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Investing in our Community

The Indian Valley Public Library's Contribution to the Indian Valley Region

- **Public libraries are essential community assets just like our schools, fire companies, ambulance corps, police departments, and local governments.**
- **Libraries are more than just places with books. They are part of the American dream of a better future for all.** They are places for education, self-help, and lifelong learning. Libraries help children and adults become literate and productive citizens. Their programs help all ages lead better and more-satisfying lives. And they provide something that search engines do not have — **The librarian — the ultimate search engine — not just an algorithm.**
- **Many of the local municipalities invest responsibly in the community by supporting Indian Valley Public Library with tax dollars.** They know that public libraries help children and adults become literate and productive citizens by providing programs for adult and family literacy, job information, and other resources. **Local businesses depend on the educational opportunities. People “working at home” need the space. A great library helps increase property values. Public libraries are truly a community space where people of all ages can gather, share ideas, learn, and have fun.**
- **Since 1886 our library has been a front-line institution offering a trusted, welcoming, and friendly place as a mainstay of our community.** It has helped people figure out some of the complexities of life, from navigating the health care and income tax systems to finding housing and employment. It has helped “new Americans” find their way in our community, and become contributing members of the Indian Valley.
- **As recently as 30 years ago, the Indian Valley Region was a relatively undeveloped rural area with many working farms and a few small villages.** Now the population has grown to 45,300. Villages have become towns. Much of life in the Indian Valley has changed, but our local public library's commitment to community members endures.
- **Indian Valley Public Library's services and usage have grown, too. In 2018 the number of items borrowed increased 8% over the previous year to 385,030, of which 33,050 were digital items. During the summer 2,950 children and teens attended events. During 2018 249,745 people visited the library.** The IVPL staff answered 13,200 reference questions, and volunteers provided 7,690 hours of service. While at the library, visitors accessed the internet 36,990 times via the library's public computers or public WiFi. Membership continues to grow: 31,400 people in the Indian Valley have library cards.
- **The Indian Valley Public Library is facing the future head-on. The power of lifelong learning has not changed. Technology will not develop our communities for us and our children.**
- **In 2016 a plan for the future was developed by the Board of Trustees. Over 900 community residents were consulted, and the results were included in a long range plan. The vision for the IVPL is to “build our community, enrich lives and minds, and provide innovative programs and services to inspire lifelong learning for all.”** Learn more at www.ivpl.org.
- **The library operates in a 50-year-old school building that needs major repairs and is inadequate to provide the programs that are critical to the community.**
- **The Board of Trustees and Foundation of Friends have begun to explore options to give the library space to grow and provide more programs. We are asking you to consider investing in the community where you live and work by helping us find ways to build for the future.**