

2015 Annual Report (UHLS)

**TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY (Westerlo)**

Laura Tenney, Board President

Sue Hoadley, Director



In 2015, the library was awarded a \$14,801 Public Library Construction Grant from the New York State Department of Education. The grant was matched by 25% (\$4934) in library capital funds for a total project cost of \$19,735. The major focus of this project was installation of an ADA-compliant concrete sidewalk to the handicapped-accessible entrance and creation of a new outdoor

reading and program space. The project also constructed a shed roof over that entrance. Grants from Bank of Greene County and Stewart’s Charitable Foundation will fund new outdoor furniture.

In 2015, the library was open to the public 29 hours per week for 300 days. 8343 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 15,260 items. Of those, 4116 items were borrowed from member libraries in the Upper Hudson system. In turn, we loaned 4503 items from our collection to patrons at the other member libraries, making us a net-lender. In addition to books, audios and movies, our patrons downloaded 929 items of e-content from Overdrive: e-books, audiobooks and videos. Our two public computers were used 764 times and many more took advantage of our 24/7 WiFi service.

Our outreach to children increased again in 2015. We offered 117 programs attended by 653 children and young adults. In 2015, “Read to Angus,” the certified therapy dog, continued on a monthly basis. Our adult book and quilting groups met 31 times with attendance of 113. The New York Statewide Summer Reading Program is held annually to encourage school-aged children to read for pleasure during summer



vacation. This year’s theme was “Every Hero Has a Story.” We explored the everyday heroes in our own community with a weekly “Lunch with Local Heroes” program. Our

special guests included the Rescue Squad, the Fire Department, the County Sheriff's Office, and the Highway Department.

The trustees completed a Long Range Plan in September 2015. The planning process began in December 2013 with a workshop presented by the Upper Hudson Library System staff. Over a period of several months, the board and director explored the library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. A community survey was conducted using online and paper surveys at the library, as well as at several community gatherings. A focus group was conducted, again facilitated by Upper Hudson staff. Priorities were identified, then goals, objectives and activities to address the priorities were written.

The trustees held their annual Mother's Day Book & Bake Sale in May. The library received a \$500 grant from Stewart's Charitable Foundation. We also raised \$2500 in a new Memorial Brick fundraising program for capital projects. And over the course of the year we received two major gifts totaling \$15,000 for our Capital Fund.

In September, the Town of Westerlo celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with spectacular weekend of celebrations! The library's parade float gave a nod to the old and the new in our 29 years of service by displaying an old wooden card catalog with a laptop computer set to the online catalog webpage.

Thanks to our dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers, we connect the Town of Westerlo to a world of ideas and information. We could not do it without the support of our Town Board and the community as a whole. Together we contribute to building a richer quality of life for all of the citizens of Westerlo.

