

# MILLINOCKET MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR MISSION

*To enrich lives, inspire imaginations, and empower community.*



KATAHDIN  
GEAR  
LIBRARY

# FINDING FOCUS IN 2023

February 2024

Greetings!

2023 was a year of finding focus as a library and building the momentum we need for long-term success. We embarked on a strategic planning process to imagine what was possible for MML and to determine our priorities going forward. On the next page, we'll dive into what that looks like, but first, I'd like to provide a snapshot of some of our key achievements this past year.

## Programs

Our programs are at the heart of what we do, and in 2023, we offered over 300, ranging from computer classes, to arts and crafts activities, to nature walks. But to me, the most impactful programs were the ones where we were able to bring your ideas to life, like our teen-led Pokemon Club this summer or our community conversation on domestic violence in the fall.

## Facilities

We are committed to ensuring that our facility is as functional, accessible, and welcoming as possible. So in 2023, we made several improvements, including **transforming a storage room into a lounge for local teens and installing four electric vehicle charging stations** to keep up with emerging technology. Over the next year or so, we have plans to modernize our elevator, update our roof, and improve the look and functionality of our grounds.

## Funding

Last year, we strengthened our relationship with one of our key funding partners, the Town of Millinocket, through increased communication and accountability. I'm pleased to share that as a result, we have our first ever **contract with the Town for the services we provide**. In addition, we were blown away by the support we received from our donors this year, **surpassing our annual campaign goal of \$25,000 by over 40%**. These wins offer us increased stability as we move forward, allowing us to focus on what matters.

As I reflect on the past year, I extend my gratitude to each member of our library community, and I hope this report captures and celebrates the progress we have made this year thanks to all of you.

Warmly,

*Diana*  
**diana furukawa**  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Adams, *Treasurer*  
Ben Barr  
Meghan Cooper  
Alaina Daisey\*  
Ed Girsu, *President*  
Kyle Leathers  
Terri MacDonald\*  
Laura Manzo  
Jessica Masse, *Vice President*  
Wally Paul  
Wende Sairio, *Secretary*  
Steve Sanders  
Mike Smith  
Nolan Tanous  
Veronica Torres

## STAFF

Nicole Brennan  
Andrew Crandall  
Diana Furukawa  
Heather Hurley  
John Marden  
Baileigh Studer\*\*

## INTERNS

Lily Hamm  
Rayne Niquette\*\*

\*These board members completed their terms in 2023.

\*\*Katahdin Gear Library staff

# WHERE WE'RE HEADED: 5 BIG GOALS

Below are the 5 big ideas that came out of our strategic planning process this year. They outline what we hope to achieve over the next 3-5 years. View the whole plan on our website at: [MillinocketMemorialLibrary.org/strategic-plan](https://MillinocketMemorialLibrary.org/strategic-plan).

## 1 Provide engaging and relevant resources and programs.

- Offer consistent, quality customer service
- Host enriching programs for all ages
- Grow our collection based on your interests



## 2 Facilitate innovative projects that make our community more livable.

- Sustain the Katahdin Gear Library
- Help lead community development initiatives



## 3 Serve as a keystone community hub and gathering space.

- Improve building accessibility
- Invest in sustainability of building
- Increase use of library as a meeting space



## 4 Garner broad participation and support.

- Gather community input
- Improve effectiveness of marketing
- Streamline fundraising efforts



## 5 Achieve strong organizational sustainability for long-term success.

- Retain strong board, staff, and volunteer team
- Develop multiyear financial plans

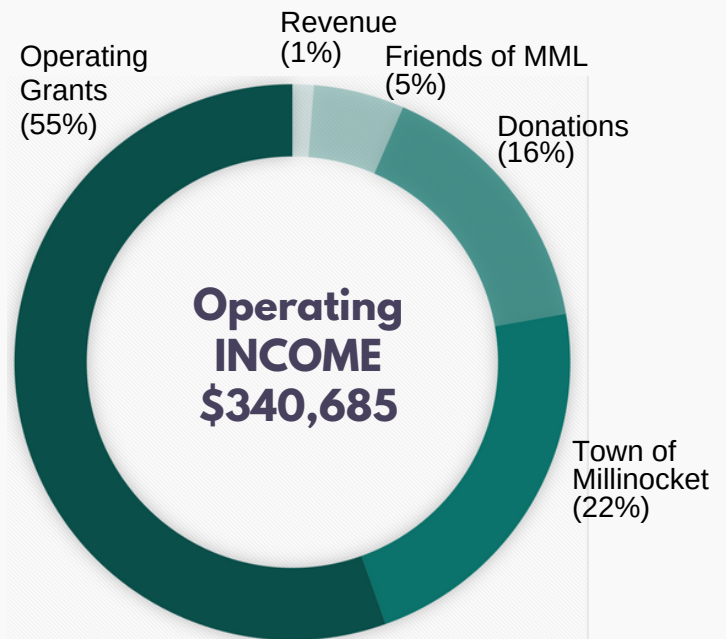


# 2023 FINANCIALS

As an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our operating costs are funded by a combination of grants, donations, our contract with the Town of Millinocket and support from the Friends of MML. Operating expenses include the supplies, services, and staff time necessary to offer our services and programs, grow our collection, and maintain our building.

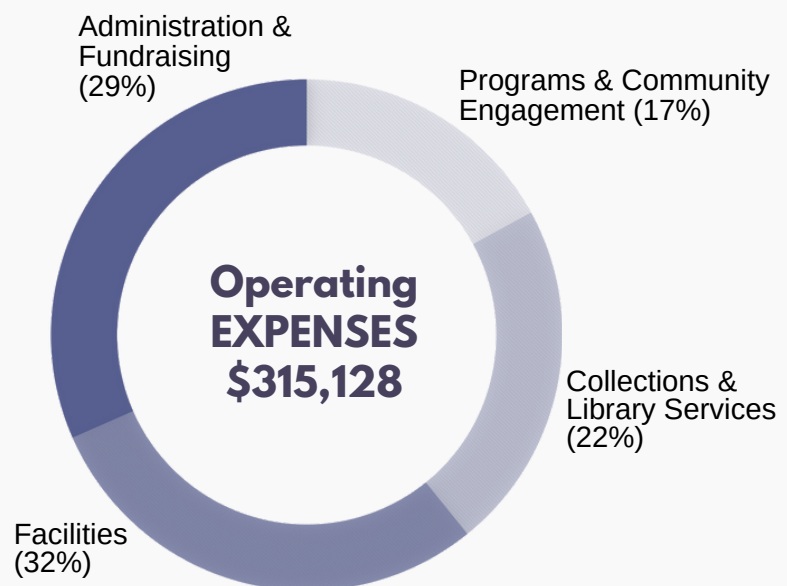
## OPERATING INCOME

Revenue	4,227
Friends of MML	18,000
Donations	53,433
Operating Grants	7,276
Employee Retention Credit*	81,640
Sewall Foundation Grant	100,000
<b>Total Operating Grants</b>	<b>\$ 188,916</b>
Town of Millinocket**	76,109
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 340,685</b>



## OPERATING EXPENSES

Programs & Community Engagement	
Program Supplies & Marketing	3,910
Staff Time- Programs	51,532
<b>Total Programs &amp; Community Engagement</b>	<b>\$ 55,442</b>
Collections & Library Services	
Collections	12,619
Staff Time- Reference, Circulation, etc.	59,449
<b>Total Collections &amp; Library Services</b>	<b>\$ 72,067</b>
Facilities	
Technology	4,653
Utilities	21,294
Rent***	32,000
Repairs & Maintenance	22,936
Staff Time- Facilities	21,912
<b>Total Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 102,795</b>
Administration & Fundraising	650
Fundraising	486
Professional Development	2,445
Office Supplies, Postage, & Technology	5,061
Financial Review	8,150
Consulting	11,472
Insurance	13,231
Staff Time- Administration & Fundraising	43,329
<b>Total Administration &amp; Fundraising</b>	<b>\$ 84,823</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 315,128</b>



\*The Employee Retention Credit was **one-time** COVID-related federal funding.

\*\*We received a final 2023 quarterly payment from the Town of Millinocket in early 2024.

\*\*\*We are required to pay rent through 2026 per an agreement that financed the library's 2019 renovation.

Questions? Our 990, independent financial compilation, and many other reports are available on our website at: [MillinocketMemorialLibrary.org/reports](http://MillinocketMemorialLibrary.org/reports).

# 2023 PHOTOS & STATISTICS



Participants and staff outside of the gear library's downtown location after a mountain biking program this summer.



We offered a series of hands-on programs this year on canning and preserving.



Local musician, Mark Miller, held a summer concert that was enjoyed by people of all ages.



This spring, every Granite Street School class toured the library and learned about the resources we have to offer.



Some of our teen patrons celebrated completing our community puzzle!



We partnered with Katahdin Federal Credit Union this year to offer workshops on topics like wills and power of attorney.

## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

On the average  
week in 2023...

**433**  
people visited  
the library

**235**  
books were  
circulated

**161**  
people connected  
to Wifi

**53**  
people used a  
public computer

**49**  
people attended a  
library program

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Volunteers & Friends

*We would like to acknowledge the many dedicated volunteers who make our work possible. Below is a non-comprehensive list of our 2023 volunteers and Friends.*

Ben Barr	Chelsea Ehret	Cindy Ingerson	Robin Matarazzo
Barbara Beaulieu	Carolyn Filauro	Anne Jackson	Mary McManus
Jonah Bissonnette	Albert Fowler	Randy Jackson	Kamma Michaud
Austin Brittin	Fred Fowler	Dale Jandreau	Carol Morrison
Clay Brittin	Marian Fowler	Sarah Jandreau	Wally Paul
Lelia Brown	Bernie Friel	Makenna Johnson	Mary Pinette
Yolanda Bulley	Cindy Friel	Margie King	Tom Power
Dean Crocco	Greg Friel	Mark Kowalski	Barbara Riddle-Dvorak
Ghost Crocco	Esther Gass	Sherry Kowalski	Henning Schöne
Melissa Crocco	Deborah Grabber	Ross Knowlton	Riley Schramm
Michael Crowley	Jeff Hamm	Leona Kunkel	Kitty St. John
Shorty Cummings	Lily Hamm	Mary Lou Libby	Norma Wentworth
Ed Dunstan	Phil Healey	Mia Lowery	
Marie Dunstan	Fred Herring	Terri MacDonald	



### BOB'S STORY

*50+ years of service*

As a kid growing up in Caribou in the 1930s, Bob Pelletier fell in love with mystery books like the Hardy Boys series. But during World War II, reading took on a new meaning for him as he pored over maps and encyclopedias to learn about the distant places where his older brothers were stationed. He came to understand **reading as an invaluable bridge to the wider world beyond his small town**, which ultimately led him to his career in education.

Bob worked as a teacher and principal in Millinocket for many years before becoming the superintendent of Millinocket Schools in the 1970s. He became involved in the library in the 1960s, advising on the construction of the new building and later collaborating with staff to establish libraries at each school in Millinocket. In his retirement, Bob joined the library's board, serving for 27 years. In addition, he volunteered many hours each week to help maintain the building and grounds. And when the library's very existence was threatened back in 2015, Bob fought hard to keep its doors open. Why? Because, in his words, **"A town without a library, I don't want to live in."**

Looking back on over 50 years of service to MML, Bob reflected on how the library is now so much more than "just a place to keep a bunch of books," but is a hub for programs, technology, learning, and community connection. Even in his nineties, Bob is the kind of person to roll up his sleeves and get to work when he sees a need. He embodies the spirit of volunteerism that is at the heart of MML's story, and we commend him for his years of service to the library and community.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Our major donors

*We would like to extend special recognition to the following donors who went the extra mile in 2023 to support our work. Your generosity is inspiring.*

Anonymous donors	Margie King
Nancy & Reinier Beeuwkes	Michael MacDonald
Stephen & Margaret Bond	Sky MacDonald
Jerry & Gretchen Davis	James & Cathy Mingo
Marian & Albert Fowler	Molly Ostrander
Philip Healey	Lee Smith
William Hinton	Gregory & Jean Waite
Joseph Huber & Sheila Unvala	Shultzie & Spencer Willows

## Consistent donors

*We also wish to acknowledge the dedication of the following donors, who have given to the library consistently over the past three years. Your ongoing support makes a big difference.*

Anonymous donors	Arthur Furukawa	James & Cathy Mingo
Beth & Doug Allen	William Hinton	Algirdas Nakas
Arthur & Florence Archie	Cynthia Ingerson	Robert O'Halloran
Chandler Barbour	Rodney & Susan Jacobs	Barbara Page
Reinier & Nancy Beeuwkes	David Kalenak	Wally & Mitzi Paul
Jean & Will Boddy	Margie King	Randall & Tina Place
Stephen & Margaret Bond	Doug & Judith Knowlton	Leslie Powers
Sally Bouchard	Maria Knowlton	Faye Rosselle
Rodney & Debbie Cole	Dolores Kong	Laurence Smith & Linda Silka
Meghan Cooper	Dick & Jan Krause	Robert Spaulding
Judith Cyr	Orianna LaGassey	Dolores Stewart
James Deabay	Roberta Laverty	Philip & Peggy Sturman
William Dennen	John Lawton	Sarah Summers
Eldon & Donna Doody	Robert & Priscilla Leet	David & Patricia Trainor
Daniel & Margaret Elliott	Kevin & Mary Lou Libby	Mary Ann Underkoffler
Anthony & Carolyn Filaurio	Paul & Terri MacDonald	Stephanie Weaver
Elizabeth Fowler	Michael Madore	Stephen Williams & Lisa Reece
Marian & Albert Fowler	Joetta Manzo	
Frank & Bernie Friel	Gregory & Valerie Mekras	

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Our foundation & corporate supporters

The organizations below have supported our work through business donations, grants, and partnership.

- AARP
- Age-Friendly Millinocket
- American Library Association
- Boreal Theater
- Cara Charitable Foundation
- Dead River Company
- Eastern Maine Development Corporation
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Emery Lee & Sons
- Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters
- Golden Rule Foundation
- Katahdin Collaborative
- Katahdin Federal Credit Union
- Katahdin Region Higher Education Center
- Ktaadn Arts Education Center
- Maine Community Foundation
- Maine State Library
- Millinocket Fabrication & Machine LLC
- Millinocket Regional Hospital
- National Digital Equity Center
- Onion Foundation
- Our Katahdin
- Outdoor Sport Institute
- Outer Reach Broadband
- Penobscot County
- Penquis CAP
- Run Maine Inc.
- Start Small
- Thrive Penobscot
- Town of Millinocket
- Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness
- Wilderness Edge Campground

