ways.

For each other (Board members, volunteers, and staff) we will appreciate and support one another, recognizing the importance of each of our contributions and respecting the diversity in our backgrounds, experiences, and expertise.

Our Leadership & Your Voice

The Presque Isle District Library Board of Trustees is comprised of dedicated community members with diverse backgrounds and skill sets that contribute to the overall success of the Library. Board members volunteer their time and support, recognizing that planning for the future of the Presque Isle District Library is an ongoing commitment to ensure community needs are met. The Board of Directors is instrumental in continuously evaluating the Library's effectiveness and implementing strategies that support meeting evolving community needs. Meet your Library Board:

Chairman: Beach Hall, Presque Isle County

Library email: bhall.pidl@gmail.com

There is nothing like sailing into Rogers City several times and deciding that it would be a good place to retire to, so in 1982 after renting for 10 years, we purchased a home and permanently moved in 1992. One of the reasons for purchasing was the local library which was before it became a district library and was while it was located at the Bradley House. Both Beach, his wife, and family judge a community by the library. Incidentally, his first job was as library page.

During his years as Chair, it has been both a challenge and an honor to have been involved in new/expanded facilities which included developing a new branch in Millersburg, not to mention the Rogers Theater acquisition. Beach loves the concept that we are the source of most of the area's cultural activities. The Rogers Theater acquisition was the biggest surprise and challenge. He is always pleased to see the youth/children programming and outreach in all branches.

Beach interests are golf and sailing besides history, specifically the Civil War. He also enjoys reading, church, and community boards which include health care and education and Rogers City government.

Favorite Dessert: Peppermint stick ice cream and hot fudge

Tree: A spruce tree as they are strong, grows tall, and is green all year.

Vice Chairman: Terri Koss, City of Rogers City

Library email: tkoss.pidl@gmail.com

Secretary: Jennifer Altman, Presque Isle County

Library email: jaltman.pidl@gmail.com

Jennifer was born here and thought when she left after high school that she was never coming back...however, ten years later she did and could be happier being a part of this community. She loves reading and learning and knew that she would be part of any library wherever she lived but she loves most the community feeling of this library. In her role, she loved knowing that she can bring joy to people. Jennifer is always happily surprised by how far a library will go to help her find materials for her job.

Her love of reading also includes interests in learning and improving herself. She also enjoys spending time with family, bear hunting, and crafts of all kinds. As the Activity Director of Medilodge, Jennifer loved finding new and fun ways to engage and bring joy to her residents.

Favorite Dessert: Lemon Meringue Pie

Tree: An evergreen of any kind because she loves their smell, offers shade and shelter and provides to all their surroundings.

Trustee: Mary Hentkowski, Posen

Library email: mhentkowski.pidl@gmail.com

Trustee: Arthur Nash, City of Onaway

Library email: anash.pidl@gmail.com

Trustee: Joni Rogers, Presque Isle Township

Library email: jrogers.pidl@gmail.com

Born in Alpena, but growing up downstate, it was Joni's dream to return to this area and Lake Huron. After purchasing property in 1999, they built a home in 2017. Joni watched the Grand Lake library branch being built and was excited to move here to have a library so close to her new home. She enjoys learning about all the different activities occurring at each branch and cultural activities at the Rogers Theater. As a Board member, she can visit each branch and gets to see all the different ideas across the library system. What

surprises her about the library is the tortoises and tarantula at the Rogers City library, that Onaway library has a jail cell, and the story walk at the Millersburg library.

Joni's interests include reading, gardening, rock collecting, hiking and history. She is part of a walking and yoga group, square dancing. Joni is also a volunteer coordinator for the Presque Isle Township Museum.

Favorite Dessert: Grandmothers molasses cookies

Tree: A paper birch as they always reminded her of UP North!

Trustee: Colleen Whitsitt, Case Township

Library email: cwhitsitt@gmail.com

Colleen has lived in Presque Isle County all her life. She loves reading books which is what brought her to the library system. As a Board Trustee, Colleen enjoys talking to different people and helping promote the library. Colleen is surprised at how well the library system has done.

She enjoys reading, sewing, and gardening and loves spending time with her family and friends outside of the library.

Favorite Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake

Tree: A birch as the color of the bark and the leaves in the fall.

Friends Groups of the Presque Isle District Library

Presque Isle District Library

We have 4 active Friends Groups that are non-profit, charitable groups formed to advocate for the use, understanding, and appreciation of the Library through service and fundraising. The Friends are a separate entity from Presque Isle District Library and made up of volunteers who organize themselves independently from the PIDL. The structure of the Friends comprises a Board of Directors, which works closely with the library management in offering resources and financial support, as well as membership roster. Membership in Friends is open to any individual or organization.

The Friends are an adaptable group, adjusting their goals and strategies whenever necessary to meet the needs of the Library. The Friends strive to design and implement fundraising projects to support the Library's programming and outreach efforts to the community; to provide volunteer staffing when requested for the Library's programs; to purchase needed physical items that enrich the Library; and to advertise the Library and its resources throughout the community.

Grand Lake Friends - Millersburg Friends - Onaway Friends - Rogers City Friends

Our Staff

At Presque Isle District Library, people are our priority. Our knowledgeable and dedicated staff members work to meet the needs of individual library patrons. At Presque Isle District Library, staff create a welcoming environment where people feel comfortable to explore, find information, and discover new things. Get to know your library staff:

Amber Alexander: Library Director

Contact: director@pidl.org

Presque Isle District Library was searching for a new library director as a Class IV library that requires a Masters in Library and Information Science. She applied after obtaining my degree in June of 2015. Their family made the decision because of the natural beauty of the county. It was as close as the UP but not that downstate crowded conurbation feel.

Amber loves watching her staff lead through their creative and brainstorming talents that bring awesome programming and displays and reading challenges. She is still surprised after working in the field for 20 years by the misconception that all librarians just read all day. A librarian requires many skillsets to manage not only the small libraries but also the larger libraries in suburban areas. These skillsets are more than just helping a patron choose a book to read. It requires improvising, adaptability, and overcoming the various challenges that are presented.

Interests that Amber enjoys are water coloring and painting, reading and scrapbooking, archaeology, history and museums, camping and just exploring our great outdoors. She loves spending time with her children and twin grandsons and going to the Soo to visit her family. She loves attending festivals and events across Michigan.

Favorite Dessert: Cheesecake or Chocolate Chip Cookies

Tree: A Honey Locust tree as they adapt to various environments, although they can be invasive, they are protective as they are used as windbreaks and for soil erosion. They provide a food source from their sweet, sticky seed pods. Even though they have thorns, the wood is dense, hard, and durable enough to be used for fencing and other purposes. Most of all they turn a beautiful yellow in the fall.

Anne Belanger: Program Director

Contact: annebelanger@pidl.org

Favorite Dessert/Snack: Snickers bar

Tera Talaska: Office Manager

Contact: rcmanager@pidl.org

Born and raised in Rogers City, Tera moved away for a few years but ended up coming home and settling in the Posen area. Her mother was the Library Director, and she grew up in and around the library. It was always her dream to work in the library.

Tera enjoys golfing and bowling leagues and yoga. She loves traveling with family and friends. Tera is an avid reader and loves puzzles. She volunteers with the Rogers City Bowling Association board and has volunteered for numerous school-related activities.

After 20 years working in the library, Tera still hears new questions. She always has enjoyed working with and helping patrons; especially, ordering books for our communities. The one thing after all the years is helping patrons to locate and find answers to their questions.

Favorite Dessert: not a sweet-tooth but will take a no-bake cookie.

Tree: An apple tree, they are beautiful in the spring with their blossoms and in the fall, they smell amazing and supply food.

Nicole Grulke: Reference Librarian

Contact: reference@pidl.org

Kay Spomer: Cataloging

Contact: cattech@pidl.org

Kay is one of our rare quadranscentennials at the library. She was born and raised in the area. Her interests include reading and baking and outside of the library enjoys walking and volunteering.

She started by volunteering to move books from our previous location to our current location in 1994. Later, she applied at the library. Kay loves seeing all the items that will be available in our catalog and that the people who visit are usually happy to be here.

Favorite Desert: Chocolate Chip Cookies

Tree: A Blue Spruce tree as it reminds he of Christmas.

Tiffany Kortman: Library Technician

Contact: catclerk@pidl.org

This is Tiffany's hometown area. She grew up using and attending the library system. She loves interacting with her patrons and is still surprised by patrons' attitudes towards books. Tiffany loves books, hunting, kayaking, and hiking which includes her family property.

Favorite Dessert: Iced Coffee

Tree: An evergreen because they do not fall apart.

Kelly Altman: Youth Services

Contact: youth@pidl.org

Kelly moved to the area because of her husband's family and the low cost of living but we think it really was the beautiful Lake Huron beaches. She loves the sense of community that the library system provides and wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her neighbor and friend, Tera. Kelly loves history and enjoys football and hockey. She also loves antiquing and if there is good food, she is there. The beach is her favorite place, combing and bottle digging. She also engages in crochet, knitting, puzzles and reading. Other activities include golfing, jet skiing, and snowmobiling.

In her role, Kelly loves spending time with the kids. She is surprised by the amount of people that don't realize we offer more than computers and reading materials.

Favorite Dessert: Ice Cream or Apple Crisp

Tree: A palm tree as they are built to withstand strong storms and only grow in warm climates.

Madi Purol: Teen Services

Contact: teenlibrarian@pidl.org

Again, Madi was born and raised here. She grew up loving books and reading and through high school came in to volunteer until she got the job at the library owned Rogers Theater as concessions worker. Once Madi completed college, she was offered a full-time position working with teens and helping with outreach. She loves working with Kelly and the youth

which makes her smile. Also, she enjoys helping patrons find books to read. Madi is surprised that so many people think the library is a quiet space when the library is usually full of life and noise.

Madi wants to experience the world to the fullest by trying new things and creating a positive impact on those around her. She enjoys many hobbies that include singing, photography, archery, camping, reading, and playing games (board, card, and video).

Favorite Dessert: Chocolate chip cookie ice cream sandwich

Tree: An apple tree due to its relatively small size and symbolism which is love, beauty, and wisdom. It can be sweet or tart, just like me and as the best fruit that looks good in my favorite seasons, spring and fall.

Daniel Bielas: Rogers Theater Manager

Contact: rct@pidl.org

Mr. Bielas was raised in Rogers City where his family has been since the 1870s. He decided to stay here because of family and the natural beauty of the area and the safety the town offers in raising a family.

Daniel began as a teenager working in the Concessions at the Rogers Theater. Once the position opened for the Theater Manager he applied. During this time, he was able to earn a teaching degree while attending LSSU and working as manager on the weekends. Daniel truly believes the theater offers an outlet to view all sorts of programming that are not available anywhere else in our area. In addition, the library and theater staff are terrific to work with, and the working hours are enjoyable. Roger's Theater is in the heart of Rogers City and working day-to-day has been a fulfilling experience. Daniel is surprised how much our district library can accomplish: from seed libraries, formal dresses, embryology, board games, etc.

Interests include history, research, and being outdoors. Daniel enjoys learning and teaching but most of all connecting with family and friends. Outside of the library, he enjoys walking and biking and researching family genealogy.

Favorite Dessert: Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Tree: A Redwood as they are tall and strong and have thick bark (like thick skin), most of all they live for 2,000 years and are witness to so much change and history.

Lynn Altman: Posen Manager

Contact: posen@pidl.org

Another born and raised staff member is Lynn. She loves books and reading and has always utilized the library system. Lynn loves working with her patrons and learning something new almost daily. What has surprised Lynn about the library system is that we are more than just books.

Lynn's interests include puzzles, reading and golfing.

Favorite Dessert: Pretzel Crust Strawberry Cheesecake

Tree: Weeping Willow

Jane Bielas: Grand Lake Manager

Contact: grandlake@pidl.org

Jane was also born and raised in Rogers City. She graduated from Central Michigan University and taught downstate for two years before moving back to raise a family. Jane loves the natural beauty and small-town lifestyle! Opportunities to help people find information they need or even just a book for reading pleasure is what she loves. Again, Jane is surprised at the number of services that the library offers, and so much more than books!

She is interested in education, outdoor recreation, which include beaches and boating. In addition to organic gardening and sustainable living. Most of her time is spent devoted to her family but she also enjoys tutoring and providing academic support to help students reach their greatest potential.

Favorite Dessert: Ice Cream

Tree: An oak tree as they are slow growing but strong, long-lived and nutty!

JoLynn Zalewski: Onaway Manager

Contact: onawaybranch@pidl.org

As resident of the Presque Isle County her entire life, JoLynn knows this is a good place to settle roots and to be part of the community. Ever since she was 12 years old, she has had a library card. It has always been a quiet place to read and engage yourself in a good story

and know it would be a nice place to work. She loves helping patrons even if it is just being a good listener and seeing the youth utilizing the library and enjoying themselves. JoLynn loves hearing what a nice library they have and knowing patrons are satisfied when they leave is a great thing!

Her interests include traveling, museums, cooking, gardening/canning, hiking, reading and rock collecting. She loves spending time with her grandson and family and visiting her daughter in DC. JoLynn enjoys camping and campfires outdoors and her fur babies.

Favorite Dessert: Pumpkin Pie or any dessert with pumpkin

Tree: A Lilac Tree because the purple, pink, and white colors add a fragrance and charm to gardens and landscapes. It's a sign of spring and the beginning of a new season.

Meaghan Duly: Outreach Asst./RCES

Contact: rcschool@pidl.org

Meaghan's family has had a cottage on Grand Lake since 2003. Her father worked at Fireside Inn as a teenager in the 1950s. Her family has vacationed there every summer and she has had a library card from Grand Lake since the late 90s. When her husband retired in 2018, they made their cottage their permanent home. Meaghan worked at Midland Public Schools for over 10 years as a paraprofessional where she operated 3 elementary libraries and a high school library. After moving here, she was looking for volunteer opportunities and contacted the school as they needed help. This became a paid position in 2020. She loves working with the students and reading them picture books to every student at the school. It has a great schedule. Meaghan is still surprised on how many students get excited about new books, and some of them don't like to miss the library part of the week.

In her off time, Meaghan enjoys flower gardening and helps by maintaining the flowers for Presque Isle Harbor every summer. She enjoys reading historical fiction books and loves to travel and going hiking with her mini golden doodle, Marty. She has 4 grandchildren that she enjoys playing with and serves on several committees in the Grand Lake area.

Favorite Dessert: No-Bake Cookies

Tree: A Lilac Tree as they are tough and resilient and the pioneers took small cuttings to transplant when they traveled to a new place where they would flourish. When you see lilacs in a vacant field, a house once stood there and even though the house is gone the pretty lilacs remain. Lilacs are like library employees as we share our knowledge and gifts, and these things stay with people even after we are gone.

Amanda Tuck: Rogers City Circulation Clerk

Contact: circulation@pidl.org

As so many of our staff are from this community, Amanda is not an exception with both her families are part of the community and know raising a family of her own. Amanda grew up enjoying books and reading. She also worked at the Alpena Community College library and really enjoyed her time there. She loves the happy atmosphere at the library through engaging patrons and hearing their stories while at work. She helps patrons find new books and try reading new genres. Book displays are her favorite. Amanda is surprised at how many people still utilize the copy machine and computers and the new people that come in but love seeing her regulars too!

In her down time, Amanda reads and writes poetry. She enjoys spending time with her family and dogs either on a boat, jet skiing, riding, camping, fishing, swimming and going for walks. She loves to golf and plays board games and game nights as a family. A new outside activity her and friends and her have learned is the ax throwing at a local business in Millersburg.

Favorite Dessert: Pumpkin Pie

Tree: A Weeping Willow because even though you may think they are sad, they are just misunderstood and truly beautiful.

Cassie Cobb: Onaway Branch Sub

Contact: onawaypublic@pidl.org

After retiring from Plymouth District Library, Cassie moved to her home in Onaway and wanted to continue working in the library a few hours a week. She loves working with people and helping them with technology. She promotes all areas of education, literacy, and technology.

Cassie enjoys baking, gardening, reading, history, research, and traveling. In her off time, she loves to go boating and spending time with family and friends.

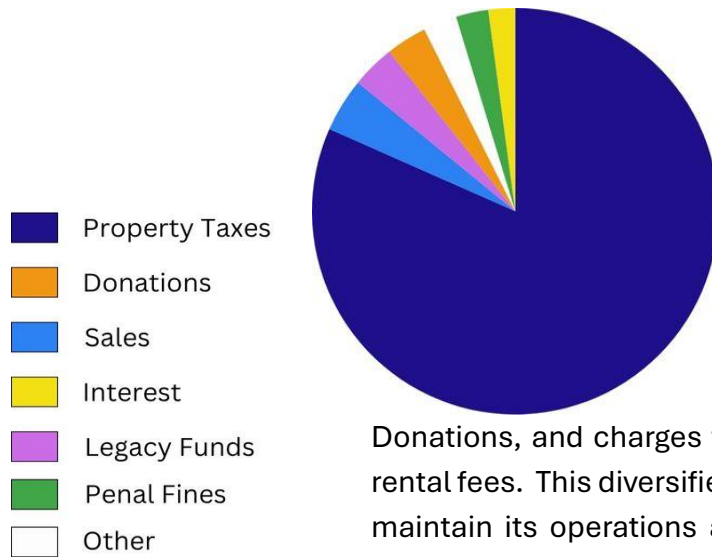
Favorite Dessert: Chocolate Raspberry Truffle Cake

Tree: Red Maple because they are so vibrant!

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Financial Management

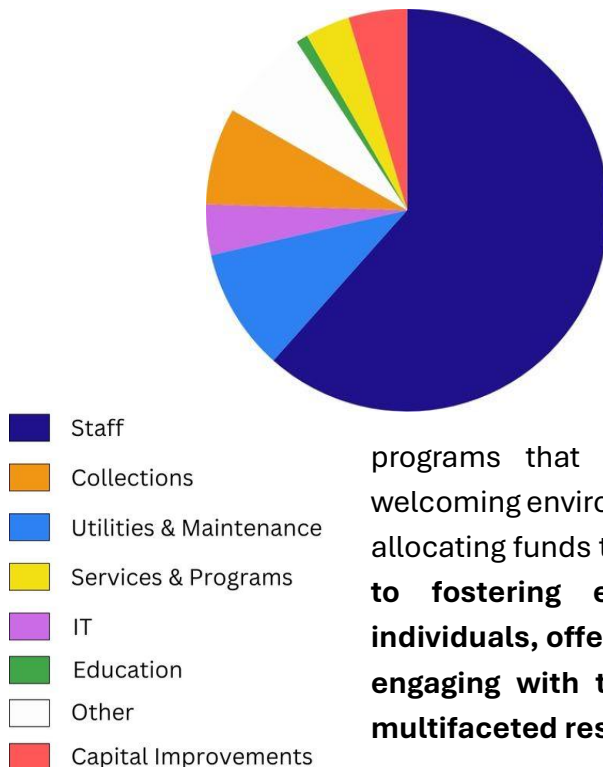
Funding Sources



The primary funding source for the Presque Isle District Library is property tax revenue, constituting 80% of its financial support. The PIDL levies a 1 mill in property taxes from residents of Presque Isle County. Additional funding is derived from various sources such as State Aid, Penal Fines, Grants,

Donations, and charges for printing, concessions, and theater rental fees. This diversified funding model enables the library to maintain its operations and provide essential services to the community.

PIDL Expenses



The Presque Isle District Library dedicates its resources to a range of expenses aimed at providing the community with vital services that align with the principles of education, empowerment, entertainment, and engagement. These essential expenditures encompass 24 staff, maintaining diverse collections for educational purposes, organizing

programs that empower and educate, and ensuring a welcoming environment through utilities and maintenance. By allocating funds to these key areas, the **Library is committed to fostering educational opportunities, empowering individuals, offering entertaining experiences, and actively engaging with the community, reinforcing its role as a multifaceted resource hub.**

Our Audience

- **School Age Children:** typically, aged 3-12 years, experience significant physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth, forming friendships, mastering academic skills, and navigating the complexities of their expanding world.
- **Parents:** Individuals responsible for the care, upbringing, and support of their children.
- **Teens:** Adolescents ages 13-19, navigating the challenges of adolescence and self-discovery.
- **Young Adults:** Individuals typically in their twenties and thirties, transitioning from adolescence to adulthood and exploring career and personal paths.
- **Adults:** Individuals in the age group beyond their thirties, often managing career, family, and personal responsibilities.
- **Older Adults:** Individuals usually aged 60 and older, facing the challenges and joys of aging, retirement, and potential health concerns.
- **Schools:** Educational institutions providing structured learning environments for students of various ages, interests and grades.
- **Business Owners:** Entrepreneurs and individuals who own and operate their own business, managing the challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurship.
- **Vulnerable populations:** Groups facing increased risk or susceptibility, such as those with disabilities, low-income individuals, or marginalized communities, requiring special attention and support.

Our Programs & Services

Parents:

- Education: Early Childhood Learning programs, such as reading sessions and socialization classes for children. **For example, Storytime and Playgroup**
- Engagement: Parent classes, workshops and family-oriented activities. **For example, Partnerships with NEMSCA and COPESD**
- Empowerment: Financial literacy workshops, resources for parenting skills, and health-related information for families. **For example, Workshops offered by MET program**
- Entertainment: Family-friendly events, storytelling sessions, and activities for parents and children. **For example, Movie nights and Family events**

Teenagers:

- Education: Homework support, career exploration programs and college preparations assistance. **For example, Access through MeL and Non-fiction Resources**
- Engagement: STEM classes, creative writing opportunities, and educational competitions. **For example, Opportunities to work Concessions and Managing**
- Empowerment: Financial literacy programs, information on mental health and well-being, and workshops on self-empowerment. **For example, Collections with good resources**
- Entertainment: Teen book clubs, gaming nights, and events focused on their interests. **For example, Teen Fiction Book Club and Crochet Club**

Young Adults:

- Education: College and community college support, vocational training, and skill-building workshops. **For example, Access through MeL and Printing**
- Engagement: Classes on cooking, art, and life skills, as well as networking events. **For example, Spice Club and Recipe Book Club**
- Empowerment: Financial literacy classes, technology assistance, and resources for health care information. **For example, Caregiver Corner and Family Planning Cabinet**
- Entertainment: Events such as book launches, creative writing opportunities, and social gatherings. **For example, Book Clubs and recently released movies**

Adults:

- Education: Workshops and adult life-long learning session, and support for vulnerable populations. **For example, the Library of Things and Caregiver Corner**
- Engagement: Book Clubs, author visits, and cultural events. **For example, Classic Film Series and Notable Author events**
- Empowerment: Civic and legal resources, resources for health care information and support for vulnerable populations. **For example, Notary Services and Dementia Toolkits**

- Entertainment: Programs catering to diverse interests, such as movie nights, music events, and lectures. **For example, Classic Film Festivals and Concerts**

Older Adults:

- Education: Technology assistance, resources for health care information, and classes supporting mental stimulation. **For example, AARP driving class**
- Engagement: Social events, book clubs, and gatherings tailored to seniors' interests. **For example, local history programs**
- Empowerment: services for seniors, including book delivery to assisted living facilities and support groups. **For example, Friends Together meetings and Dementia Toolkits**
- Entertainment: Programs like storytelling, music events, and cultural activities. **For example, Classic Film Festivals and Concerts**

Schools:

- Education: Support for K-12 education through homework assistance, Outreach Librarian, and summer engagement programs. **For example, Outreach Librarian at the RCES**
- Engagement: Collaborative events, book fairs, and educational competitions. **For example, Summer Reading Competitions**
- Empowerment: Resources for teachers, access to online books, and support for sensory development. **For example, Early Literacy Kits**
- Entertainment: library hosted cultural events, storytelling, and book related activities. **For example, Collaboration for March is Reading Month**

Business Owners:

- Education: Business development and technology assistance. **For example, partnerships with Main Street and Downtown Development Authority**
- Engagement: Networking events, meeting spaces for business-related activities. **For example, Community Events and Community Workshops**
- Empowerment: Resources for business owners, financial literacy resources, and legal aid resources. **For example, Michigan Legal Aid access and printing**
- Entertainment: Events promoting creativity, innovation, and collaboration. **For example, Non-Profit Fair during Nautical Festival**

Vulnerable Populations:

- Education: Specialized resources, and access to online training. **For example, Caregiver Corner**
- Engagement: Inclusive events and community outreach. **For example, Collaboration with Project Connect and donations for Huron Humane Society**
- Empowerment: Services tailored to veterans and seniors and book delivery to assisted living facilities. **For example, Programs presented at the Senior Center**

- Entertainment: Inclusive programs and outreach events that make services more accessible. **For example, Free Films and Programs**

Our Partners

Local Government Partners

[Rogers City](#)

[City of Onaway](#)

[Case Township](#)

[Posen Township](#)

[Presque Isle Township](#)

[Presque Isle County](#)

Community Partners (including but not limited to)

[The Brook Retirement Community](#)

[Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan](#)

[Friends of Ocqueoc Outdoor Camp](#)

[Friends Together](#)

[Great Start Collaborative](#)

[Huron Pines](#)

[Kiwanis Club of Rogers City](#)

[Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency](#)

[Onaway Area School District](#)

[Posen Consolidated School District](#)

[Rogers City Area School District](#)

[Rogers City Downtown Development](#)

[Rogers City Main Street](#)

[St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School](#)

[St. John's Lutheran School](#)

[US 23 Heritage Route](#)

[Zonta](#)

Our Impact

The Library, often overlooked as a public space, plays a crucial role for families needing a safe haven, providing a secure environment where they can come together when home is not a conducive place for children.

Utilizing our resources, a local business found value in our Library's services, particularly our copy machine, which they used to reproduce their menus, showcasing the diverse ways the Library supports the needs of the community.

Empowering aspiring entrepreneurs, one patron kick-started their business journey by tapping into the Library's resources, demonstrating how our institution serves as a catalyst for economic growth and innovation.

Seniors seeking companionship have found a welcoming community within the Library, where groups like knitters and craft clubs meet, emphasizing the Library's role as a social hub for various groups.

Hosting Health Workshops exemplifies how the Library actively contributes to the community's well-being, addressing practical needs with tangible benefits.

A determined individual, facing employment challenges, utilized the Library's resources like computers, internet access, and tools collection, ultimately establishing their own business, highlighting the transformative impact of library support on personal and professional development.

By engaging a reserved young man passionate about mythology, the Library staff not only expanded his reading interests but also fostered a sense of connection and confidence, exemplifying the Library's commitment to building relationships and fostering a welcoming atmosphere.

The Library serves as a valuable resource during challenging moments, such as assisting individuals in completing tasks like faxing a death certificate, demonstrating the staff's dedication to providing support and assistance in times of need.

Witnessing the enthusiasm of elementary and middle school students for new books, as well as their active involvement in suggesting titles or topics for their Library or Book Clubs, underscores the Library's role in fostering a love for reading and community engagement among young learners.

Your Conversations

Please use this space to make note of any testimonials you are hearing out in our communities.

Use these testimonials to help share the impact of the work of Presque Isle District Library.

Your Return

As an Ambassador of the Presque Isle District Library, you demonstrate your support of the events and programming while contributing to increased library engagement with our community. Ambassadors serve as professional, knowledgeable, and courteous advocates for our services, spaces, and resources. Through your active role as an ambassador, you contribute to the current and future success of the Presque Isle District Library and in return you will...

- Help our Library provide ongoing and improved services to the community
- Experience opportunities to be productive and relevant to the community in which you live
- Gain countless benefits and experience new opportunities serving on the Board
- Meet new people and build relationships
- Feel productive volunteering time to a cause that impacts your community and you
- Help provide essential support to the community
- Ensure the Library's future by supporting its programs and initiatives
- Empower individuals to explore, learn and grow
- Advocate for literacy, education, and access to information for all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance
- Foster a vibrant hub of learning, imagination, and connection, and ensure that the Library remains a cornerstone of our shared community experience
- Make a difference in your community by contributing to the future of the Library
- Support a vital institution that is important not only today but for generations to come
- Have a positive impact on your community as a volunteer
- Build relationships throughout the community that promote literacy and lifelong learning
- Interact with a diverse group of people in your community
- Have a tangible, long-lasting impact on the Library and its patrons
- Be exposed to new ideas and develop new skills
- Educate people on the essential role PIDL plays in our community
- Experience a sense of community
- Make a difference!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: The proverbial – Why do we need libraries?

A: Because libraries are your friendly connection to a world of resources that will educate you, engage you, empower you, and entertain you over your lifetime.

Q: Why do we need public libraries when there are libraries in schools and universities?

A: Because not everyone has access to a school or university library. School and university libraries also have very different missions.

Q: How is the PIDL funded?

A: PIDL is funded mostly through local tax dollars, but we also get some funding from grants, donations, and other sources.

Q: Can anyone use the PIDL?

A: Anyone can use the PIDL, but you may only get a card here if you live within our service area.

Q: What if I lose or damage a book that I borrowed?

A: The friendly library staff will work with you to come up with a plan to relocate the book. It could mean paying for the book and a small processing fee.

Q: Do I have to renew my library “card”?

A: Yes, every two years.

Q: How can I access eBooks through the library?

A: The library has two apps that you can download for eBooks, the Libby app.

Q: How are books across the State of Michigan available to me?

A: Books across the State of Michigan are available to you through MeLCat or the Michigan Electronic Library Catalog.

Q: Are books available to me outside of Michigan?

A: We will make our best effort to locate a book for you for school or research purposes.

Q: Is there an easy portal for monetary donations? Or to donate on behalf of a loved one (gift)?

A: Yes, you can either donate directly online through our website, that takes you to the Library’s endowment funds at the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan, or you can donate directly to the Friends of the Library.

Q: Does PIDL accept new book purchases? Is there a list of books needed?

A: The PIDL uses our collection development policy to guide us in deciding what books to add to our collection. If you decide to make a purchase on behalf of the PIDL, it may be added to the collection or donated to the Friends of the Library for their used book sales. All proceeds from these sales are used to enhance library programs and services.

Q: Does the PIDL accept used books?

A: Yes, and they are given to the Friends of the Library for their used book sale. All proceeds from these sales are used to enhance library programs and services.

Q: Does the PIDL accept used “tools”?

A: As of the present moment, the PIDL does not accept used “tools.” It is possible that this decision is subject to change in the future, but as of now, we are not accepting used tools. We currently do not have the capacity to handle used tools.

Q: Does the PIDL have a wish list?

A: As of the present time, several of the branches have a wish list available. It might be worth checking back periodically or reaching out directly to inquire about any updates regarding a wish list or other means to support for the PIDL endeavors.

Q: Is there a charge to use the community room?

A: It depends. For non-profit groups no. Please refer to our Conference Room Usage Policy.

Q: How early can I access the community room? How late?

A: 7 am and 11 pm

Q: How can I place a hold for the community room?

A: You can book the meeting rooms by contacting the branch manager at the library’s that have community rooms available; which include Grand Lake, Posen, and Rogers City.

Q: Are organizations allowed to fundraise at the library?

A: According to our current policy, organizations are not permitted to conduct fundraising activities at the library. This regulation is in place to maintain the library’s focus on providing resources and services to the community without commercial or fundraising distractions.

Q: Are religious or political events allowed at the library?

A: No. We aim to provide an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all community members. Allowing religious or political events within the library can potentially create an atmosphere of exclusivity or bias, which goes against the library’s mission of providing equitable access to information for all patrons.

Q: Do I need permission to film at the library?

A: Yes. Photographs or videos on library premises are not allowed without the permission of the library director or designee and the permission of all those photographed.

Q: Can alcohol be served in the library?

A: Not exactly, alcohol cannot be served on library premises; however, applicable serving laws can be used at Rogers Theater. Please refer to the Rogers Theater Usage Policy.

Q: How can I support the library?

A: You can support the library by using the library, telling your family and friends to use the library, volunteering, monetary donations, or by becoming a member of the Friends of the Library.

Q: How can I volunteer at the library?

A: You can volunteer at the library by contacting the branch manager of any of the 5 libraries. Or you can contact the Friends of the Library at any of the libraries in our district.

Q: How many people work at the library?

A: Currently, the library has 25 employees.

SAMPLE TOOLKIT SUMMARIES

SAMPLE 1

Presque Isle District Library

- Friendly connection to a world of resources over an entire lifetime
- Dynamic community hub
- Diverse & quality services/programs centered around:
 - **Education:** your center for *life-long learning*
 - **Engagement:** your information hub that prioritizes *civic literacy/engagement, social opportunities, personal enrichment*
 - **Empowerment:** your opportunities for *personal advancement*
 - **Entertainment:** your place for *fun, enjoyable, & free resources & programs*

Reality-Perception Gap:

- Libraries are **Essential** & do Many GREAT Things (*reality*)
- Libraries are *not* obsolete or just nice-to-have (*perception*)

Strategic Plane for the Future – Focus is on:

- Achieve/maintain organizational and operational excellence
- Maximize use of resources
- Strengthening partnerships & relationships
- Increase community engagement

10 Second Elevator Speech

*Presque Isle District Library is to **Engage and Empower** our community by providing **Educational and Entertaining** collections and programming that include diverse artistic and cultural interests.*

Service Area:

8 municipalities: Presque Isle County, Rogers City, City of Onaway, Case Township, Posen Township, Presque Isle Township and Forest & Waverly Townships in Cheboygan County (and 3 school districts: Onaway Area School District, Posen Consolidated School District, and Rogers City Area School District).

EDUCATION:

- Early childhood: Storytime/play groups; socializing w/others, strategies for parents
- K-12: Outreach Librarian, homework support, summer reading program
- Adults: College/vocational training support; many, many learning programs

SAMPLE 1

ENGAGEMENT:

Learning: many kinds of classes, STEM, reading challenges

Social: book clubs, author visits, meeting room spaces

Community: presence at festivals/events, outreach

EMPOWERMENT:

Into Literacy (healthcare/tech/civic/legal): classes, forms, workshops, forums, info

Vulnerable population support: for seniors, veterans, book delivery to senior facilities

Skill Building: collection materials, access to online training/experts

Employment support: resume prep., job search resources, interview training

Entertainment:

- Collections: high-quality, relevant, popular, variety of formats to meet diverse interests/needs
- Programs: light-hearted & fun, ignite creativity & learning – for very age
- Outreach: IN & To community, engage, interact, more access to PIDL services

SAMPLE TOOLKIT SUMMARIES

SAMPLE 2

The Do's:

- **Storytime** focuses on early literacy
- **Book Clubs** for patrons of all ages who can connect over a shared love of books
- **Art programs** for all ages that engage a variety of senses
- **Playgroups** for parents and children that aid in social and emotional development
- **Social** opportunities through enrichment programs, community connections
- **Programs** that encourage financial, technological, and healthcare literacy
- **Access** to local government and community information
- **Services** such as high-speed internet, print fax, copy, and notary services
- **Support** for vulnerable populations such as services for seniors and veterans
- **Reading challenges** to encourage all ages to form and maintain a daily reading habit
- **Classes** that provide opportunities for lifelong learning

What is the role of today's library?

Libraries have evolved into dynamic and multi-faceted institutions that play an essential role in our communities. PIDL provides vital services in the areas of: Education, Engagement, Empowerment, and Entertainment.

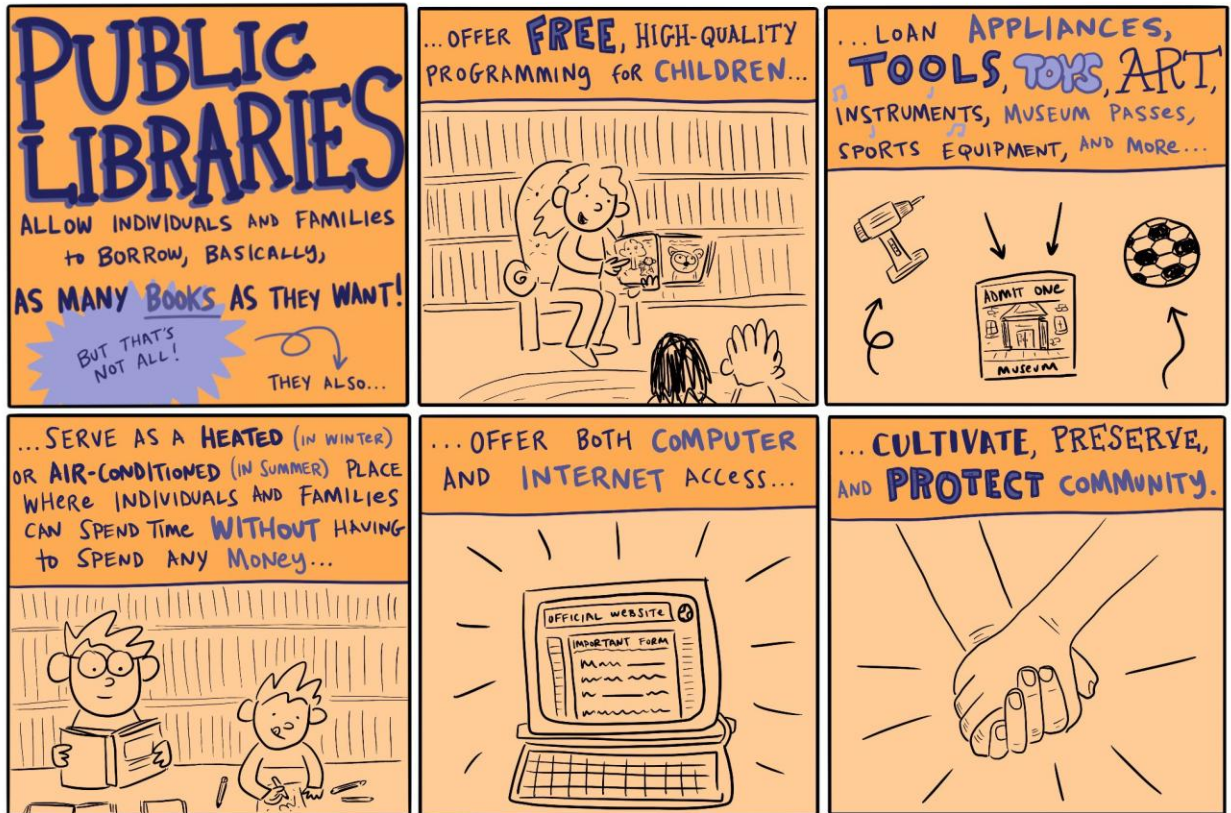
What's next for the library?

- Continue to reflect the collective values, priorities, and aspirations of the community
- Continue to support the community spirit of collaboration
- Continue to serve as a friendly connection to a world of resources

What's next for you?

- Please visit the library!
- Share website information
- Explain how to get a library card

SUPPORT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY!



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Lerner, Jarrett. [Twitter/X](#), July 29, 2021