





Laurie A. Carpenter

## FROM OUR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

As the Orono Public Library Foundation embarks on ***Achieving the Vision***, the campaign to expand the Orono Public Library, I am filled with gratitude. This campaign will address the space constraints that were evident even from the first day that we opened the doors in 2009.

Just following the library's opening, I recall a conversation I had with an older gentleman. He spoke of the new ebook format, concerned that one day there would be no print materials and, therefore, no need for libraries. My belief, I reassured him, was physical books would never disappear and ebooks were just another format to access the written word. Libraries are not on the way out, but are adapting and adjusting to new and expanding roles. Our library is fulfilling a key role as a community hub, supporting the social infrastructure of our thriving town.

A typical day at our library sees patrons of all ages and backgrounds participating in numerous activities and services. From a senior housing resident seeking assistance with technology to toddlers and their parents singing and dancing to Miss Lindsay's story time. The afternoon finds teens socializing and making efforts to keep their energy at an appropriate library level. Speedy, the wonder pup romps through the doors with owner Claire Ackroyd, to assist a child in honing their reading skills. Members of the opera, knitting, and Spanish groups come here to relax and to share their common interests.

Our community expands when staff go offsite to visit daycare centers, senior housing as well as partnering with other town departments and outside organizations to bring programs and resources to the wider community.

As we move forward with this campaign to increase space at the library, I feel encouraged and excited, and hope these words are encouraging to everyone. While the services and formats the library offers look slightly different as time passes, the future of the Orono Public Library is brighter than ever.

*Laurie A. Carpenter*  
Library Director

***“An excellent public library is the heart of the community. Anyone regardless of age, ethnicity, economic status, or other classification may freely enter the library's doors to find children's story times, a teen room, gathering spaces for groups, and community meeting rooms, all making it a warm, welcoming place for everyone.”***

Linda Lord, Retired Maine State Librarian

Cover photo - Mia at the library reading to Speedy. Children sign up for 15-minute one-on-one blocks Tuesday afternoons to read to our favorite chihuahua, Speedy, thanks to his owner, Claire Ackroyd.

Photography by Larry Ayotte





Dirigo Pines Book Group: (left to right) Polly Ceckler, Rita Buddemeyer, Beth Brand, Cassandra Wright, Meredith Ares, Deborah Bergman, and Emily Taylor.

***“Libraries, particularly the Orono Public Library, are about so much more than books. They are about fostering and supporting the community. In these increasingly fractured times, community is more important than ever.”***

Nicole Spaulding



Jordan and Pamela.





*James Jackson Sanborn*

The heart of the community. A place for everyone. The Orono Public Library is books and so much more. The library is a busy place! In-house programming includes:

- Tuesday Readers
- Knitters
- Opera Talk
- Spanish
- Author Events
- Tales of Imagination Book Discussion group
- Geezers in Sneakers Getting Coffee
- Community English
- Empty Arms bereavement support
- Fields Pond Book Group
- Friends of Orono Library meetings & programs
- Friday Fun Group - Autism Society of Maine
- Gallery displays & receptions
- Gel Painting workshop
- Girl Scouts
- Homeschool Family
- I'd Rather be Reading book group
- Literacy Volunteers
- Literacy Volunteers Book Group
- Momentum Arts & Crafts
- Summer Concerts
- Valentine's Day poetry
- Story & craft
- Saturday Storytime
- Summer RAD Camp
- Toddler Storytime
- Special Events
- UM Children's Literature Class
- Kindergarten Visits
- Drop in Craft
- Grab and Go kits
- 4-H Program
- PJ Storytime
- Noon Year's Eve

***Continued on page 8***

## **DEFINING THE VISION**

More than 20 years ago, the plans for a new public library were developed by a dedicated group of community members who in 2002 established the Orono Public Library Foundation. The original Foundation board members were committed to building a free-standing public library, to providing for the library's ongoing support, to strengthening the community, and enhancing the quality of life for all Orono citizens.

The Foundation's vision was to create a 12,000 square foot library, based on a survey of community needs. Those plans changed however, due to available funds, and the current 6,500 square foot library was designed with the commitment to building an addition in the future. The library opened in 2009 and was enthusiastically received by a grateful community. Many knew, however, that the Orono Public Library was smaller than what the community needed.

The Foundation, with the support of the Town of Orono and the library staff, is now prepared to achieve the vision shared with the community in 2002, by expanding the library to create additional space for the seniors, teens, children, parents, and other adults who understand that the library is the heart of our community. We have a strong start for the \$8.6 million campaign, and have lined up \$3.6 million in federal funding, thanks to the support of Senator Susan Collins and Senator Angus King. In addition, the Town of Orono, thanks to the support of the Town Council, has pledged \$2.6 million, which along with the federal funds, represents a total of \$6.2 million to begin the campaign. The ***Achieving the Vision*** campaign will raise the remaining funds from individuals, businesses, foundation, and organizations.

Please join us with your generous gift to expand the library to meet the community's needs. We are profoundly grateful.

*James Jackson Sanborn, President*

*Orono Public Library Foundation Board of Directors*



Homeschoolers at the library: (left to right) Sara Yasner, Pamela, Jacob, Anika, Nikki Cox, Aimee Gerbi, and Jordan.





## KEEPING A PROMISE



In 2002, I was on the original Orono Public Library Foundation Campaign Steering Committee, along with 35 other community members, working to fund a new, stand-alone library. For so very long the

library was housed in Orono High School. The Foundation had just been established in 2003 to secure the funds for the new library, and the Foundation leadership, the late Dana Devoe, and David Chase, both attorneys, were the campaign co-chairs.

It was a special time. The effort to build a new library pulled together a group of people dedicated to the quality of life in Orono. There was great excitement generated over supporting the concept of a new library. Dana secured the land on Pine Steet to build the library and we were all so pleased with the location, in the center of town.

As we worked on the campaign, the funds were growing, and people became more excited. We were told that a 12,000 sq. ft. library would be the right size for Orono, and that's what we wanted to build.

However, it became clear we would not have the funds for 12,000 square feet, and we scaled back. On the day we opened in 2009, the library was filled, and we knew we would plan an addition.

Now, it feels like we are keeping a promise, and now, it will happen.

**Karen Boucias**  
**Capital Campaign Committee**



*Orono Public Library Foundation Board of Directors: (left to right) Edwin Nagy, Laurie Carpenter, Abigail Jernigan; back row Jeff Hecker, Geoff Gordon, and James Jackson Sanborn; inset: Geoff Wingard and Dyan Walsh (missing: Francie Criner).*

## A STRONG START!

The all-volunteer Orono Public Library Foundation is leading the effort to raise \$2.4 million by March 31, 2026.

The Foundation applied for Congressionally Directed Spending funds in March of 2023. In March of 2024, the Foundation was notified by Senator Collins and Senator King that the request for \$3.6 million for the library expansion project was included in the FY2024 federal budget that was passed by Congress

On December 11, 2023, the Orono Town Council approved a pledge of \$2.6 million to the library project.

Thanks to the tremendous support of Senator Collins, Senator King, and the Town Council, **Achieving the Vision** ~ the Orono Public Library Campaign has secured \$6.2 million towards the \$8.6 million fundraising goal.

Contributions represent the final piece to fund the expansion. We are counting on the support of individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations to help us raise \$2.4 million to achieve the vision for the library.

Join those who want an expanded library for our community and have already made a gift.

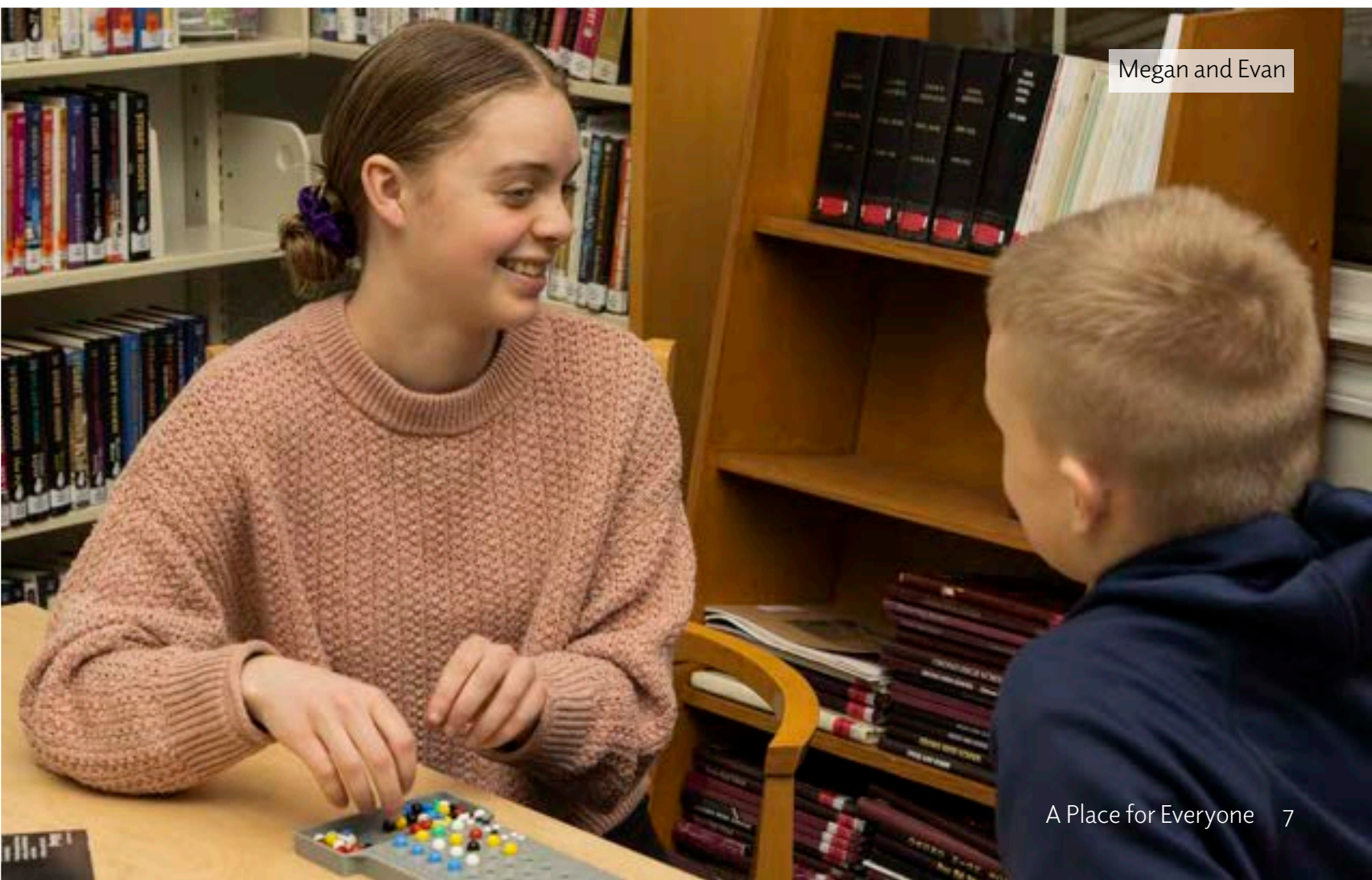




Mark Bilyk and Fred Irons.

***“Fifteen years ago, when the Orono Public Library moved out of the high school, we hoped the free-standing library would have more space. More space is definitely required in order to better serve the public with more programs. It is a worthy effort for Orono and the university area.”***

Fred Irons



Megan and Evan





*Polly Camp*

## **A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF POLLY NEWTON CAMP JULY 29, 1934 - JANUARY 11, 2024**

Polly Camp and her late husband Paul came to Orono in 1967 where she was an active member of the community.

In 2002, Polly joined the original Orono Public Library Foundation Board of Directors, and served as secretary. She was a member of the Campaign Steering Committee, which raised the funds to build the current library. Polly was motivated to help find the perfect site for the new library in Orono.

Polly was a voracious reader and loved good literature. She believed in the value of education, and loved the library.

Throughout the years, Polly would stop by the Orono Public Library (OPL) and make time to visit with Library Director, Laurie Carpenter.

When the news came out that the library is planning an expansion, Polly and her friends from the Dirigo Pines Book Group told Laurie, “We want to make sure you know, we need a quiet reading room.”

Polly knew the value of the library to the community. She was a generous supporter of the OPL and the Orono Public Library Foundation.

When the Foundation began plans for the new expansion of the library, Polly was an early, eager supporter, giving generously before even seeing a rendering of the addition.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, Library Trustees, and library staff, we are grateful to our friend Polly, for loving the Orono Public Library. We miss her.

### **PROGRAMMING** *continued from page 4*

- Do-Good December
- Chickadee Club
- Maine Student Book Award Club
- Banned Books Club
- Second grade class visits
- Scavenger Hunt
- Garden Club
- Fairy Houses in the Rock Garden
- Rock Painting
- Pizza Party
- Puppies and Pages
- T-Rex Tea Party
- Solar Eclipse Events
- Delicious Discussions Book Discussion group

We also do outreach - OPL on the Road

- Dirigo Pines Book Group
- Morgan Talty - Orono Performing Arts (OPAC)
- Paul Doiron - Orono Performing Arts
- Read the Lines - play reading at Dirigo Pines
- Sharing Place Storytime
- Summer School
- After School Program
- Puppet Show
- Backup for Summer Concerts at OPAC
- Book deliveries



*The library staff: (left to right) Brittany Cline, Sara Hunt, Jessica Black, Louise Jolliffe, Lindsay Varnum, Katie Wynn, and Laurie Carpenter.*



Stuart at the circulation desk.

*“The library is where I’ve grown up finding my love of other worlds. The staff is so easy to talk to and quick to help me find all the books, especially when they have to be requested from other libraries. More space would mean more books!”*

Megan Gerbi





## ACHIEVING THE VISION - THE ORONO PUBLIC LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

The Orono Public Library is a place for everyone. What makes the library special are the people who come through the door.

The library is children who are delighted by Storytime. Families who know their youngest learners can explore here. Students who learn in a warm and welcoming environment. Teens who seek their own space to relax, talk, create, and interact.

People gather at the library to participate in 58 different activities. Seniors play chess, work on puzzles, attend book clubs, and socialize with friends.

The Orono Public Library is people. It is the heart of our community.

All current named gift signage from the first building campaign will be retained and relocated within the expanded library.

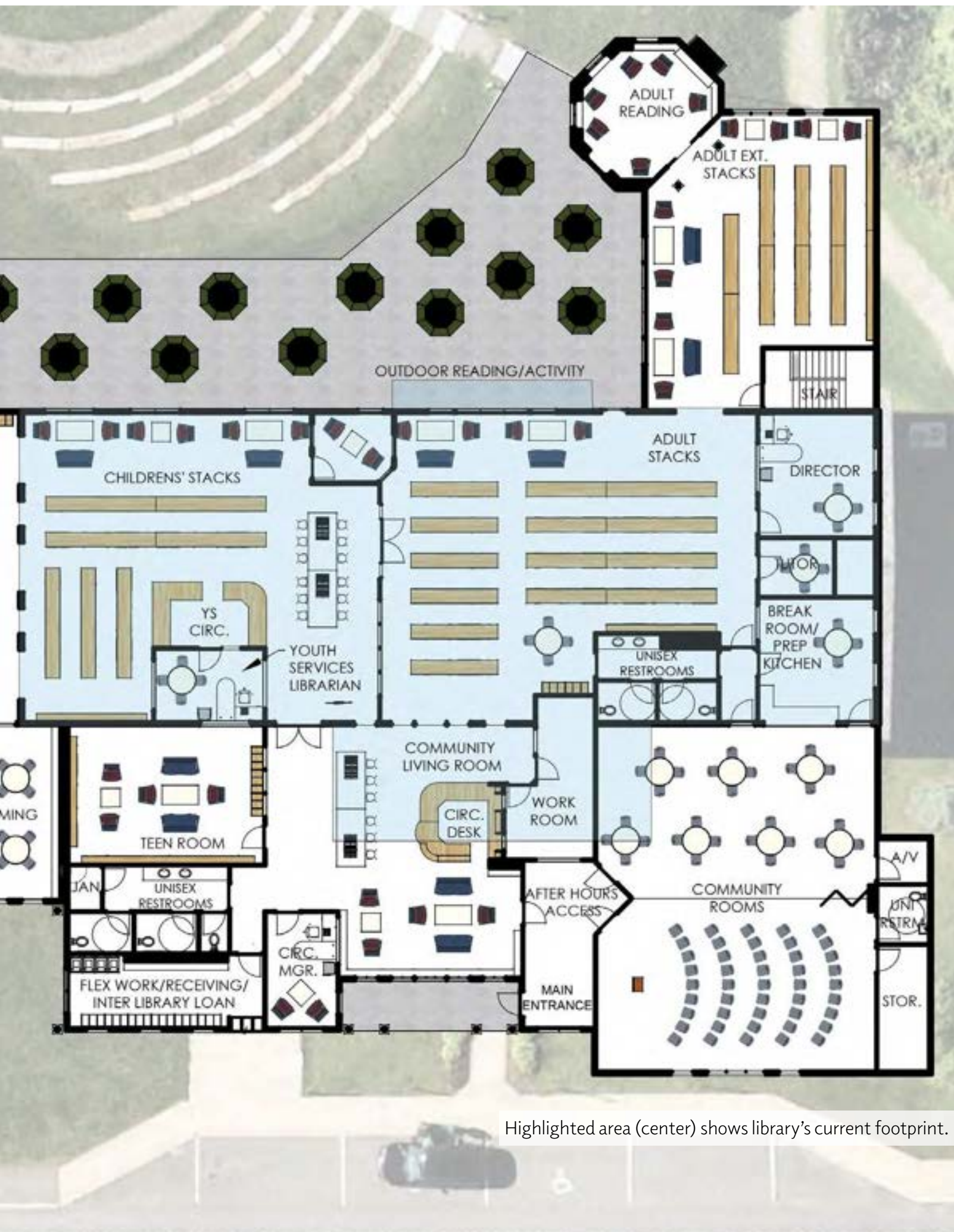
See page 12 for a list of what this campaign will accomplish.



Architectural renderings (above) of the expansion, with a floor plan of the facility (right).  
Special thanks to Haley-Ward Architect Matthew Cartrn, AIA, NCARB.







Highlighted area (center) shows library's current footprint.





***“Public libraries are central community institutions and pillars of education throughout Maine. Increasingly, libraries have emerged as hubs, not just for literacy and Internet access, but for workforce support and community activities. This federal funding will help provide the Orono Public Library with the resources needed to support the education and workforce development needs of the surrounding region.”***

Senator Susan Collins, R - Maine



***“Libraries are the heart of a community, a space where people can come together to open a book, learn new facts, skills or viewpoints, and access countless resources,” said Senator King. “I am proud to have worked alongside Senator Collins to secure this \$3.6 million for the Orono Public Library’s expansion — the beginning of a new chapter for the entire Orono community.”***

Senator Angus King, Jr. I - Maine

## **WHAT THIS CAMPAIGN WILL ACCOMPLISH WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

***Achieving the Vision*** will support a long-awaited expansion of the Orono Public Library from the current 6,500 sq. ft. to 13,750 sq. ft., more than doubling the library’s footprint:

- The library addition is designed with much-needed new areas. The new Community Room will be four times larger and features a divider so two groups can meet at the same time.
- An expanded Children’s Area will include a larger Storytime room, more floor space, reading areas, a quiet room, and a separate room for programs.
- Teens will have their very own room - dedicated to programs for teens.
- The Adult Area will expand with more stacks and a quiet reading room for adults.
- A tutoring room will serve students of all ages.
- A spacious Community Living Room near the circulation desk includes a coffee bar.
- Staff will have new flexible spaces, a work room, and a break room with a prep kitchen.
- The patio at the rear of the library will expand with more tables and seating overlooking the Orono Village Green.
- The Orono Village Green will remain a valued outdoor space.

## **LIBRARY USAGE STATISTICS**

### **Ten Year Comparison Since the Library Opened**

- + 72,324 Circulation
- + 145% More programs
- +120% More visits per card holder
- + 64% More visits
- + 61% More library visits per capita
- + 49% increase in attendance at events
- + 26% increase in circulation/card holder
- + 12% increase in circulation





The Knitters Group: (left to right) Vivian Capriotti, Linda Taylor, Deb Cookson, Anne Grucza, Cindy Larmie, Stacey Wilson, and Miss Charlotte, the service dog.

***“The Orono Public Library is a community hub for diverse members of our community regardless of their age, language, and citizenship. It will be wonderful to have a dedicated quiet reading area while groups of teens, toddlers, or adults meet for activities and discussions. Additionally, our wonderful librarians also can use flexible workspace so they can ensure the library is running smoothly.”***

Orlina Boteva



STEM group: (left to right) Sofia, Aleksandra, Willoughby, Tyler Tibbetts, Katie, and Lindsay Varnum, Youth Services Manager.





***“I’m not sure how any homeschool family could ever survive without the support of a great public library, and we’ve got that in Orono. More space would help tremendously as the community room is often full, the children’s area can get loud, and having space to gather as a homeschool group can be hard to find. My kids have grown up at the library. From toddler time and PJ story time to book clubs, to quiet study sessions – the library is one of Orono’s biggest strengths. The staff deserve all the space they need to work their magic.”***

Aimee Gerbi

### **Named Gifts**

For a complete up-to-date list of available naming gift opportunities, visit [oronolibraryfoundation.org](https://oronolibraryfoundation.org). This list is updated frequently. To confirm a named gift is available, email us ([oplfcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:oplfcampaign@gmail.com)) and a campaign representative will be in touch with you.

## **THE MANY WAYS OF GIVING**

*Contributions received over and above the campaign goal will be retained by the Foundation to support the mission of the Orono Public Library and the Orono Public Library Foundation.*

### **The Many Ways of Giving**

You can help to achieve the vision of an expanded library. There are many ways of giving to the campaign. Your contribution brings us one step closer to completing the plan to enlarge the library. Select the way of giving that suits you.

#### **Check**

Make your check payable to Orono Public Library Foundation. Include “campaign” on the memo line, and mail to OPLF, PO Box 308, Orono, ME 04473-0308.

#### **Pledge**

Your gift can be spread across three calendar years – 2024, 2025, and 2026. Indicate on the pledge form your total contribution, and the amount you select to give each year. We will send you reminders in advance of the pledge payment date.

#### **Credit Card**

Give securely online using your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, or Diners Club card on the Foundation’s website (<https://oronolibraryfoundation.org/>).

When you make your gift, kindly consider the automatic prompt asking you to add an amount to cover the surcharge fee charged to the OPLF. Thank you.

#### **Pooled Gifts**

If your family and/or friends combine their individual gifts, you could be eligible for a named gift. Please remember that the OPLF can only generate a tax receipt for the individual whose name is on the check. You may collect checks made payable to the Orono Public Library Foundation and submit them as a pooled gift.

#### **Donor-Advised Funds**

Consider recommending a grant from your donor-advised fund to the campaign.





The library is community: (left to right) Don Hinckley, Cheryl Moore, and Robert Buntrock.

***“I have lived in Orono for over forty years, and the community that our small town provides is the central reason that I stay here. I believe that now, more than ever, we need to commit to reinforcing all aspects of the town that promote this. The services and programs that a library provides are the heart of a community.”***

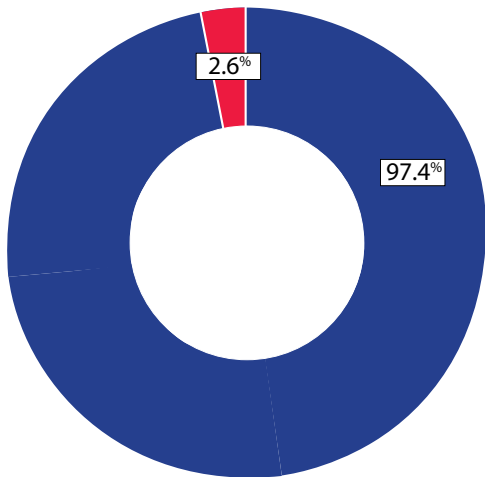
Claire Ackroyd



Storytime with Jessica Black, Youth Services Desk Clerk; (front row) Eva, Henrietta, Ella, Harper; (back row) Stuart and Belle.

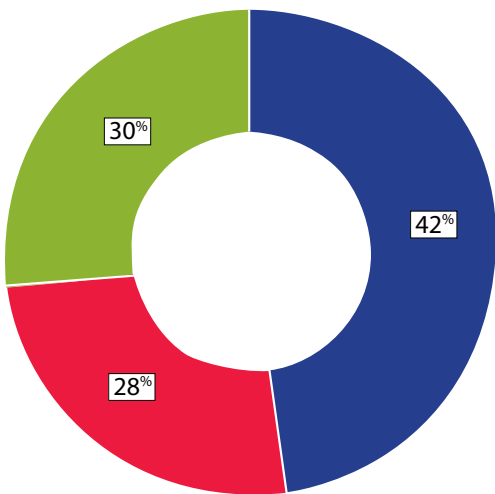


## Projected Expenses: \$8,620,000



- Construction:  
**\$8,400,000**
- Campaign Expenses:  
**\$220,000**

## Projected Revenue: \$8,620,000



- Federal Funds Secured by OPLF:  
**\$3,600,000**
- Town of Orono:  
**\$2,600,000**
- OPLF Fundraising:  
**\$2,420,000**

### Continued from Page 14

#### Gifts of Appreciated Securities

A gift of appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds offers a substantial tax advantage for the donor. You can avoid capital gains and deduct the total value of the stock on the date the gift is received by the Foundation. For information on how to donate securities, please check with a campaign volunteer, or email [oplfcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:oplfcampaign@gmail.com)

#### Qualified Charitable Distributions through your IRA

If you're age 70 ½ or older and you need to take a required minimum distribution (RMD, the withdrawals you are legally required to make), you may be eligible to have a qualified charitable distribution to OPLF count toward your RMD up to \$105,000. You can support the Orono Public Library campaign while also potentially satisfying your RMD in the year of your gift.

*You should always consult a tax professional to determine your particular tax benefits that may result from any particular type of gift to charity.*

#### Memoriam

Include the Orono Public Library Foundation in an obituary and invite friends and family to remember a loved one by making gifts in their memory.

#### Gifts in Honor or in Memory

Honor a family member or friend with your contribution to the campaign, or honor the memory of someone who has passed on. See the gift form for more information.

#### Leave a Lasting Legacy with a Bequest

You can leave a legacy to the Orono Public Library by including the Orono Public Library Foundation in your will. Sample language is below. Talk with your attorney to confirm the process.

"I give and bequeath to the Orono Public Library Foundation for the benefit of the Orono Public Library, Orono, Maine (your choice of options): the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate."

The Orono Public Library Foundation's Tax Identification Number is 27-0062690.





Kelan enjoys his visit to the library.





*Foundation Research Team: (left to right) Joyce Rumery, Abby Jernigan, Karen Boucias, Geoff Gordon, and Beth Boisvert (missing: François Amar, Laurie Carpenter, Carolyn Eaton, Jeff Heckler, Betsy Rose, Michael-John Tavantzis).*

***“The library offers many services beyond its extensive source of books and DVDs. Especially meaningful for me is the venue it provides for the opera talks sponsored by the Collins Center for the Arts. It has become painfully obvious in recent years that there is simply not enough space to accommodate all the groups that want to access the many services. I applaud the efforts in seeking an addition to the current building.”***

Beth Brand

During construction, the library will relocate to a temporary space in Orono. We will have more information on this as we get closer to construction in 2026.

## **CAMPAIGN TEAM**

Matthew Carter, AIA, NCARB, Haley-Ward Architects  
 Larry Ayotte, Photographer  
 Eric Meier, Video Editor  
 Pamela Dorman, Campaign Designer  
 Alicia J. Nichols, Campaign Manager

Special thanks to Ben Sidelko, Volunteer Photographer

## **Capital Campaign Committee**

Bob and Judy Tredwell, Honorary Campaign Co-chairs

François Amar  
 Hannah Batley  
 Karen Boucias  
 Emily Cain  
 Jeff Hecker  
 George Jacobson  
 Susan Ismail Short  
 Geoff Wingard

## **OPLF Board of Directors**

James Jackson Sanborn, President  
 Geoff Gordon, Vice President  
 Edwin Nagy, Secretary  
 Francie Criner, Treasurer  
 Jeff Hecker  
 Abigail Jernigan  
 Dyan Walsh  
 Geoff Wingard  
 Laurie Carpenter, Library Director, Ex-Officio

## **OPLF Research Committee**

François Amar  
 Beth Boisvert  
 Karen Boucias  
 Laurie Carpenter  
 Carolyn Eaton  
 Geoff Gordon  
 Jeff Hecker  
 Abby Jernigan  
 Betsy Rose  
 Joyce Rumery  
 Michael-John Tavantzis





*“The library is a great place to hang out with your friends, read, and work on puzzles. A bigger space would mean more areas to separate the loud kids from the quiet kids.”*

Jordan Gerbi

(Left to right) Kayla, Kairi, Cabrini,  
and Lindsay Varnum.





## CONTACT Us!

Orono Public Library Foundation  
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Orono, Maine 04473-0308  
Email: [oplfcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:oplfcampaign@gmail.com)

For more campaign information, visit  
[OronoLibraryFoundation.org](http://OronoLibraryFoundation.org)

*Kyla and Sam Roach, who were engaged under the pergola on the Orono Village Green.*

