LOOKING BACK:
A Month of Enriching Moments

To enrich, educate, and inspire our community by providing unique and welcoming physical and virtual environments in which exploration, creativity and the sharing of ideas are encouraged.

JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE #13

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AS WE REFLECT ON THE MONTH OF JANUARY, I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND EXCITEMENT FOR THE YEAR AHEAD AT SHELBY COUNTY LIBRARIES. THE ENERGY OF A NEW YEAR HAS BEEN FELT ACROSS OUR LOCATIONS, AND OUR COMMUNITY'S INCREDIBLE SUPPORT THROUGH MATCH DAY SET A POWERFUL TONE FOR 2026. I AM PROUD TO SHARE THAT, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS, WE RAISED OVER $24,110 TO INVEST DIRECTLY IN THE FUTURE OF OUR LIBRARIES. THIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IS A MEANINGFUL REMINDER OF HOW DEEPLY OUR COMMUNITY BELIEVES IN THE MISSION AND IMPACT OF OUR LIBRARIES.

THESE FUNDS WILL HELP US EXPAND ACCESS AND ENHANCE EXPERIENCES FOR PATRONS OF ALL AGES. FROM ADDING INTERACTIVE RESOURCES LIKE PLAYTOUCH TABLES TO SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES, THIS SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO TURN CREATIVE IDEAS INTO MEANINGFUL SERVICES THAT BENEFIT FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT SHELBY COUNTY. THIS INVESTMENT ALSO HELPS US RESPOND TO EMERGING COMMUNITY NEEDS, PILOT NEW IDEAS, AND STRENGTHEN THE QUALITY AND REACH OF WHAT WE OFFER ACROSS ALL OF OUR LOCATIONS.

JANUARY HAS ALSO BEEN A TIME OF CONNECTION, PLANNING, AND RENEWED MOMENTUM. AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE MONTHS TO COME, WE ARE INCREDIBLY THANKFUL FOR THE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE. FROM SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS, AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS, YOUR COLLABORATION HELPS AMPLIFY OUR IMPACT. TOGETHER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A YEAR FILLED WITH COLLABORATION, CREATIVITY, AND CONTINUED GROWTH AS WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND BUILD AN EVEN STRONGER FUTURE FOR SHELBY COUNTY LIBRARIES.

_Jenna
-EXECUTVE DIRECTOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

31 CLASSES

428 TOTAL STUDENTS

- WE HAVE HAD A CRAZY WINTER WITH A LOT OF SNOW AND SNOW DAYS! BETWEEN US CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER AND SCHOOLS CLOSING I FEEL LIKE I AM ONLY SEEING HALF THE AMOUNT OF KIDS.
- ON A LIGHTER NOTE THE KIDS AND TEACHERS ENJOYED OUR YETI PUPPET AND YETI THEMED STORY TIME FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY. WE HAD A LOT OF FUN WITH YETI SONGS AND BOOKS!!
- WE GOT SOME FAMILIES OUT TO THE STORY WALK EVEN WITH THE FREEZING TEPERATURES, AND I WILL BE PUTIING IN THE NEW STORIES TODAY

-Mandy
-YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR

ADULT SERVICES

137
Adults attended programs in January

- WE ARE NOW INCREASING OUR SPEED TO ENTER THE SPRING PLANNING MONTHS. IN ORDER TO CONTACT PRESENTERS, SCHEDULE SPACE IN THE BUILDING, AND CREATE FUN SPRING PROGRAMS, WE HAVE TO START NOW. WHEN IT IS 4 DEGREES IT IS DIFFICULT TO THINK PLANTING SEEDS, BUILDING A TERRARIUM, OR BEDAZZLING A BOOK. THAT IS WHERE I AM THIS MONTH.
- A SECONDARY CHALLENGE IS REDUCE SOME SPENDING WHERE I NOTICE THE COST IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE USAGE. I HAVE DECREASED BUYING TRAVEL BOOKS. I HAVE DECREASED BUYING SOME EXPENSIVE AND NOT USED REFERENCE BOOKS. I AM TRYING TO UNDERSTAND CONTRACTS SIGNED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND JUST KEEP ROLLING FORWARD, WHETHER WE NEED THEM OR NOT. THIS ALL DONE IN AN EFFORT TO CUT SOME UNNECESSARY SPENDING BUT NOT TOO GREAT OF HARM TO THE PUBLIC.
- WINTER READING PROGRAM WILL WRAP UP THIS WEEK. IT WAS AFFECTED BY THE SEVERE COLD AND MULTIPLE INCHES OF SNOW. NEXT YEAR I WILL RECOMMEND TO OFFER THIS PROGRAM LATER IN THE NEW YEAR. JANUARY IS JUST TOO SEVERE TO ENCOURAGE PATRONS SLIDING INTO THE BUILDING.

-Nancy
-ADULT PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

ADULT OUTREACH

ADULT OUTREACH PROGRAMMING CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH WITH ENGAGING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. I VISITED THE MERCY MISSION HOUSE EMERGENCY SHELTER TO LEAD A MACRAMÉ KEYCHAIN CRAFT WITH NINE ADULTS, WHO WERE EXCITED WITH THEIR FINISHED PROJECTS. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SIDNEY–SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, I FACILITATED A STOP THE BLEED CLASS, WITH 28 ADULTS BECOMING CERTIFIED TO RESPOND TO SEVERE BLEEDING EMERGENCIES. WE ALSO HOSTED OUR ANNUAL PUZZLE SWAP, WHERE 42 PARTICIPANTS EXCHANGED PUZZLES AND TOOK HOME NEW-TO-THEM FAVORITES.

-Jenny
ADULT OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

TEEN SERVICES

6-18 TEEN THURSDAYS

1 TAG MEETING

IN JANUARY, THE TEEN ROOM WAS A LITTLE QUIETER DUE TO THE SNOW AND COLD, BUT STILL A LOT GOING ON! I HELD OUR MONTHLY TAG MEETING ON JANUARY 12 AND PLANNED A NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY COMPETITION PROGRAM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 26, BUT HAD TO CANCEL IT DUE TO BEING CLOSED FOR WINTER WEATHER. I HAD TEEN THURSDAY EACH WEEK AND CONTINUE TO GET A GOOD GROUP OF TEENS WHO ATTEND. ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, I HAD 3 TEEN VOLUNTEERS FROM MY TAG GROUP COME IN BEFORE TEEN THURSDAY AND HELP SORT BEADS AND WORK ON A NEW TEEN BOOK DISPLAY FOR AN HOUR.

THE WINTER READING PROGRAM STARTED ON JANUARY 12 FOR ALL AGES (BABIES THROUGH ADULTS). THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS "READING IS BRRRR-ILLIANT". TEENS WHO REGISTER GET A PUNCH CARD. THEY CAN EARN A PUNCH BY DOING FIVE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: READ/LISTEN TO A BOOK, READ 5 CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO A YOUNGER SIBLING OR FRIEND, READ 5 MAGAZINES, WATCH A MOVIE, OR DO A WEEKLY ACTIVITY SHEET. ONCE THEY'VE DONE FIVE ACTIVITIES, THEY CAN BRING IT INTO ANY LIBRARY LOCATION AND RECEIVE A SMALL PRIZE AND AN ENTRY SLIP FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A WINTER THEMED GIFT BASKET. THE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY.

-Cindy
TEEN SERVICES COORDINATOR

100 BOOKS BY GRADUATION

In January, we began our 6th year of the 100 Books By Graduation program. Since starting the program in 2021, we have had 77 teens registered and 913 books recorded. So far, we've had 6 teens who have completed the 25 book check-in, 2 teens who has completed the 50 book check-in, and 3 teens who have finished the program by completing the 100 book check-in!

JANUARY PASSIVE PROGRAMS IN THE TEEN ROOM

- Winter I SPY - 6
- Soup Word Search - 2
- Monthly Take & Make Craft (Paper Snowflakes) - 5

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

YOUTH SERVICES

149
Adults and Children in attendence

- WINTER READING IS WRAPPING UP. OUR 'BLIZZARD OF READERS' IN SIDNEY INCLUDED 140 ADULTS AND 83 KIDS, THESE NUMBERS ARE COMMENDABLE GIVEN THE SNOWSTORM.
- I ORDERED ALL OF THE SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM PRIZES, POSTERS AND OTHER SWAG FOR THE 'UNEARTH A STORY' THEME. IT'S AMAZING TO HAVE THESE TASKS ACCOMPLISHED SO EARLY IN THE YEAR. EACH LOCATION HAS RECEIVED SAMPLES OF ALL OF THE PRIZES TO USE DURING SCHOOL VISITS.
- LOTS OF PROGRAMS ARE BEING SCHEDULED FOR SPRING AND SUMMER. THE SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO BRING A COHESIVE ENERGETIC AND EXPERIENCE TO THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WHICH KIDS AND ADULTS ARE GOING TO LOVE. WE'RE ALSO PUTTING TOGETHER A FOSSIL COLLECTING 'PASSPORT' THAT FAMILIES CAN USE TO VISIT EACH LOCATION IN OUR SYSTEM TO EARN FABULOUS PRIZES.
- ONE BENEFIT OF SEVERAL SCHOOL CLOSING DAYS IS THAT THE OLDER SIBLINGS GOT TO VISIT STORYTIME! THE OLDER KIDS HAD A TON OF FUN MAKING GLITTER SENSORY GEL BAGS AND EXPERIMENTING WITH INSTANT SNOW POWDER.
- WE HAVE A NEW STAFF MEMBER IN YOUTH SERVICES TO REPLACE GRACE HOCKADAY. HER NAME IS MELLISSA EVANS. MELL ENJOYS READING (OF COURSE!), BAKING, AND SPENDING TIME WITH HER THREE TEENAGE CHILDREN. SHE IS A JOY TO HAVE AND A FAST LEARNER.
- COMING UP: THE ANNUAL GRANDPARENT AND GRANDCHILD SPRING TEA PARTY PROMISES TO BE BE 'WICKED' FUN IN VIBRANT PINK & GREEN THIS YEAR. WE ARE CAREFULLY PLANNING WAYS TO CUT COSTS FOR THIS PROGRAM WHILE STILL SPOILING OUR GUESTS.
- I HAVE THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE PARTICIPATING IN GATEWAY ARTS COUNCIL'S 'BAD ART BY GOOD PEOPLE: THE CLUE EDITION' FUNDRAISER. I WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE! MY PIECE IS CALLED "SINGED BUT NOT SILENCED." IT'S A WHIMSICAL BUT THOUGHTFUL REFLECTION ON THE CENSORING AND BANNING OF CHILDRENS BOOKS. YOU CAN VISIT GATEWAYARTSCOUNCIL.ORG/BADART TO LEARN MORE AND TO CAST VOTES.

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

_Rikki
-YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

LOOKING BACK:
A Month of Enriching Moments

YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

TECHNOLOGY

NEW YEAR, NEW TECHNOLOGY! THIS MONTH, WE ADDED SEVERAL NEW PIECES OF TECHNOLOGY, BOTH FOR STAFF AND PATRONS. A NEW LAPTOP WAS PREPARED FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. A NEW PRINTER WAS INSTALLED FOR THE FISCAL OFFICER. ON THE PATRON SIDE, A NEW 75" TOUCH SCREEN DISPLAY WAS ORDERED AND INSTALLED FOR THE LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM, TO REPLACE THE PROJECTOR USED FOR MEETINGS. THIS NEW SCREEN HAS BUILT IN SOUND AND MULTIPLE INPUTS, EXPANDING THE CAPABILITIES OF THAT MEETING SPACE. THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY MATCH DAY DONATIONS!

-Bob

-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

- JANUARY IN TECH WAS RELATIVELY CALM BUT STILL PRODUCTIVE. WE RECEIVED AND SET UP A NEW PRINTER FOR THE JACKSON CENTER. SEVERAL PCS RECEIVED UPDATES TO ENSURE THEY ARE RUNNING EFFICIENTLY AND SECURELY. ADDITIONALLY, I DID SOME REPAIRS AT THE FT. LORAMIE LOCATION ON THE PERRY COPIER.

-Becki

-TECH COORDINATOR

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM UPDATE

MATCH DAY 2025

MAKERSPACE

$156.00 Money In

26 Number of Appointments

JANUARY WAS THE FIRST QUIET MONTH IN THE MAKERSPACE IN A WHILE! LESS APPOINTMENTS AND A SMALLER AMOUNT OF MONEY COMING IN IS STANDARD IN JANUARY, AND I EXPECT IT TO PICK UP STEAM BY THE END OF FEBURARY. DUE TO WEATHER, THE COFFEE MUG PROGRAM WAS CANCELLED, BUT I WILL USED THE EXTRA COFFEE MUGS PURCHASED FOR A CUB SCOUT VISIT IN FEBRUARY.

JANUARY WAS FILLED WITH TRAINING GRACE TO USE ALL THE EQUIPMENT THE MAKERSPACE HAS TO OFFER, AND COMPLETING NECESSARY MAINTENANCE ON MACHINES. THE LARGE FORMAT PRINTER CONTINUES TO BE POPULAR FOR THE COMMUNITY, WITH SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS. ON JANUARY 15, I, ALONG WITH JENNA, PRESENTED TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP CLASS ABOUT WHAT THE LIBRARY AND THE MAKERSPACE HAS TO OFFER, AND DEVELOPED SEVERAL NEW CONNECTIONS TO COMMUNITY FIGURES. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, I ASSISTED COMMUNITY GROUPS SUCH AS LEHMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, THE SIDNEY-SHELBY COUNTY YMCA, FAIRLAWN SCHOOLS, AND SIDNEY CITY SCHOOLS.

FEBRUARY WILL HAVE A NEW PUZZLE PROGRAM FOR VALENTINE'S DAY AND SEVERAL GROUP VISITS TO THE MAKERSPACE.

-Bob

-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

THIS MONTH HAS BEEN BUSY WITH COLLABORATION, TRAINING, AND NEW YEAR UPDATES. WITH THE START OF THE YEAR, WE WELCOMED OUR NEW MAKERSPACE AND MARKETING ASSISTANT, GRACE. I'VE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH HER ON WEBSITE UPDATES AND ONGOING MARKETING PROJECTS. I ALSO COLLABORATED WITH CINDY AND JENNA TO UPDATE THE MEETING ROOM POLICY AND REQUEST FORMS FOR BOTH PHYSICAL AND ONLINE USE, INCLUDING CREATING A FILLABLE PDF FOR THE WEBSITE.

I ATTENDED THE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP MEDIA CLASS, WHICH FEATURED A PRESENTATION ABOUT LIBRARY SERVICES AND THE MAKERSPACE. DURING THE CLASS, I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON-AIR AT THE RADIO STATION ABOUT THE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

I COMPLETED SEVERAL WEBSITE UPDATES FOR THE NEW YEAR, INCLUDING BOOK CLUBS, STAFF CHANGES, AND A FILLABLE JOB APPLICATION PDF. WITH MATCH DAY COMING UP AGAIN, I WORKED WITH JENNA ON THE DONOR REQUEST LETTER, THE "MATCH DAY IS MOVING" INSERT, AND DONOR THANK-YOU LETTERS. GRACE AND I ALSO CREATED A 2025 "WRAPPED" VIDEO FOR SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTING LIBRARY STATS AND MILESTONES FROM THE PAST YEAR.

347
DESIGNS VIEWED

IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY FOR CANVA I HAD:

- 54 DESIGNS CREATED
- 177 DESIGNS PUBLISHED
- 14 LINKS SHARED
- 347 DESIGNS VIEWED

-Cassandra
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT

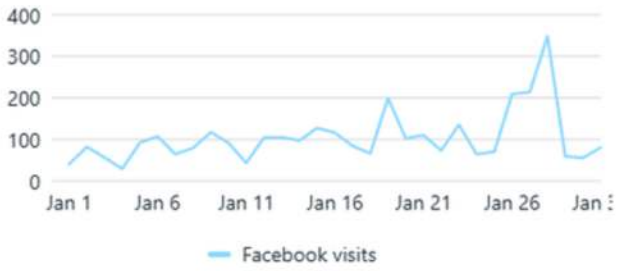
SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

FACEBOOK

January Stats

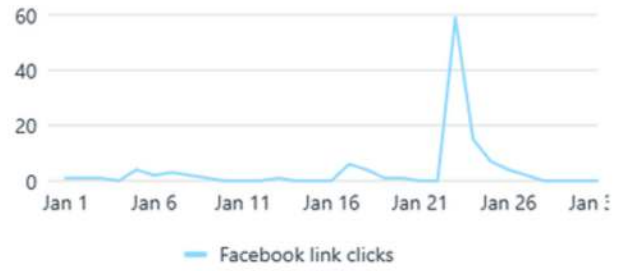
Visits

3.2K ↑ 51.7%



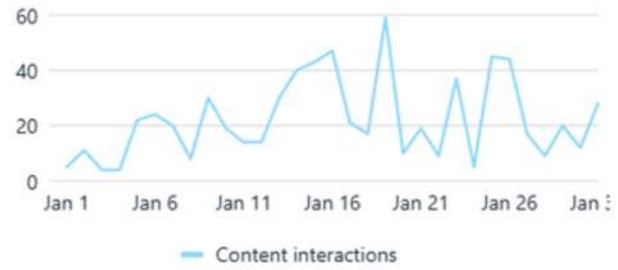
Link clicks

115 ↑ 76.9%



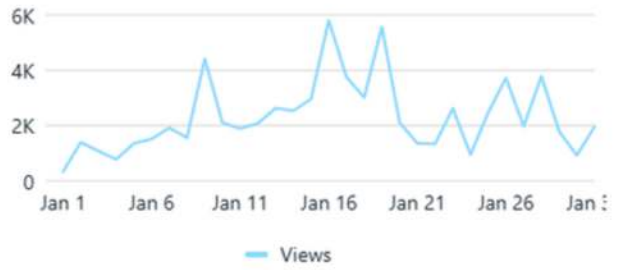
Content interactions

687 ↑ 86.2%



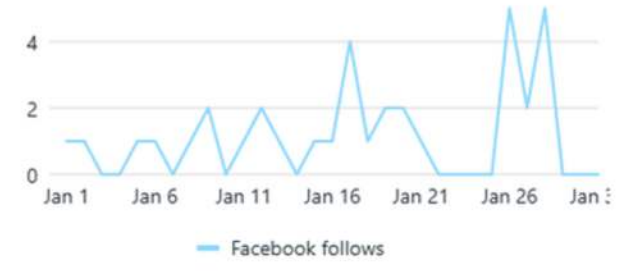
Views

71.7K ↑ 110.8%



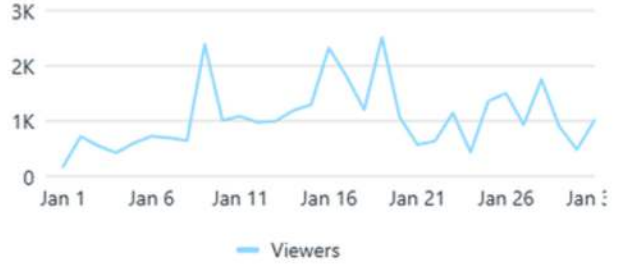
Follows

35 ↑ 75%



Viewers

11.5K ↑ 113.5%



WEBSITE

January Stats

WEBSITE
January Stats

Clicks

	Views
shelbyco.tlcdelivers.com	1,568
shelbycountylibraries.org	137
infoweb.newsbank.com	58
www.hoopladigital.com	58
www.abcmouse.com	46
ohdbks.overdrive.com	38
shelbycolib.setmore.com/makerspace	32
newspaperslibrary.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=3769	31
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Facebook	51
com.google.android.googlequicksearchbox	19
visitsidneyshelby.com	10
shelbyco.lib.oh.us	10
librarytechnology.org	7
ecosia.org	6
midwestlibraryservice.reallysimplesystems.com	6
anna.k12.oh.us	6
chatgpt.com	4

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Posts & pages	Views
Home	4,437
Amos Memorial Public Library - Sidney	406
Amos Memorial Public Library	192
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Getting a Library Card	187
Fort Loramie AJ Wise Community Library	166
Careers	162
Staff Directory	154
Ohio Digital Library	144
ABCmouse Early Learning Academy	141

View all

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

DESPITE SNOWY WEATHER AND SEVERAL CLOSINGS, ALL LIBRARY LOCATIONS CONTINUED TO OFFER WINTER PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, HIGHLIGHTING THE DEDICATION OF STAFF AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT. I AM ALSO APPLYING FOR A GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SHELBY COUNTY TO FUND STORYWALK INSTALLATIONS IN FORT LORAMIE AND JACKSON CENTER, PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO ENJOY READING OUTDOORS.

63 PEOPLE

WINTER COLORING CONTEST
JACKSON CENTER

ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY CONTINUED ITS MONTHLY ADULT BOOK CLUB, CHAPTER CHAT, WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE DUTCH HOUSE. SIXTEEN ADULTS ATTENDED AND SHARED THOUGHTFUL INSIGHTS ON THE NOVEL. OUTREACH EFFORTS ALSO EXPANDED THIS MONTH, AS THE LIBRARY BEGAN VISITING THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN MCCARTYVILLE. SHEILA L. READ TO FOUR CLASSES, REACHING A TOTAL OF 54 PRESCHOOL STUDENTS AND BRINGING STORYTIME TO A NEW GROUP OF YOUNG READERS.

BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOSTED A STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER, WHERE CHILDREN BROUGHT THEIR SECOND-FAVORITE STUFFED ANIMALS TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY. WHEN THEY RETURNED THE NEXT DAY, THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE PHOTOS OF THEIR STUFFED FRIENDS GETTING INTO ALL SORTS OF LIBRARY ADVENTURES. FOURTEEN STUFFED ANIMALS PARTICIPATED IN THE OVERNIGHT EVENT. THE LIBRARY ALSO OFFERED A DROP-IN CRAFT PROGRAM, WITH 30 CHILDREN STOPPING BY TO CREATE SOMETHING SPECIAL.

FT. LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FORT LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY OFFERED A WEATHER-THEMED CARTOON & CRAFT PROGRAM FEATURING THE MOVIE ICE AGE, ALONG WITH A THEMED CRAFT ACTIVITY FOR KIDS. NINETEEN PARTICIPANTS JOINED IN FOR THE FUN. THE LIBRARY ALSO HOSTED A GAME DAY, WHERE 20 CHILDREN CHALLENGED FRIENDS IN BOARD AND CARD GAMES, ENJOYING FRIENDLY COMPETITION AND SOCIAL TIME.

COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

JACKSON CENTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

JACKSON CENTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY CELEBRATED THE SEASON WITH A WINTER COLORING CONTEST OPEN TO ALL AGES. SIXTY-THREE PARTICIPANTS SUBMITTED CREATIVE AND COLORFUL DESIGNS, SHOWCASING THE COMMUNITY'S ARTISTIC TALENTS. THE LIBRARY ALSO HOSTED WINTER BINGO & POPCORN, A POPULAR WINTER PROGRAM THAT DREW 17 CHILDREN WHO ENJOYED PLAYING BINGO, WINNING SMALL PRIZES, AND SHARING YUMMY POPCORN. THESE PROGRAMS PROVIDED FUN, LOW-PRESSURE WAYS FOR FAMILIES TO VISIT THE LIBRARY AND STAY CONNECTED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

17 KIDS
WINTER BINGO & POPCORN AT JACKSON CENTER

42 PEOPLE
STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER AT RUSSIA

RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY LAUNCHED A RECURRING LEGO BUILDERS PROGRAM, INVITING CHILDREN TO USE THEIR IMAGINATIONS AND BUILD WITH LEGO BRICKS EVERY TWO WEEKS. A TOTAL OF 28 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED ACROSS TWO SESSIONS. THE LIBRARY ALSO HOSTED A STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER EVENT, WHICH INCLUDED A STORYTIME, CRAFT, AND SNACK. FORTY-TWO ATTENDEES BROUGHT THEIR FAVORITE STUFFED ANIMALS FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING.

-Jenny

ADULT OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries