

# Blairstown Public Library



**FY 2017-2018  
ANNUAL REPORT**

[www.blairstownpubliclibrary.com](http://www.blairstownpubliclibrary.com)

# HIGHLIGHTS



1. The library, with help from members of the community, city council, and city government, developed a five-year strategic plan.
2. We hosted our first BBQ Dinner fundraiser in September and raised almost \$1,200.00 for programming initiatives at the library.
3. We secured a \$3,000 grant from the Benton County Community Foundation to help with updating our young adult area, including new furniture and a charging station.

# STATISTICS



The Blairstown Public Library had **1,305 people attend 142 programs.**



We checked out **11,432 materials.**



**58% increase in** e-book checkouts from the previous fiscal year.



Although we saw a significant drop in overall circulation, we did see an increase in e-book usage and programming attendance. This reflects an overall national trend of libraries being seen as providing more than just books, but more as a community space overall.

# 2017-2018 IMPACT



"It's National Library Week and with that said I must say how awesome it is to have such great librarians for our small town. They really do go out of their way to have many fun activities for the kids. They will also help find those books they they might not carry. We are very blessed to have such a great library with such great librarians!"

- Jennifer Lewis, Blairstown

" Thanks for inspiring our children to be so creative. Marissa and Maleah say THANK YOU for all you do to make craft time so much fun!"

- Linda Strong, Blairstown



Captain Underpants Day!



Meeting our slithering friend "Smiley" from the Blank Park Zoo



Learning magic tricks with magician Rick Eugene



Being silly with musician Duke Otherwise



Creating musical crafts with Miss Cathy



Miss Molly doing outreach at Tiny Tots Daycare in Blairstown

# OUR PLANS FOR FY 2018-2019

As part of the strategic planning process, early literacy and children's programming were considered a top priority for our library. We have already implemented some new early literacy programs, but plan to increase this focus for FY 2018-2019. We also will be focusing on technology and ways to implement technology training for members of the community.



## Focus on Early Literacy Programming

We already have begun to implement some early literacy initiatives at our library. We launched 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten in February 2018, and already have 10 children enrolled in the program.

We have also revamped our storytimes to include early literacy skills and will continue to refine these over the next year.

Finally, we will be redoing our "Grab and Go" bags to include early literacy tips for parents. With the help of staff from Grant Wood AEA, we will also be building new "Book Buddies" bags that will also help to address early literacy concepts with parents.



## Technology Training

This year we'd like to implement a series of different classes on technology for adult members of our community. These classes would include basic computer skills, internet searching, and brief introductions to Microsoft Word and Excel.

We're also going to offer classes on using our e-resources, including our e-book platform, BRIDGES.

Finally, we will begin using EDGE, a free technology initiative provided to us from the State Library of Iowa to develop a technology plan for our library.

# FOLLOW ALONG WITH US...



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