

Cobleigh Public Library
Annual Report 2013

This has been an exciting and an eventful year here at the library. Projects that have been in the works for years have come to fruition. Community partners, community volunteers, The Friends of the Library, the trustees and the staff have worked together to successfully bring these projects forward.

Bookmobile Outreach Services

After meeting with the Child Care Network in 2012, the Library Trustees committed themselves to raise \$60,000 to purchase a new vehicle we could convert into a bookmobile. Well guess what! The National Public Radio (NPR) picked up our story by Charlotte Albright and aired it. The Trustees of the Manton Foundation were listening and granted the library \$150,000 through the Friends of the Cobleigh for a new bookmobile with the balance to be used for fuel and maintenance. The library received the new bookmobile, Books on Wheels III, on June 13th. Local artists donated their time and talents when Terry Ekasla designed the art and Larry Golden added his own flair when he painted it. The Academy let him use their space making the bookmobile a truly local endeavor. Children became excited when the bookmobile made its debut at the annual Stars and Stripes Parade in July! With the help of AmeriCorps members the bookmobile is once again operating full time serving child care sites, the Riverside Adult Day Center and after school programs. The A.D. Henderson Foundation enabled us with a \$20,000 one-time grant to bring programs and training to bookmobile staff and providers and ultimately benefiting the children we serve for 2014. Although the bookmobile has been serving our community for fifteen years through gifts, grants and donations, many grants are one-time grants. We need to continue to raise money to keep the bookmobile going.

Children's Room Flooding

In June the library received a blow in the form of rain water in the children's room which completely soaked the carpet. Never in living library memory did the library flood like it flooded that day. The children's room also flooded on July 4th weekend and again heavily on August 9th. Dan Hill, Town Administrator, is certain the work done on the roads a few years ago is the cause of this flooding. Unfortunately, the children's room remains closed until the repairs in the road could be made with funds collected from the insurance company. This has been a difficult and frustrating time for our families, their children and library trustees and staff. Children's librarian, Tina Achilles has worked very hard to make a space for children on the library's second floor. We have a small collection of materials upstairs for families to use and library staff will retrieve any item upon request. We completely understand, more than ever, how important it is for our community to be able to have access to books by being able to browse our collection. This is especially true for our young readers. We hope to be able to make repairs to the children's room quickly. Children would cry because they had to leave the children's room to go home. Now they cry because they can't get in the children's room. The sooner this ends the happier all of us will feel.

Faster Internet

Vermont FiberConnect is a public-private partnership and project between the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) and Sovernet Communications. The project received a \$33.4 million grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. The grant allowed Sovernet to develop, own, maintain, and operate a 773 mile fiber-optic network in southern, central, and northeastern Vermont. The project connected over 340 community anchor institutions including the Cobleigh in the project area, encompassing seven of Vermont's fourteen counties.

This award represents significant support and partnership from the following: State of Vermont Office of the CIO, Department of Education and supervisory unions, Vermont State Colleges, Vermont Law School, Department of Public Safety, Department of Libraries, and the New England Telehealth Consortium. Additionally, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a grant of \$400,000 to the Department of Libraries to build public library connections, as well as \$150,000 to support on-going broadband service in libraries. The Cobleigh has been involved in this project for a number of years. The library paid for wiring to accommodate the new fiber line and will pay for a portion of the new equipment related to this project. The library's line went live on December 16th and computer users now have faster Internet access.

Video Conferencing Equipment

The Cobleigh was fortunate to be chosen as one of the fourteen video conferencing equipment grants awarded to the Department of Libraries from Google. The equipment which uses Google Hangout or Skype or other free video conferencing applications to allow two or more locations to communicate! Anyone could use this free service open to the public by contacting the library for additional information on its availability. Possible usage could include participation in online trainings, educational courses, testing or real-time business or professional meetings, connect with an expert to work on a problem, talk with family in faraway places, meet colleagues across the country, interview for a job or consult with a doctor. The library will use it for programming as well. Its use is really only limited by our imaginations. If you want to use it, contact the library.

Kate Steward - SerVermont AmeriCorps Vista

Much heartfelt thanks to Kate Steward for her fabulous job with SerVermont AmeriCorps Vista helping receive other grants. We were able to obtain Kate full-time for one year for \$3,000 and although we did not budget for this unknown prospect, the library trustees and I felt we had to take advantage of this opportunity. Kate had a goal of \$5,000 in grant writing and \$1,000 in fundraising and she met those goals and beyond! Her accomplishments were a National Life one-time grant of \$3,000, a Robert Fleming and Jane Howe Patrick Foundation grant of \$1,000, a CLIF (Children's Literacy Foundation) book award which had \$1,500 value, Merchant's Bank grant of \$2,000, Small and Inspiring Grant from the VT Community Foundation, \$2,000, and a Windham Foundation grant of \$5,000 for a total of \$14,500 in grant funding. Some of the grants arrived after she finished her year in August, 2013.

In addition, Kate helped with our first ever silent auction which raised \$1,200. This turned out to be a delightful event. Kate came up with “Nacho Your Average Library” slogan for the library when we sold nachos and lemonade at the Summer Street Festival—this made \$130 with donations from librarians and the White Market. Kate also assisted on the Cabin Fever Basket and the Life’s a Beach summer basket put on by the Friends. The Cabin Fever basket made the most money ever at nearly \$500.00. When we were voted to operate a coin drop in Lyndonville, Kate helped and we made \$1,264.00. Our additional goal of 600 volunteer hours has also been met. Kate also set up a system for tracking those volunteer hours and she was able to add new volunteers. Kate was always a team player and dedicated to the library mission. All the staff had a very pleasant year working with delightful, hardworking Kate! Thank you, Kate. We miss you!

Many of the grants Kate received could not have been possible without the Manton Foundation and the Friends of the Library. Part of the funding paid for an audit, profit and loss statement, and financial statements for the Friends of the Library. Many thanks to Benjie Tessier and the Friends for doing this work in a timely manner, so we met grant deadlines. This was key in meeting grantor requirements.

Gratitude

Our staff, the library trustees and the volunteers including the Friends of the Cobleigh are passionate about library service. I am ever grateful for their tremendous dedication! They deserve thanks for their commitment to community service, going the extra mile and making people using the library feel like this is their place in the community. It is!

Sincerely,

Cindy Karasinski,
Library Director

Cobleigh Public Library Statistics 2013

Library circulation of books and materials	46,550
Bookmobile circulation of books	10,067
Listen Up Vermont (downloadable audio books)	<u>903</u>
Totals	57,520 *

Library Card Holders	2,711
Bookmobile Card Holders	<u>117</u>
Total Card Holders	2,828

561 Interlibrary Loan Requests
 886 Interlibrary Loans sent to other libraries
 2,130 Reserves

Library Programs	266	Attendance	2,965
Bookmobile Programs	<u>1,089</u>	Attendance	<u>11,795</u>
Total Programs	1,355	Total	14,760

Library Meetings	237	Attendance	1,838
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Adult Education

Computer Class Participants – 218
 Computer Intern Participants – 270
 GED Testing – 8
 Distance Learning – 2
 Tutoring – 34

Library Home Deliveries – Adult

Individuals	73
Group Settings	<u>22</u>
Total	95

Video Conferencing Equipment

Children's programs – 3 Attendance - 35
 Adult programs – 5 Attendance – 40

Library Visitors – 53,692
 Bookmobile Site Stops – 710
 Computer Use – 27,266 *
 Volunteers - 1,049 hours

* Down from past year due to the flooding in the children's room.