



Annual Impact Report

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



27,500 cardholders know a good thing when they see it

Learn.
Create.
Share.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We had another positive year at Stratford Library.

The biggest change has been the final phase of significant HVAC construction, along with upgrades to the uCreate makerspace and other upgrades throughout the Library. Thanks to our community partners at the Baldwin Center and Perry House for helping us host programs during construction. The end result is improved public spaces, better lighting, lower operating costs, and greater environmental sustainability. Another big change happened in December, when we bid a fond farewell to long-time staffer Tom Holehan, who retired after 40 years of service in public relations and programming.

Excellence by the numbers:

- The Library's collection expanded by 12%
- One-on-one reference help increased by 13%
- Morningstar Investing Center use increased by 38%
- Use of online TumbleBookLibrary ebooks, read-alongs, graphic novels, and more for kids increased by 68%

On average, Stratford Library welcomed 2,340 visitors every week. 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 worked closely with Town Officials to ensure we serve all of Stratford's residents fully, and we are grateful for the annual Town grant. 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 through the Associates campaign and gifts, the April in Paris Gala, and our best-ever annual Book Sale.

Everyone in Stratford can learn, create, and share at Stratford Library.

With gratitude,



Robyn Proto,
Board President

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**Gala Co-chairs Joelle Kilcourse
and Doreen Jaekle**

Thank You to our Generous Donors We appreciate our new donors. Welcome to the community.

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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.



Student Visits



Puzzlepalooza



Spooky uCreate Cricut Crafting



Mask Making Fun

Children's and Teen programs increased by 12% over last year.

Thank you for supporting your Library!

Miriam Costa
Marianne Cox
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Phyllis Crone
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Denise Goodman

We are grateful for your generous support.

2025-2026 Revenue, \$4,218,479



- Town of Stratford, \$3,774,330
- Fundraising, \$108,112
- Trust Gifts, \$214,429
- Gifts, \$60,764
- Grants, \$35,348
- Earned Income, \$22,312
- Other Income, \$3,184

2025-2026 Expenses, \$4,178,807



- Personnel, \$3,266,191
- Materials/Processing, \$303,326
- Facilities, \$261,239
- Building Improvements, \$114,057
- Grants Expended, \$38,709
- Services, \$29,313
- Earned Income Expenses, \$22,534
- Gifts Expended, \$3,476
- Professional Services, \$54,730
- Fundraising Expenses, \$38,685
- Program Expenses, \$24,345
- Other Expenses, \$22,201

Stratford Library Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. These 2025-2026 Financials contain unaudited financial information. Income and expenses are higher due to construction. A copy of the Stratford Library Association's audited financial statements may be requested by contacting giving@stratfordlibrary.org.

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Funding Partners

Town of Stratford
Community Development
Block Grant
M&T Bank Foundation
Vicki Soto Memorial Fund
Avangrid/United Illuminating
Barrett Outdoor
Communications

Eversource Energy
Santa Energy
CT State Library
The Milford Bank
Rotary Club of Stratford
Catalyst CT – The Hub



Vicki Soto Memorial Fund gift



New Books

Major Construction!

Stratford Library renovated the Teen space, reorganized the Reference space, updated and relocated the public computer lab, and expanded the uCreate maker space. There is better lighting, new ductwork, a new ceiling and new heating and cooling systems. The Library is now more environmentally sustainable with lower operating costs.



Construction Upgrade

Anne Lees
Janet Lengel
Dorothy Lerner
Barbara Lesko
Judith Lessler
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Marc and Mary Limata
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Raymond Nalewajk
Lee Narwold
Pat Naylor and John Cottrell
Teresa Neville
Lynn Nicholas
Angela Nizzardo
Paula Nizzardo
Mary Barbara O'Brien

Because of community support, the Library was able to:

- Host 1,396 programs, events and meetings.
- Welcome 121,751 visitors
- Purchase more than 8,500 new books and media, and
- Lend out 258,220 items



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

Laura Lindgren, Finance and HR Director
 Tiffany McCrae, Head of Teen Services
 Katie McFadden, Head of Adult Services
 Kate Sheehan, Head of Information Technology
 Heather Silverman, Administrative Assistant

Tribute Gifts

In memory of:

Jane Birge
 Joan Wells Birks
 Dr. Harold J. Connelly, Jr.
 Ed Fennell
 Tyler Holloway

Karen Jankowich
 Barry P Kelly
 Patricia Petillo
 Richard Pheneger
 Diane Stackpole

In honor of:

Earl & Judith Augusta
 Thomas Holehan
 LSLR Book Fund

In celebration of:

Marge Jones
 Unlocking knowledge

T. Bryan O'Connor
 Timothy Oesau
 Jack and Karen O'Leary
 Patrick O'Leary
 Deborah Oliver
 Noel Onkey
 Karen Orpilla
 Dr. Uyi E. Osunde
 Abbey Owen
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 Rachel Rusnak
 Stephen and Judith Rutter
 Kristy Ryan
 Molly Ryan
 Marie Sadowski
 Bahin Samimy
 Tom and Barbara Samorajczyk
 Sandra and Raul Sarmiento
 Jamie Saunders
 Susan Saylor

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, **35** student tutors provided **107** tutoring sessions.



Main Street Festival

Community Outreach

The Library organized **98** all-ages, **29** adult, **20** teen, and **171** children's off-site programs with **5,931** participants.



Having Fun Together

Linnea Scheck John Schettino Deborah and Jeff Scholl Jane Schroeder Robert Schultz Claudia Schumacher Eunice Schwager Kathy Scinto Sandra Seavey Jackie Seawright Lynne Shafer Kaitlyn Shake Margaret Sheahan Courtney Shultz Deborah Siegel Debra Silberstein Roger and Caren Silhavey Nancy Silkman Elan and Heather Silverman Heather Simmons Mary Ellen Simon Joseph Sincavage Linda Skowronski Monica Slomski David Small Shelagh Smith Bernadette Sobel Anne Sohon Carol Soisson William Soisson Carolyn Soltis Robert Spaulding & Tova Clayman Linda Spinetti Square One Theatre Company Friends	Debbie Squezzello Susan Stackpole Stephanie Staffey Donna Standard Stratford Junior Woman's Club Barbara Stewart Mary Ellen and Jeremy Stewart Patricia Stockdale Howard and Michelle Stolzenberg James Stone Mary Ellen Stratford Margaret Sudak Michael and Elaine Suntag Jennifer Susi Wendy Swain Paula Sweeley Bill and Sharon Szturma Sheri Szymanski Thomas Tarczali Junior M. Tavarez Elinor Taylor Kristine Tedesco Judith Therrien Nancy Thomas Cara Tietjen Kenneth Tigar Stephanie Toronto Karen Tracy Travelers Championship Patricia Trisko Tammy Trojanowski Velia Tyc Emely and Henry Valerio Annamarie Valites	Valley United Way, Inc. Ted van Griethuysen Jr. Roger and Debbie Vanoer Jeff and Deb Vargovchik Hector J Vazquez Paula Verderame Virginia Verrillo Gertrude Vezina Marianna Vieira James Vigliotti Molly Viner Dorvil Katerini Vlahos Gail Voytek Cynthia Vrabel Judith A. Waldeyer Stuart Walls Gregory Walsh Carol and Joseph Walters James and Lorene Ward Thomas Ward Joan Wasilewski Maryann Wauthier Sallie Wauthier Ralph and Maryann Weaver Stephanie Weaver Mary Wedin Grace and Stephen Weitzer Judy Werner Daniela Wetherall Roger Wetherall Kerry L. Whitham Wiley Publishing Fiona Wilkes Richard and Lynda Williams	Jessica Wolf David and Rona Wright www.Etsy.com Karen Wyrostek Nivin Yakur Nancy Yarmosh Janet Zamparo Eileen Russell & Michael Zanarini Thomas and Meryl Zelenak Nancy Zepke Dorothy B. Zigmond Susan Ziman Geri Zimmerman Renee Zinn Katrina Znosko Evaggelia Zoulamis Nancy Zychek American Online Giving Foundation Benevity
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April in Paris Gala

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors: Halper Keating Family Foundation, Berchem Moses PC, and Nutmeg Spay/Neuter Clinic for a wonderful, sold-out evening of celebrating the Library.



Sheri Szymanski, Executive Director and Cat Gasta, the Mime

Annual Book Sale

Thank you to the Town of Stratford for the use of the 2155 Main Street garage, the Book Sale volunteers and all the shoppers for the most financially successful book sale ever!

Board President Robyn Proto and Book Sale Co-Chair Shelley Hall sorting books



Volunteers

224 teen, young adult, and adult volunteers served over **8,000** hours.



Board and Staff preparing for the Book Sale



**Stratford
Library**

Learn. Create. Share.

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www.stratfordlibrary.org