

## Cobleigh Public Library Annual Report 2011

Every day people connect with books and online resources and each other at the library. Library connections change lives when a child is read a book from a caring librarian. Lives are changed when resources are collected and shared with storm victims, or someone searches for a job, or a student needs help with homework. Minds are expanded from sharing, reading and discussing with one another a book they've read, a problem they need help with, or an idea they have to make our community a better place to live. Connections happen when someone opens a business or lands that new job. Connections happen during community meetings held for free at the library. With the strong support we receive from our community, the Cobleigh Library has been able to transform lives and create opportunities for the citizens of Lyndonville and the surrounding towns.

### **Computers and Technology**

During 2011 the library was able to provide a free online continuing educational service through Universal Class that offers over 500 courses available on a variety of topics. The program allows every individual to take up to five courses at one time with access to an on-line instructor and with students from all over the world.

Overdrive, downloadable audio books service we offer through Listen Up Vermont continues to grow both in popularity and in the number of e-books and audio books they make available. Audio books can be downloaded onto a variety of devices including Kindles and Nooks.

The library was able to replace five computers with gift funds. For the first time since 2001, security software, which had been given to the library from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, had to be purchased along with new scanners for our circulation system.

Our computer lab and adult learning center continues to offer our community high-speed Internet access, including basic computer classes and assistance. It continues to be a valuable resource helping community members seeking help with employment and unemployment needs, essential services in these tough economic times. The library continues to offer computer classes Thursday mornings with Cheryl McMahon and volunteer, John Jarry. Every day people come in needing help with Internet questions, word processing, emails and other electronic resources. Most days the lab is filled with people who just need computer or Internet access to do research, connect with family and friends via

email, or download an e-book. The library web site has helpful links for job seekers. The library has purchased more new books on resumes, interviews and computer resources. The library continues to offer wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) which allows anyone with a laptop or a mobile device to connect to the Internet from inside the building or from outside of the library building 24/7.

### **Children's Services and Outreach Services**

Our children's librarian, Tina Achilles, continues to provide preschool library programs using the Early Literacy Initiative (ELI) training. Successful summer programs have seen much more participation. Professional performers showcasing diverse cultures have been popular. Children's programs are a focus of the library whether they are inside the library or during outreach. Reaching the young child can transform and enrich their life and the community as a whole.

The bookmobile vehicle has come off the road, but we still have outreach services with our AmeriCorps volunteer. The bookmobile coordinator position was eliminated to further streamline outreach services. Our library board has formed a committee to research a new vehicle and they welcome community input on how the service should be operated. One hundred percent of the participants of our survey to site stops want the service to continue. Each sentence in the following is an individual quote: "We appreciate the bookmobile and staff. The program has enriched the students' education at our school. Please try to keep the bookmobile service alive. My childcare center counts on our weekly visits. The children love it. It would be so sad to lose. Outstanding service for those who have limited access to literacy services/materials, particularly children without a town library or books at home. Thank you for providing such a great service to so many. You have provided invaluable services to outlying areas. Thank you! This program has always been a great benefit to small schools and day care programs."

### **The Future**

The library is involved with Fiber Connect, which will bring broadband access to the library and to the community as early as 2013. As Internet classes and webinars become increasingly more popular and necessary with more bandwidth, a faster connection will be imperative to meet this growing demand for high-speed access.

Outreach services are continuing with our AmeriCorps volunteer out of her car. We have a committee researching a new vehicle. If there are people who wish to join the Friends of the Library or who want to help fundraise, please let us know.

The Rotary and the Childcare Network have already offered their help and support. We appreciate their help.

The library will also be embarking on a five-year plan and the public is welcome to attend a library public meeting to help shape the direction of library services for the future. Please keep a watch for these meetings. Of course, the public is always welcome to come to the monthly library board meeting.

### **Many Thanks**

The library received \$22,146 in grants and from the Friends. This does not include other gifts and donations or appeal letters. We are grateful for these grants and the Friends, as we were able to keep interlibrary loans without limits and continue outreach programs and services. We have been grateful to the Rotary for their donations and support.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers, including the Friends of the Cobleigh, staff, and trustees. Homeschoolers have materials from Midstate Library Service Center at no cost. Programs have refreshments and outreach services thrive. Always remember Carol Ketcham and Pat O'Hagan and how tirelessly they worked for our communities. We could use more volunteers! There are so many tasks that our volunteers and staff tackle that are too numerous to mention, but you are loved and needed by this community and the library. You all make the community a better place, thank you!

Sincerely,

Cindy Karasinski, Library Director

## Cobleigh Public Library Statistics

Library circulation of books and materials	45,285
Bookmobile Circulation of books and materials	12,911
Listen Up Vermont (downloadable audio books)	<u>716</u>
	58,912

Library Card Holders	3,345
Bookmobile Card Holders	<u>372</u>
Total Card Holders	3,717

804 Interlibrary Loan Requests  
801 Interlibrary Loans sent to other Libraries  
754 Reserves

Library Programs	246	Attendance	4,168
Library Meetings	221	Attendance	1,366
Bookmobile Programs	1,285	Attendance	15,049

### Adult Education

Computer Class Participants – 426  
GED Testing Students – 9  
Distance Learning Exams – 14  
Tutoring – 50

### Library Home Deliveries – Adult

Individuals	43
Group Settings	<u>25</u>
Total	68

Bookmobile visitors – 18,244  
Library Visitors – 68,640  
Bookmobile Site Stops – 950

Computer Use - 29,791

Volunteer hours - 1,665