



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
2022/23



**JOHNSON CITY**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# President's Letter

Johnson City Public Library has finished another stellar year and we owe you, our community and users, a huge thank you! Your support during the 2022-2023 fiscal year was tremendous; we increased our membership, collections, programs, and more.



**This year we evolved with you, listening and responding to your ideas, suggestions, and needs.**

We grew our non-traditional collections, with items like Nintendo Switch games for all ages, and we added new offerings like the Buffalo Mountain collection. We also tried different types of programs and updated physical spaces in the Library based on your interests and feedback.

As always, our Library staff is focused on continued customer service and providing great book recommendations. Staff are always ready to support you with individualized services.

The Library staff and board of directors are excited about what the upcoming year holds. Visit your Library to see for yourself what a treasure this institution is for our community.

**Jennifer Dixon**  
Board President

## Board OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Dixon, President  
David Gemar, Vice President  
Scott Jeffress, Treasurer  
Georgita Washington, Secretary

Daryl Carter  
John Hunter  
Thomas Kendall  
Gwynn Mettetal  
Suzy Williams

# A YEAR OF *Experimentation* AND GROWTH



If asked to summarize the year, the word that comes to mind is "growth." Johnson City is growing, and with new community members comes fresh ideas. We took this as an opportunity to experiment by adding new types of items to check out, and relocating equipment and parts of the collection. Behind the scenes, we tweaked workflows and methodology. Then, like scientists, we observed what happened, gathered data, and tried again. As we move into a new year, my hope is that we continue as scientists—trying and discovering. After all, we are dreamers.

**Julia Turpin**  
Library Director

## Revenue

\$2,391,990

**CITY OF JOHNSON CITY** (89.77%)  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY** (4.26%)  
**FINES & FEES** (1.21%)  
**DONATIONS** (2.55%)  
**GRANTS** (0.73%)  
**E-RATE & OTHER** (1.48%)

## Expenses

\$2,326,293

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES** (87.44%)  
**ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS** (12.56%)

# Fiscal Year 2022-2023

“Many hands make light work, and it has been an honor to serve alongside many wonderful staff and board members for the past 32 years.

I believe that the financial health of an organization is critical to its success. Johnson City Public Library is poised for continued success, and I am excited for the future of this great organization.”

**Cathy Griffith**  
Assistant Director

(Serving cake at the  
Library's 127th birthday party)



## Our Mission

Through both traditional materials and emerging technologies, Johnson City Public Library offers a multitude of learning opportunities and entertainment choices in a dynamic center for the community.

# Who We Are

### We are dreamers.

We cultivate imagination by connecting people with new worlds and ideas to explore. We approach our work with curiosity and a sense of adventure because we recognize that when horizons are expanded anything is possible. We take risks because we believe that missteps help us grow.

### We are attentive.

We take time to notice the needs of those around us. We care about people's concerns and respond to them in a thoughtful way. We listen to each other and to our community because we believe that we can only truly help people once we have heard them.

### We are empowering.

We foster lifelong learning and education because we know that knowledge is power. We give people equal access to the quality information and tools they need to learn, imagine, and succeed. We believe that nurturing discovery at every age is essential for continual growth.

### We are hometown.

We are the community crossroads. We provide safe, shared spaces where people from all walks of life can come for learning and entertainment, connection with others, and a sense of fellowship. We belong to our community and care about its health and growth, so we offer a place where exploration, mutual respect, and collaboration are nurtured.

### We are welcoming.

We treat every person with kindness because we recognize that all people have dignity. We are people who carry this open-hearted spirit wherever we go. We exist to serve everyone in our community, so our doors are open to all.

# Re-evaluating PROGRAMS



**IN 2022-2023, WE RE-EVALUATED AND EXPERIMENTED** with the programs we offered and surveyed our users to find out what they most want and need. People of all ages are looking for hands-on and experiential programs, especially when they can connect with others over shared interests.

## Adults

Adults appreciated art and music opportunities, including painting workshops led by professional artists and our outdoor concert series featuring local bands. We also hosted author talks, including one with award-winning novelist Silas House. (Our Bridgerton-themed tea party was also a big hit!)

## Kids

Kids of all ages loved hands-on programs. School age kids were most excited about events that emphasized shared experiences and working together, like game nights and a tech take-apart workshop.

Preschool storytimes were popular, especially our outdoor Storytime in the Park. Sensory play labs gave preschoolers a fun space to experiment and learn.



## Teens

Teens enjoyed Adulting 101 sessions that taught life skills like cooking and car maintenance. Interactive, themed events were also popular, such as steampunk art night and after-hours glow egg hunt.



Over  
**900**  
TOTAL PROGRAMS

Over  
**32K**  
TOTAL EVENT  
ATTENDANCE

# Expanding COLLECTIONS

**IN 2022-2023, WE EXPANDED OUR COLLECTION** into new areas and added more items to our physical and digital collections than ever before.

Our driving motivation in collection development is to grow and maintain a variety of books and media that provide entertainment, enhance learning, and reflect the diversity of our community. Your requests for books and media play an important role in our collection decision-making.

Over  
**11K**  
PHYSICAL &  
DIGITAL ITEMS  
ADDED

## NEW Collections

### Buffalo Mountain

We created the Buffalo Mountain collection, a dedicated section for books by local authors, poets, and historians. The collection also includes books about local interest topics. From longtime Johnson City residents to people who are new to the area, this collection is a terrific entry point for learning about our city and Appalachian region.

### Nintendo Switch

In response to user feedback, we added Nintendo Switch games to our collection for the first time. These games are incredibly popular with all ages and circulate constantly. We plan to add more Switch games to our collection in the coming year because of their high demand.

Over  
**716K**

PHYSICAL & DIGITAL  
MATERIALS BORROWED

(Reading a VOX Book  
in the Children's Library)

## VOX Books

Thanks to a generous donation from Friends of the Johnson City Public Library, we added 60 VOX Books to our Children's Library. VOX Books have an audio version built into the print book itself. This technology gives kids an all-in-one read-along option, eliminating the need for computers, tablets, or CDs.

# Providing SERVICES



**YOUR LIBRARY'S STAFF SERVES** our community in a myriad of ways. From answering reference questions, to filling hold orders, to helping users find books and media, we are here to serve every day.

We offer one-on-one computer assistance in our Computer Center, as well as print, copy, scan, and fax services.

Over  
**3,000**  
REFERENCE  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED

Over  
**64K**  
HOLD ORDERS  
FILLED

## UPDATING Spaces

This year we refurbished areas in our building based on user trends. We replaced the heavy, large tables in the Buffalo Mountain Room with smaller, functional furniture more conducive to individual work. These pieces include charging ports, are better suited to our users' needs, and maximize the space itself.

Our Teen Space also got a makeover with new brightly colored and comfortable furniture. The area now feels more inviting for teens.

We revamped our Galleria as well, and now host monthly exhibits featuring local artists. These displays showcase the incredible artistic talent in our community (like painter Katie Murphy).

Over  
**2,500**  
COMPUTER HELP  
AND INSTRUCTION  
SESSIONS

Katie Murphy  
Place Holding



# WASHINGTON COUNTY

## Imagination Library



Washington County Imagination Library gifts up to 60 high-quality, age-appropriate books to build a child's home library before kindergarten. Every month, the program sends a free book to enrolled Washington County kids from birth to age 5. Every Tennessee child is eligible for Imagination Library through their county affiliate.

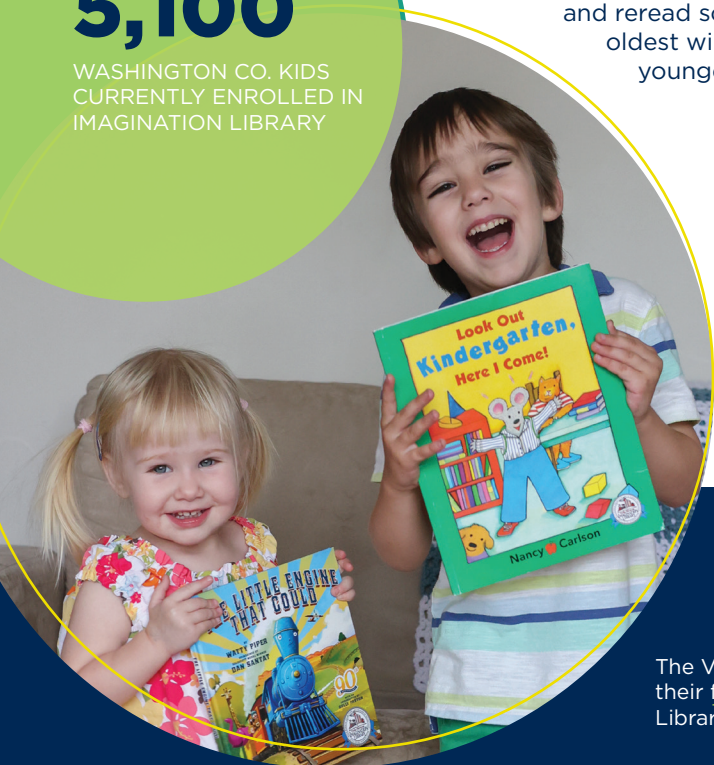
### LOCAL IMPACT

"Our family has been part of Washington County Imagination Library since our oldest was born, and **the monthly books have delighted our children for over five years now.** They always want us to read them the latest arrival immediately. Many of the books have become favorites, read and reread so many times that our oldest will recite them to our youngest."

**Sarah VanFosson**  
Imagination Library member

Over  
**5,100**

WASHINGTON CO. KIDS  
CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN  
IMAGINATION LIBRARY



The VanFosson kids (with their first and last Imagination Library books)

### LOCAL SUPPORT

Imagination Library is available through a public-private partnership between the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and affiliate nonprofits in Tennessee's 95 counties. GELF funds half of the program costs and county affiliates raise the other half. Johnson City Public Library is the affiliate for Washington County.

Over  
**923K**

BOOKS GIVEN TO  
WASHINGTON CO.  
KIDS SINCE 2005

# Donate

**Please consider supporting this vital program, available to every preschool age child in Washington County.**

#### Donations may be sent to:

Washington County Imagination Library  
c/o Johnson City Public Library  
100 West Millard Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604

# Thank You, Donors!

Governor's Early Literacy Foundation  
City of Johnson City  
Washington County

Beta Delta Chapter, DKG  
Mitch and Nancy Meredith  
Lori Lewis

# Support Your Library

Over  
**1,719** VOLUNTEER  
HOURS  
COMPLETED

**82** ADULT  
VOLUNTEERS



**“We are proud to support Johnson City Public Library!** My family is there weekly: checking out books, attending events, meeting friends, and forging new friendships. Our Library is an inclusive place that offers a myriad of resources for every single person in our community. We are so grateful to the Library staff members and how hard they work to ensure the Library is a well-resourced hub for our community!”

**Maggie Wood**  
Library donor



## VOLUNTEER

Become a volunteer! Find current opportunities at [jcpl.org/volunteer](https://www.jcpl.org/volunteer).

“We volunteer at the Library because **we want to pay back all the good this wonderful place has provided** to us and our family for the past 50 years.”

**Kendra and Ken Mijeski**  
Library volunteers (with their original Library cards)

## DONATE

Mail your gift to the Library or donate online at [jcpl.org/donate](https://www.jcpl.org/donate). If you have questions, call (423) 434-4463.

“My late husband, Gollakota S. Kumar, migrated to the U.S. from India in 1972, and I joined him in 1973. Ever since, we have taken the opportunity to use libraries. Kumar loved Johnson City Public Library, where he volunteered for several years. **I contributed a donation in honor of him, so the Library can continue providing resources and services** for literacy and education to anyone in need wanting access.”

**Gollakota S. Rekha**  
Library donor



## JOIN *Friends of the Library*

Friends of the Johnson City Public Library is a group of volunteers dedicated to the welfare of the Library. The Friends raise funds to support the Library through membership and book sales.

Learn more and join the group at [jcpl.org/friends](https://www.jcpl.org/friends).

“The Friends are a consistent and enlightened support for our Library and community. **I joined the Friends out of gratitude, and with confidence that my donations are used conscientiously** and for the good of us all. I encourage anyone who loves books, libraries, and our community to support our Library’s ongoing work in this way.”

**Frances Jackson**  
Friends of the Library member





# 2022-2023 DONORS

## LAUREATE

\$10,000-24,999

Department of Waste Management  
Friends of the Johnson City  
Public Library

## PHILANTHROPIST

\$5,000-9,999

Dr. Robert Jay Gubler  
Dr. and Mrs. Paul (Maria)  
Thur de Koos

## BENEFACTOR

\$2,500-4,999

Adult Volunteer Literacy Council  
JC, Inc.  
The Monday Club of Johnson City

## INNOVATOR

\$1,000-2,499

Anonymous (1)  
Mrs. Harriet Cone  
Michael and Linda Gallagher  
Louie Gump,  
in memory of Lucy Gump  
Dr. Arthur S. and Mrs. Hannah  
H. Harris  
Pete and Jodi Headley,  
in honor of Cathy Griffith on  
her retirement after 32 years  
at Johnson City Public Library  
Gollakota S. Rekha,  
in memory of Gollakota S. Kumar  
Dale and Karen Schmitt

## ENTHUSIAST

\$500-999

Anonymous (1)  
Tom and Diane Arneson  
Elisabeth Dubberley  
Bill Hamil  
Tom and Joy McGinnis  
Stephen and Joan Scheu  
Watauga Association of  
Genealogists

## READER

\$250-499

Eastman Credit Union  
Tammy Hurt  
JC Monday Club Auxiliary  
Scott and Barb Jeffress,  
in memory of Louie and  
Lucy Gump  
Collier and Emily Jordan  
Henry and Flora Joy  
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Sue)  
Lockett, III  
Gwynn Mettetal  
Jerry and Sally Nagel  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul K. Scherrer  
Judith C. Story  
Craig Tober and Brunhilde K.  
Tober-Meyer  
Brooke and Isabel Stanley  
Tony and Carla Warner  
Maggie and John Wood  
Sarah Anne Woods

## BOOKWORM

\$100-249

Danny Bartlett  
Dr. and Mrs. W.R. Beaver,  
in honor of Dr. and Mrs.  
Robert Smink  
David and Pat Boshears  
John and Gail Campbell  
Dr. Kim Contryman, PT, DPT -  
Blue Ridge Physical Therapy, Inc.  
Stephen and Carol Crowe  
Jean R. Darling  
Dilettante Club of Johnson City  
Jennifer Dixon  
Bea Ellis  
Arthur and Virginia Fowler  
Darla Beverage and Kent Gardner  
Kathryn Garner  
Dr. Mary Jane Gibson  
Allie Scalf Greer,  
in honor of Ms. Betty's retirement  
Ed and Cathy Griffith  
Duke and Kathy Hall  
Bomar Herrin  
Carleton A. Jones  
Lawrence and Joddy Kroggel  
Anne Lewis  
Randolph Prince  
Questers Book Club  
Karen Rowell  
Brett Seybert  
Dr. and Mrs. Angus  
(Carolyn) Shaw, III

Don and Judy Slagle  
Dr. David and Deborah Soike  
Dr. Lewis and Marcia Songer  
Alice Jones Torbett  
Robert and Julia Turpin  
May L. Votaw  
Tom Kendall and Marjorie White  
James and Jana Williams

# Thank You

**Thank you for all the ways  
you support your Library!  
Your financial gifts, volunteer  
time, and faithful use of our  
services are critical to the  
Library's work.**

## Johnson City Public Library *Fund*

The Johnson City Public Library (JCPL) Fund is an organization endowment fund with the East Tennessee Foundation. It is a permanent fund established by private donors for its benefit; annual grants from the fund are made only to Johnson City Public Library. Contributions of any asset of value can be made to the JCPL Fund now or in the future, including (but not limited to): cash, unencumbered real estate, stock, publicly traded securities, retirement accounts, life insurance, bequests under wills or trusts, and tangible personal property. Gifts to the fund ensure that the Library is poised to provide collections and services in perpetuity.

Visit [jcpl.org/support](https://www.jcpl.org/support) for more information.

# Year in Photos



Over  
**18K**  
VISITORS  
EVERY MONTH



Over  
**4,000**  
LIBRARY CARDS  
CREATED





# Support Your Library



[jcpl.org/support](https://jcpl.org/support)

## JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

100 West Millard Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
(423) 434-4450 | [jcpl.org](https://jcpl.org)

