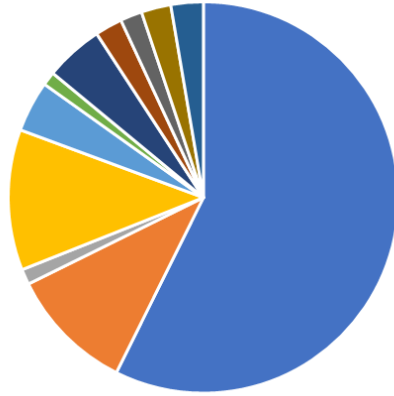


2021 Library Expenditures

- Payroll/Benefits
- Library Collection
- Equipment
- Building/grounds
- Utilities
- Supplies
- Programming
- Insurance
- Accountant
- ILS Fees
- Misc



Despite Covid in 2021 the library —  
Had 17,750 visitors  
Held 149 programs  
With 1449 in attendance  
Circulated 29,051 items



Book Club Fun



## Annual Report to Community 2021

### **Vision Statement**

*Phillips Free Library exists to create an equitable world.*

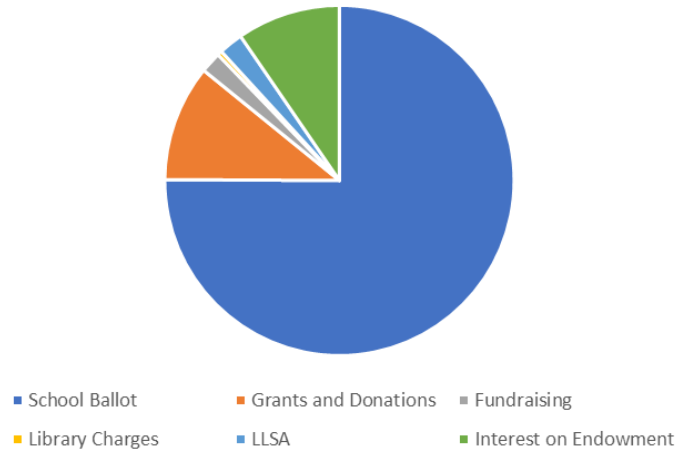
### **Mission Statement**

*Our mission is to empower and inspire all people to grow and connect with one another to create a better world for all.*



37 S. Main St.  
Homer, NY 13077  
607-749-4616  
[www.phillipsfreelibrary.org](http://www.phillipsfreelibrary.org)

2021 Library Funding



on programs out of doors, including our winter story times held in both February 2021 and 2022. We've expanded programming to include working with the Homer Rec Department on outdoor activities, offered self-care programs like Tai Chi, mindfulness meditation, art exploration, and yoga, and taken the library on the road with our traveling library. As we continue to keep our doors open, do more in-person and outdoor programming in the summer, and reach out into the community with services outside the library, we are focused and committed on creating space for connection, contemplation, and creation.

If you haven't stopped by the library since we reopened, please do so. We have new books, space to sit and think, computers for use, and our DELL—toddler play area will be reopening soon.

March of 2022 has arrived and the library, like much of the community, is still adapting and changing. We've learned how to do many things we weren't planning on doing, but we've also learned some very important lessons. Recently, talking to the 5th grade book club about the book *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper, a historical novel about racism set in the 1930's, I was reminded about a critical aspect of librarianship. I listened with a full heart as young students engaged with each other and the story and articulated what it meant to their lives and the world to learn about this time and the experiences of those who lived then. The library, I realized, is about connections. Connecting people to information, to stories, and to each other. Giving people connections both digital, literary, and most important, human. We've missed connecting during the pandemic, but we've also learned the importance of our joint humanity. And we continue to discover ways to foster and maintain connections within and across communities.

As part of that learning and growing, library staff and board members took a couple months to explore the book *Start with Why* by Simon Sinek, and reimagine why the library exists. We have articulated that with a new Vision and Mission Statement, along with a new long range plan. This has led us to focus more



"We lose the habit of reading because we are afraid of wasting our time. We think we need to be productive and "on the go" at all times. But people are not machines and you are nourished by naps and fiction and basking in the sunlight, no less than by food and drink."

*Found on Facebook posted by Owl! At the library.*