

## 2021 Clymer – French Creek Free Library Annual Letter to the Community

We would like to thank each of our patrons and friends for your continued support of the library. Your library has been busy and successful in many realms. Let us share with you some of the highlights from 2021! Many great programs and events were held at the library, as well as attaining our fundraising goal of \$10,000! We hit new circulation records, and are active on social media. We love to serve our community and have so much to celebrate, yet at the heart of it all, is you!

We continue to offer a multitude of services to our patrons and community, including an expanded collection of library materials, borrowed materials from other libraries within our system, curbside pickup option, Story Share twice a week on our Facebook page, Adult Book Club, an inviting and fun children's area in which families visit to play, imagine, and enjoy, Adventure Passes to be checked out for discount entries to local venues, monthly newsletters, and reading challenges! We have rotating collections of large print books, audiobooks, and Launchpads. We host regular visits from the children of Wee Care Christian Preschool, serve several homeschool families, have Christmas and end of the year classroom visits from students of Clymer Central School, and bi-weekly book deposits at 6 area Amish schools. In addition, free Wi-Fi (in and outside of our building 24/7), computers for patron use, and office services including copying and faxing are available.

Throughout 2021, we held several programs and events, including our annual *Take Your Child to the Library Day, Read Across America* Celebration, Letters to Santa, and holiday programs for the youth. In October, we celebrated community and community helpers with a Chautauqua County Sheriff and K-9 program, and Fire Safety, Awareness & Prevention Program with the help of the Clymer Volunteer Fire Department, Hannah's Helping Hands, and Safety Village. Twenty-four carbon monoxide detectors were given out that day, as well as the invitation for participants to use a virtual fire extinguisher, meet our fire and medical helpers, tour the inside of an ambulance, and even get up in a fire truck! With the importance of this topic and the overwhelming positive feedback we have received, this day will be an annual event held in October. Another 2021 highlight was being a stop for the CCS After-prom Scavenger Hunt.

Our Summer Reading Program, themed "Tails and Tales," was amazing! We had 160 registered participants (all age groups), held 47 programs participated by 840 visitors, and the creation of a new children's program: Kids Zone. The adults participated in our "Read to Win" with a few prizes offered at the end, and 19 book reviews were completed and shared. Our youth ended the summer with 34,454 recorded hours of reading! We collaborated with the Community Summer Recreation program, Findley Lake Library, Cornell Cooperative Extension, area 4-H member, and Safe Kids of Southern Tier New York. Our summer ended with a very popular, and quickly filled, Babysitter Course. Special thanks to all of our sponsors to make these programs possible, and allowed for their success! We concluded 2021 with Patron Appreciation Day.

Wonderful improvements were accomplished this year in regards to the library, including the library signs that are now posted at the intersections on Route 474 in both directions and new children's area rug. Special thanks to the Town of Clymer for paving the parking lot! You may notice a few changes with our building! Our construction grant projects are reaching completion, including the renovation of our entryway and restroom, new patron computers and printer, and new and improved book drop! Still to come in 2022 are the addition of a solar light to illuminate the flag, the installation of a new "Clymer – French Creek Free Library" sign that was generously donated, and a continuation of our Accessibility Grant with the addition of an overhang to protect those walking to the building and over the book drop, and new windows in the front and side of our building.

The library received three incredible awards with the goal to improve, expand, and modernize our book collection to address the interests and needs of the community. We were awarded a grant gift made possible by The Blossom Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, a diversity grant through the Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council (COSAC), and New York State Bullet Aid funds for the purchase books on the United States presidents and states, career orientation, and agriculture.

We extend a tremendous "Thank You" to all of our supporters and local business sponsors; we were able to attain our fundraising goal of \$10,000! This was only reached because of you! Some of our fundraisers include hot dog lunches, book sales, Give Big CHQ, mum sale, online Day of Giving, and our holiday "Giving Tree" goods drive to name a few. Looking at next year, with our anticipated budget, growing expenses, and cuts in financial allocations, we appreciate your consideration in giving a monetary donation to the library. Your contributions are essential in covering the expenses of operating the library and our overall successes! Thank you!

We give great thanks to all that support the library, patrons, visitors, and friends! We look forward to new opportunities in 2022!

Sincerely,

Clymer – French Creek Free Library Board of Directors, Library Director, and Library Staff

**Hours of Operation: Mondays 9-12 and 1-5; Wednesdays 10-1 and 3-6; Fridays 9-1 and 3-6; Saturdays 9-2**

**564 Clymer – Sherman Road, PO Box 68, Clymer, New York 14724**

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