

Stratford Library Association



Annual Impact Report July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Stratford is a town of 54,000 people
and 28,000 library cardholders

Learn. Create. Share.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Stratford Library Board for over 31 years and to return this year as President.

- Here are some highlights from 2024-25. The Library:
- Added a new Spanish-language collection for Teens
 - Modernized one of the Library's elevators using Town-authorized Federal funding.
 - Updated Teen Services furniture using Federal ARPA funds arranged through State Senator Gresko's office.
 - Trained Adult Services staff in effective services and program planning for people with autism.

This year, the Stratford Library welcomed 2,500 visitors every week. The use of JobNow, a career and job search resource, increased by 116%. Individual use of conference and study rooms increased by 34%. People borrowed items, participated in programs, engaged with the uCreate makerspace, received help with technology, attended meetings, used free Wi-Fi, read, studied, worked, and played. There is no other public space in Stratford offering as many free services for all community members.

Our hardworking Library Board supported the Library through advocacy and close collaboration with Town Officials to ensure we serve all of Stratford's residents fully. Because of our dedicated team of Library workers, we are one of Connecticut's top 25 busiest public libraries. Our donors and volunteers raised more money than ever through the Gala, the Associates campaign, and the annual Book Sale. Finally, our Library patrons responded powerfully to our community survey, helping us improve our programs and services to better meet everyone's needs so that everyone in Stratford can learn, create, and share.

With gratitude,


Robyn Proto
Board President



Thank you
to our
Board of
Trustees

2024-2025
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We appreciate our new donors. Welcome to the community.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

<i>*Matching Gift Employer</i> Helen Adams Clara Ann Adams Anthony Afriyie Janine Aggott Darya Akimova Sarah Almodovar Patsy Altieri Antone Andrade Daria Andriole Addison and Jocelyn Armstrong Rose Arsenault Caitlin Augusta Jocelyn Ault Paul Aurelia Danny and Annette Bacchiocchi Edward Bachman Diana Baird Betty A. Bajek Tania Barnes John Barnes Patricia Barnish Minna Barrett Carol Barsky Christine Bastien Patricia Beauchemin Susan Becker	Ling Bello Christine Biesadecki Laurie Birdsey Wendy Blair Coleen Blanchard Joel and Linda Blaskey Pat Blossom Marc Blossveren Sarah Bodenheimer Martha Bolton Christine Bonaventura Joseph Bonitatebus Jr. Joseph Bonitatebus Sr. Martha Boulton Mary Branch Deborah Brelsford Elisabeth Breslav Gary Brophy Virginia Brown Sandra Brown Priscilla Brown Karen Broyles Faith Buchino Cynthia Buckley John Burgeson Jean Burke Mary Burns	Robert and Beverly Burns Ray Burrows Ann Burton A. Bushinsky Leonel Cadet Mary Callan William and Elizabeth Cambras Diane Canevari Christopher Carbone Marianne Card Michael and Kathleen Carius Alan Carney Jeanette Caron Marianne Carrano Dennis Carroll Alice Carter Kenneth Caserta Dawn Caserta Michael and Kathleen Cepetelli Gus Chagares Michael Charles Carolyn and Robert Charnin Daniel Chase David Chess David Childs and Janet Zamparo Johnathan Chinapen Juana Chirino
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Library Programs

The Library brings families together by offering shared learning experiences, interactive activities, and events that encourage reading and exploration.

Community Survey:

"I moved to Stratford 2 1/2 years ago and soon after found my way to the Library. I am very impressed with the range of programs offered to patrons of all ages and with the friendly and welcoming Library staff. It's a local treasure!"

"We live within walking distance of the Library, and it is a great blessing for our whole family. My little ones love to visit there with me, whether to get books or just play with the toys. My older kids can walk over on their own to get books, study, or just get out of the house for a while. We are very grateful to the Library and all that it offers."



The Karate Kids

Program attendance increased 10% this year.



Ravioli Making Class



Lightsaber Training

Thank you for supporting your Library!

Shirley Clark
Judith Cleri
Mary Claire Collier and Peter Kaiser
Don Collins
Jim Connor
Beverly Cook
Jason and Jeri Ann Cook
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Miriam Costa
Marianne Cox
Diane Creser
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Kathleen Devine
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MPeter and Kathleen Deyo
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Richard and Dolores Ezyk

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Angela Michelle Farrell
Vanessa Fasanella
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Sandra Fisher
John and Tory Florek
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Donna Forte
Patricia Fox
Leslie Frankel
Louis Frazier
Kwaena Frempong
Joan Frost
Gerard Frugone
Judith Gardner
Alisha Garnett
Faye Gerarden
Amy Gerte
Karla Glad
Susan Glick

We are grateful for your generous support.

2024-2025 Revenue



- Town of Stratford, \$3,676,493
- Fundraising, \$112,736
- Trust Gifts, \$109,000
- Grants, \$56,302
- Gifts, \$41,270
- Earned Income, \$22,006
- Other Income, \$10,361

2024-2025 Expenses



- Personnel, \$3,063,801
- Facilities, \$262,554
- Materials/Processing, \$234,130
- Professional Services, \$71,392
- Services, \$58,493
- Grants Expended, \$50,340
- Supplies/Processing, \$30,508
- Fundraising Expenses, \$27,743
- Program Expenses, \$21,413
- Board Expenses, \$15,447
- Gifts Expended, \$8,644

Stratford Library Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. These 2024-2025 Financials contain unaudited financial information. A copy of the Stratford Library Association's audited financial statements may be requested by contacting giving@stratfordlibrary.org.

Angela Golias
Gail Gonya
Denise Goodman
Rob and Jean Goodnow
George and Phyllis Grafton
Michelle Green
Robyn Greenspan
Christine Griffin
Donna Griffin
Robert and Deborah Grossman
Ellen Guion
Irene Guman
Marie Guman
Andra and Art Gumbus
Shelley Hall
Janet and Robert Halliday
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Carol Hamilton
Diane Hanna
Margo Harris
Meghan Hatch
Mary Haynes
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Christopher Healy and Suzie Bibisi
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Susan Knell
Florence Kokoruda



Funding Partners

Town of Stratford
PEGPETIA
Community Development
Block Grant
ARPA Grant
Horizon Foundation
Vicki Soto Memorial Fund

CT State Library
CSL Growing Equitable
Library Services
The Milford Bank
Rotary Club of Stratford
PayPal Giving Fund
Valley United Way

Building Future Leaders

The Homework Helpers serve students in elementary school through 8th grade with valuable tutoring experiences. Supported in part by the Vicki Soto Foundation, this program provides local teens with the opportunity to assist families with no-cost tutoring. Last year, **14** student tutors provided **563** tutoring sessions.

**Celebrating the \$25K ARPA grant
for Teen Services with our
State Legislators!**



The Annual Nerf War

Stephen Kotchko
Kathleen Kovalik
Lynn Ellen Krause
Debra Kruitbosch
Diane Kunkel
Linda Lambeck
David and Susan Lampe-Wilson
Merlee Lange
Esther Lapin
Robert and Carmel Larese
Charles Lautier
Minjung Lee
Helen Lee
Janet Lengel
Judith Lessler
Richard Leventhal
Josephine Levine
Seth Levine
Susan and Richard Linane
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Jane Lubben
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Gail Marton
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Rose Matis
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Eleanor McBrien
Judith McCarthy
Gail McCarthy
Kenneth and Diane McClean
Shirley McCormack
Melody McDonald

Pamela McLaughlin
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Mildred Memoli
Catherine Merwin
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Deirdre Miklovich
Anita Miller
Virginia Millington
Andrea Milstein
Barbara Minglello
Patricia Ann Misencik
Carrie and Jeff Monachelli
David Mooney and Bonnie Reynolds
William Morris
Sandy Morrison
Judy Mudre
Betty Mulholland
Judith Mulligan
Patrick Murphy
Brenda Murphy
Jocelyn Murray
Sheila Muscott
Raymond Nalewajk
Kenneth Narus
Pat Naylor and John Cottrell
Laura Nemec

Because of community support, the Library was able to:

- Host 4,164 programs, events and meetings
- Welcome 34,943 visitors
- Purchase more than 8,000 new books and media, and
- Earn our spot among the top 25 busiest libraries in the state

Stratford Library Staff



Management Team

Sheri Szymanski,
Executive Director
Geri Diorio,
Assistant Director
Caitlin Augusta
Head of Children's Services
Dara Cates
Circulation Supervisor
Rachel Heerema,
Development Director

Tom Holehan,
Director of PR & Adult Programming
Laura Lindgren,
Finance and HR Director
Tiffany McCrae,
Head of Teen Services
Katie McFadden,
Head of Adult Services
Kate Sheehan,
Head of Information Technology

Teresa Neville
Lynn Nicholas
Paula Nizzardo
Charise Nulsen
Maura O'Brien
Maureen O'Brien
T. O'Connor
John O'Leary
Lisa Olivere
Linda and Richard Page
Vineeta Pal
Maria Elena Palermo
Wayne Palmer
Louise Palumbo
Kathleen Pancoast
Patricia Parker
Janice Pellegrino
Olga Pena
Pete Penny
Frank Perillo
Deborah Perman
Keith Pesavento
Elizabeth Peterson

Oreste Petillo
Rosemary Petro
Nancy and Michael Petronino
Steve Pfann
Francis and Christine Pfeiffer
Patricia Phillips
Gary Pia
Barbara Pickney
Louis Pieper
Eric Pine
Amy Plapp
Joel Pleban
Diane Podrat
Angela Poisson
Patricia Primavera
Ben and Robyn Proto
Catherine Proto and Lisa Bevaqua
Mary Lee Prussel
Anita Pundurs
Marianne Putney
Donald Putrimas and Diane Elias
Kerry Quinn
Laurie Raccaia
Allan Radziwilko
Gladys A. Ramos
Janet Rathert

Christine Ratushnuk
Orna Rawls
Maryclaire Reeves
Paulette Reeves
Lilian Revel
Paul Ribnick
Christine Robbins
Hildegard Roberts
Louis Rogowski
Alice Rolstone
Richard and Carolyn Ross
Jaclyn Rothenberg
Robert and Maureen Routhier
Steve and Paula Rowe
Stephen and Judith Rutter
Bahin Samimy
Elaine Sansonetti
Sandra and Raul Sarmiento
Valeria Sarosky
Richard Saykosky
Linnea Scheck
Cassandra Schellhas
Deborah and Jeff Scholl
Jane Schroeder
Claudia Schumacher
Kathy Scinto

Summer Reading

The Library prevents summertime learning loss by offering Summer Reading programs that keep kids engaged with books and maintain their literacy levels. **980** 2nd and 6th-grade students visited the Library this year. Librarians visited **143** classrooms and shared Summer Reading information with **2,845** students in Kindergarten through 6th grade.



Finding the perfect book



The Mayor's Summer Reading Party

Stratford Library encouraged **724** children, teens, and adults to read **4,077** books this summer! The **124** preschoolers in the Read to Me Club listened to **4,113** books and enjoyed story activities.

Community Outreach

The Library participated in **228** outreach opportunities, connecting with more than **6,700** people.



Connecting People with Great Books

Lynne Shafer
Dennis and Rita Shaughnessy
Margaret Sheahan
Kathryn Sheehan-Giannelli
Maxine Showah
Courtney Shultz
MaryAnn Signore
Nancy Silkman
Mark and Loretta Sills
Mary Ellen Simon
Nancy Sirois
Cynthia Smith
Shelagh Smith
Anne Sohon
William Soisson
Robert Spaulding & Tova Clayman
Linda Spinetti
Donna Standard
Dawn Stein
Jacqueline Stern & Jeffrey Potash
& Family
Paul Stetz
Barbara Stewart
Patricia Stockdale
Michelle Stolzenberg
James Stone

Mary Ellen Stratford
Michael & Elaine Suntain
Jennifer Susi
Wendy Swain
Paula Sweeley
Maria Szalontay
Bill and Sharon Szturma
Sheri Szymanski
Junior Tavarez
Rebecca Terricciano
Kathleen Thackaberry
Judith Therrien
Kenneth Tigar
Patricia Trisko
Tammy Trojanowski
Patricia Ulatowski
Ted van Griethuysen
Emely and Henry Valerio
Annamarie Valites
Gertrude Vezina
Marianna Vieira
Gail Voytek
Loren Vultee
Judith Waldeyer

Stuart Walls
Carol & Joseph Walters
Thomas Ward
James & Lorene Ward
Virginia Ware
Joan Wasilewski
Stephanie Weaver
Wendy Wernick
Chandra Whitley
Susan Wilson
Jessica Wolf
William Wonneberger
Joan Wootton
David Wright
Nancy and John Yanosy
Mary Jane Zafe
Thomas Zelenak
Nancy Zepke
Geri Zimmerman
Renee Zinn
Evaggelia Zoulamis

In honor of
Earl & Judith Augusta
Youth Fund
Rachel Heerema
LSLR Book Fund
Robyn Proto

In memory of
Douglas Helwig
Lorraine B. Hogan
Tyler Holloway Fund
John Mellor
Gary W. Miller
Richard Pheneger Fund
Carol Pieper Fund
Michael H. Zackl

Please let us know of any errors or omissions!
We want to honor all our generous supporters.

Mardi Gras Magic Gala

Thanks to our Major Sponsors: Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, Halper Keating Family Foundation, Berchem Moses PC, Ahlberg & Glad LLC, Aquarion Water Company, Barnum Animal Hospital, Dr. Immacula Cann and Family, Florek & O'Neill LLC, M&T Bank, Richard Pheneger Memorial, Joel Pleban CPA, and The Milford Bank



Putting the Fun in Fundraising

Annual Book Sale



Red Devils Football Team helps set up

Thank
You!

Volunteers

Many thanks to the **28** adults and **128** teens who volunteered **7,213** hours to support the Library Gala, Book Sale, UCreate makerspace, and various Library projects.



Stratford Library Association
2203 Main Street • Stratford, CT 06615 • (203) 385-4164
www.stratfordlibrary.org