# LOOKING BACK:
## A Month of Enriching Moments

DECEMBER 2025 | ISSUE #12

*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.*

## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DECEMBER WAS FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER ACROSS SHELBY COUNTY LIBRARIES, AND IT WAS TRULY A JOY TO EXPERIENCE THE SEASON ALONGSIDE OUR STAFF AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, MATCH DAY 2025 CONCLUDED, AND I WANT TO SHARE MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT WE RECEIVED. THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN OUR LIBRARIES AND ALLOWS US TO EXPAND PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING HOLIDAY CRAFT PROGRAMS, FESTIVE GATHERINGS, AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS AT OUR LOCATIONS. THESE EVENTS BROUGHT PATRONS OF ALL AGES TOGETHER TO CREATE, CONNECT, AND CELEBRATE THE SEASON. FROM CHILDREN PROUDLY SHOWING OFF HANDMADE CRAFTS TO ADULTS SHARING STORIES AND LAUGHTER AT HOLIDAY PARTIES, EACH MOMENT REFLECTED THE WARMTH AND SPIRIT THAT MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SO SPECIAL.

SPENDING TIME IN OUR LIBRARIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS ALSO GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT MORE DEEPLY WITH STAFF AND PATRONS AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF EACH COMMUNITY WE SERVE. AS WE CLOSED OUT THE YEAR, DECEMBER SERVED AS A MEANINGFUL REMINDER THAT SHELBY COUNTY LIBRARIES ARE MORE THAN PLACES TO ACCESS BOOKS AND RESOURCES. THEY ARE WELCOMING SPACES WHERE COMMUNITY, GENEROSITY, AND CONNECTION THRIVE YEAR-ROUND.

-Jenna
-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

**535**
TOTAL STUDENTS

- EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE HOLIDAYS WE STILL VISITED MOST OF OUR OUTREACH CLASSROOMS. THE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE WAS ALSO A SUCCESS. LOTS OF FAMILIES AND HAPPY KIDS CAME IN TO SEE SANTA AND ENJOY THE REST OF OUR ACTIVITIES.
- WE START GOING TO FAIRLAWN AGAIN IN THE NEW YEAR ALONG WITH ANOTHER NEW PRESCHOOL GROUP.
- WE ALSO STARTED SENDING OUT CALENDARS TO THE SCHOOLS AGAIN IN DECEMBER.

Mandy
-YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR

# ADULT SERVICES

**7**
**Adults at Mercy Mission Craft**

- JANUARY IS ALL ABOUT THE NEXT YEAR OF SERVICE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR PATRONS. I'M TRYING TO SET THE STAGE FOR THE PUBLIC AND FOR THE NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.
- WE NEED TO ORGANIZE INTERESTING PROGRAMS FOR THE WINTER AND THE SPRING. ALSO, WE HAVE THE 250 YEAR CELEBRATION TO ADD TO THE MIX. WINTER READING PROGRAM IS KICKED OFF AND NOW TO BEGIN THE PLANNING OF THE SUMMER 2026 READING PROGRAM. MORE ABOUT THAT AS THE YEAR UNFOLDS.
- NEXT ON THE ATTENTION LINE IS THE BOOK COLLECTION. BUYING AND CHOOSING BOOKS IS NOT LIKE GOING TO KROGER. WE HAVE TO ORDER, CATALOG, PLACE IN CIRCULATION, ALL BEFORE THE PUBLIC CAN GRAB AND GO. IT'S A LONG GAME APPROACH. BOOKS TEND TO BE PUBLISHED IN TRENDS. IS IT BEACH READ, IS IT WW 2, IS IT STIRRING BIOGRAPHIES? THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS TO STUDY AND CONSIDER AS WE SPEND MONEY ON HARD BACK BOOKS. IT BOTHERS ME TO BUY A BOOK AND SEE IT LANGUISH ON THE SHELF.
- THIS MONTH I ESTABLISHED A STRONG COLLABERATION WITH WILSON HEALTH. WE PLAN TO OFFER SEVERAL FREE SCREENINGS FOR THE PUBLIC. WE ALSO HAVE THE MOBILE MAMMOGRAM VAN COMING TO THE PARKING LOT THIS SPRING.
- AS YOU CAN READ, ITS BEEN BUSY AND WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT A STRONG SPRING AND SUMMER WILL DEVELOP.

-Nancy
ADULT PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

# ADULT OUTREACH

I PARTICIPATED IN THE MONTHLY CHAMBER LEADERSHIP MEETING, WHICH FOCUSED ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES. VISITS INCLUDED THE SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND JAIL, THE SIDNEY FIRE STATION, THE SIDNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING. NEW CONTACTS WERE MADE AT THE COUNTY JAIL AND STAR HOUSE, WITH HOPES OF ESTABLISHING REGULAR LIBRARY SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING AT THESE LOCATIONS. OUTREACH EFFORTS ALSO CONTINUED WITH CRAFTERNOONS AT MERCY MISSION HOUSE, WHERE SEVEN ADULTS CREATED WATERCOLOR CHRISTMAS CARDS DURING THE MOST RECENT SESSION.

-Jenny
ADULT OUTREACH COORDINATOR

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# TEEN SERVICES

12-19 TEEN THURSDAYS

1 TAG MEETING

IN DECEMBER, THE TEEN ROOM WAS FULL OF HOLIDAY FUN! GRACE HELD OUR MONTHLY TAG MEETING ON DECEMBER 8. SHE ALSO PLANNED A HOLIDAY MUSIC JEOPARDY AFTER HOURS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, BUT UNFORTUNATELY NO ONE ATTENDED. WE HAD TEEN THURSDAY THE FIRST THREE THURSDAYS, AND WE CONTINUE TO GET A GOOD NUMBER OF TEENS EACH WEEK.

WE HAD A COUPLE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS THIS MONTH. THERE WERE 16 TEENS WHO HELPED WITH THE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER AND 8 WHO HELPED WITH THE POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE FOR FAMILIES ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16. THESE TEEN VOLUNTEERS ARE FROM OUR LIBRARY TAG GROUP, SIDNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDER'S CLUB, AND SIDNEY HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB. THEY HELPED WITH SNACKS, CRAFTS, AND SO MUCH MORE!

## 100 BOOKS BY GRADUATION

For the 100 Books by Graduation program, we have had 75 teens registered and 902 books recorded since starting the program in 2021. 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!

-Cindy
TEEN SERVICES COORDINATOR

## DECEMBER PASSIVE PROGRAMS IN THE TEEN ROOM

- Christmas Basket Giveaway - 19
- Christmas Word Search - 3
- Picture Mosaic - 12
- Monthly Take & Make Craft (Snowman Ornaments) - 56

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# YOUTH SERVICES

**498**
**Adults and Children in attendence**

- ENDED THE YEAR WITH LOTS OF DROP-INS, STORYTIMES AND COLORING CONTEST.
- COLLECTED 95 LETTERS TO SANTA
- HOSTED POLAR EXPRESS PAJAMA PARTY AND MOVIE SCREENING - VERY WELL ATTENDED. ALSO HAD VOLUNTEERS FROM THE BUILDER'S CLUB TO SERVE MANY HOT COCOA REFILLS TO THE KIDS.
- PASSIVE PROGRAMS INCLUDED I SPY POLAR EXPRESS, WHITE CHRISTMAS GUESSING JAR, AND CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING.
- YOUTH SERVICES STAFF CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS TOGETHER WITH COFFEE, PIZZA AND SHOPPING IN TIPP CITY.
- WINTER READING PROGRAM HAS BEGUN. WE ALREADY HAVE A BLIZZARD OF 48 READERS SIGNED UP FOR IT IN SIDNEY. ADULT AND YOUTH SERVICES TEAMED UP TO SHARE LOTS OF FABULOUS TREATS FOR THE TREASURE BOXES.
- AMANDA HURLEY DID CONSERVATION STORYTIMES FOR US ON ICE FISHING AND WATER. THE KIDS GOT TO MELT (PLAY WITH) ICE, WATERCOLOR PAINT, AND PRETEND TO FISH FOR THESE STORYTIMES.
- FAMILY STORYTIME ATTENDANCE WAS VERY HIGH FOR THE FINAL DECEMBER DATE. I MADE A RHYME IN WHICH THE PARENTS GOT TO 'DECORATE' THEIR CHILD LIKE A TREE THAT LED TO LOTS OF GIGGLING.
- SUMMER READING WORKSHOP IS JANUARY 29TH AT THE W.W. KNIGHT NATURE PRESERVE IN PERRYSBURG. SEVERAL OF OUR COMMUNITY LOCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES STAFF WILL BE ATTENDING THIS VALUABLE, ANNUAL WORKSHOP. I WILL BE SHARING WITH THE GROUP A SALT DOUGH FOSSIL STATION AND MEDIATING A GROUP ACTIVITY.
- THIS MONTH I AM FILLING IN FOR THE PRESIDENT OF KIWANIS TO PRESENT THE KIWANIS OUTSTANDING TEEN AWARD TO OUR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY AND LEHMAN CATHOLIC RECIPIENTS.
- I'VE BEEN COORDINATING DESIGN AND PLANS FOR A MURAL IN THE EARLY LITERACY CENTER USING MATCH DAY MONEY AND POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING.

Rikki
-YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

# LOOKING BACK:
## *A Month of Enriching Moments*

## YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

# TECHNOLOGY

- CLOSING OUT 2025, THE LIBRARY IS IN A GOOD POSITION WHEN IT COMES TO TECHNOLOGY. THE FOCUS OF THE END OF THE YEAR WAS THE UPCOMING CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM THAT IS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF OHIO. TO FINALIZE THIS, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DESIGNATING INDIVIDUALS ON STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF A CYBER ATTACK. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026, THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADDING A NEW PRINTER FOR THE FISCAL OFFICER, AND TWO NEW LAPTOPS FOR NEW STAFF.

-Bob

-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

- DECEMBER WAS A SLOWER MONTH FOR THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT. WE COMPLETED YEAR-END PLANNING, INCLUDING BUDGETING FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR AND PROJECTING FUTURE EQUIPMENT NEEDS. ALL ACCOUNTS REQUIRING PAYMENT BY YEAR-END WERE FORWARDED TO DEBI. ADDITIONALLY, THE REPLACEMENT PRINTER FROM PERRY PROTECH WAS SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED TO THE JACKSON CENTER LOCATION, RESTORING FULL OPERATIONS THERE.

-Becki

-TECH COORDINATOR

# MAKERSPACE

**$345.70**
**Money In**

**41**
**Number of Appointments**

WITH 2025 HOT OFF THE PRESSES, WE EXPERIENCED ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION IN THE MAKERSPACE. WHILE FINISHING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER ON A LOWER NOTE, 2025 OVERALL WAS INCREDIBLY STRONG FOR THE MAKERSPACE. REVENUE INCREASED 14% OVER 2024, AND APPOINTMENTS WERE UP BY 40%. PROGRAM ATTENDANCE WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER, BUT EACH PROGRAM HAD PATRONS THAT HAD NEVER BEEN TO A MAKERSPACE PROGRAM BEFORE.

2026 WILL FOCUS ON GROWING THE MAKERSPACE BY CONTINUING TO PURSUE AN EXPANSION. WE HOPE TO CONTACT AN ARCHITECT IN THE EARLY PART OF 2026 TO BEGIN TO GET AN IDEA OF WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO RENOVATE THE BASEMENT TO ACCOMMODATE A LARGER MAKERSPACE.

IN DECEMBER, 41 APPOINTMENTS WERE HELD IN THE MAKERSPACE. SEVERAL LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE HELPED, INCLUDING: FAIRLAWN SCHOOLS, JACKSON CENTER SCHOOLS, THE JACKSON CENTER THEATER, SHELBY SOIL AND WATER, SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES, THE LINK, AND THE SIDNEY-SHELBY YMCA.

-Bob

-STEM LAB COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

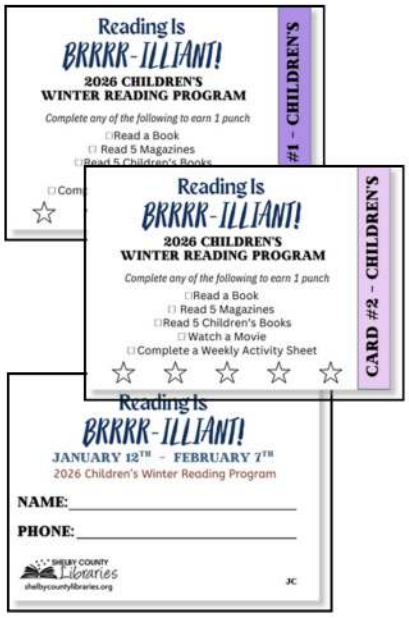
# MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

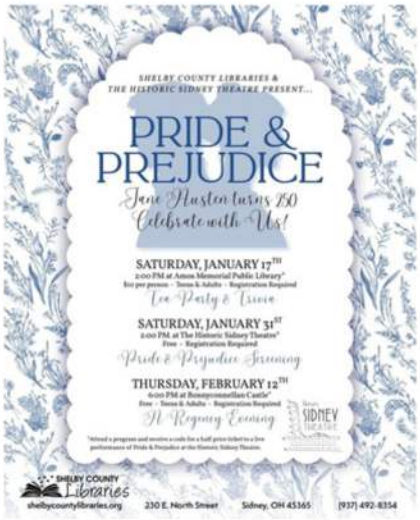
- PROMOTED THE YOUTH SERVICES POSITION ACROSS MULTIPLE PLATFORMS.
- UPDATED THE LIBRARY HOUSE CALLS BROCHURE BY ADDING A NEW IMAGE TO BETTER REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE AND INCLUDING LANGUAGE CLARIFYING THAT CAREGIVERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO USE THE HOUSE CALLS SERVICE.
- COMPLETED ALL MATERIALS FOR THE WINTER READING PROGRAM, READING IS BRRRR-BRILLIANT!, INCLUDING SIGN-UP SHEETS, INSTRUCTIONS, AND PUNCH CARDS.
- COMPLETED CALENDARS FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING, TEEN PROGRAMMING, AND ALL LIBRARY LOCATIONS.
- WRAPPED UP THE 2025 MATCH DAY CAMPAIGN AND PRINTED THANK-YOU CARDS FOR DONORS, WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED $24,110.
- CREATED AND PROMOTED THE AFTER-HOURS MEET AND GREET FOR JENNA.
- DESIGNED PROMOTIONAL FLYERS FOR OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HISTORIC SIDNEY THEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.
- ATTENDED THE DECEMBER CHAMBER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOCUSED ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, INCLUDING VISITS TO THE SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND JAIL, SIDNEY FIRE STATION, SIDNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

**292**
**DESIGNS VIEWED**

- IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER FOR CANVA I HAD:
  - 56 DESIGNS CREATED
  - 178 DESIGNS PUBLISHED
  - 15 LINKS SHARED
  - 292 DESIGNS VIEWED

*-Cassandra*
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT



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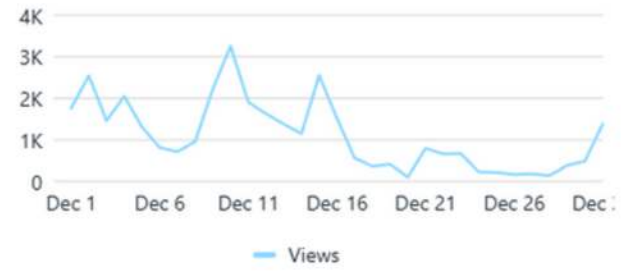
# FACEBOOK

## December Stats

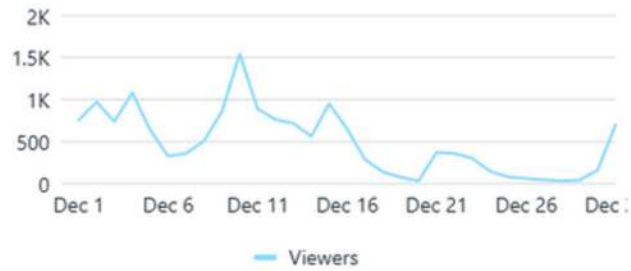
**Views**

34.0K ↓ 10.6%



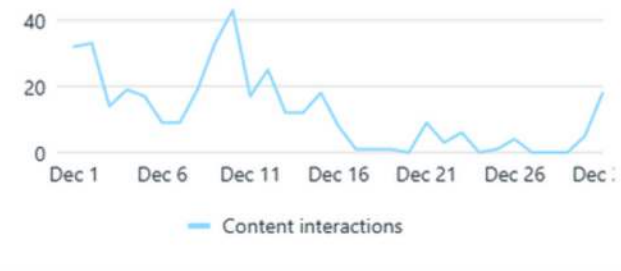

**Viewers**

5.4K ↓ 26.2%




**Content interactions**

369 ↓ 13.4%

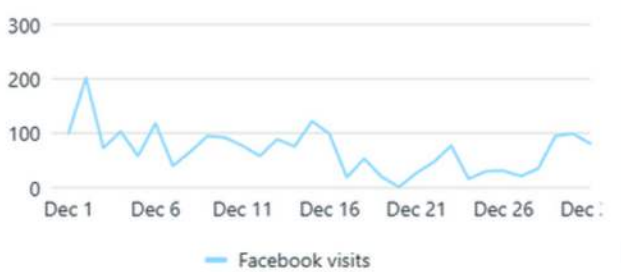



**Link clicks**

65 ↑ 170.8%

**Visits**

2.1K ↑ 7.8%




**Follows**

20 ↓ 33.3%

# WEBSITE
## December Stats

# WEBSITE
## December Stats

### Clicks

| | Views |
|---|---|
| shelbyco.tlcdelivers.com | 1,256 |
| www.abcmouse.com | 66 |
| shelbycountylibraries.org | 60 |
| shelbycolib.setmore.com/makerspace | 50 |
| www.hoopladigital.com | 40 |
| ohdbks.overdrive.com | 33 |
| libbyapp.com | 32 |
| infoweb.newsbank.com | 31 |
| newspaperslibrary.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=3769 | 29 |
| i0.wp.com | 11 |

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### Referrers

| | Views |
|---|---|
| Search Engines | 1,907 |
| Facebook | 44 |
| 4nwxp.r.a.d.sendibm1.com | 13 |
| com.google.android.googlequicksearchbox | 13 |
| champaigncountylibrary.org | 6 |
| new.editorial.infotoday.com | 6 |
| visitsidneyshelby.com | 4 |
| shelbycounty.freegalmusic.com | 4 |
| Pinterest | 2 |
| ecosia.org | 2 |

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### Most viewed

Posts & pages | Archive

| Posts & pages | Views |
|---|---|
| Home | 3,127 |
| Amos Memorial Public Library - Sidney | 323 |
| Digital Library | 169 |
| ABCmouse Early Learning Academy | 162 |
| Getting a Library Card | 159 |
| Amos Memorial Public Library | 143 |
| Fort Loramie AJ Wise Community Library | 123 |
| Makerspace | 117 |
| Ohio Digital Library | 114 |
| Databases | 85 |

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# COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

DECEMBER WAS A BUSY AND JOYFUL MONTH ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY LIBRARIES, WITH PROGRAMS THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER CHILDREN, FAMILIES, SENIORS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON. FROM FESTIVE CRAFTS AND STORYTIMES TO CONTESTS AND COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS, OUR LIBRARIES SERVED AS WELCOMING SPACES FOR CREATIVITY, CONNECTION, AND LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS.

6 children

SUGAR COOKIE DECORATING

## ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ANNA COMMUNITY LIBRARY HOSTED CHRISTMAS IN THE LIBRARY FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH 4TH GRADE STUDENTS, WELCOMING 48 CHILDREN FOR A FESTIVE AFTERNOON. PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED CHRISTMAS STORIES, CRAFTS, AN ENERGETIC SNOWBALL FIGHT, I SPY GAMES, PRIZES, AND TREATS. IN ADDITION, THE LIBRARY CONTINUES TO BE A GATHERING PLACE FOR ADULTS, WITH SENIOR CARD PLAYERS MEETING WEEKLY AND AVERAGING FIVE PARTICIPANTS PER WEEK.

## BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

BOTKINS COMMUNITY LIBRARY CELEBRATED THE SEASON WITH THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY DURING CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE. MORE THAN 215 PEOPLE STOPPED BY THE LIBRARY TO PAINT CERAMIC ORNAMENTS, ENJOY POPCORN, PLAY GAMES, AND PARTICIPATE IN I SPY ACTIVITIES. THE LIBRARY ALSO HOSTED A HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST, WHICH RECEIVED AN IMPRESSIVE 45 ENTRIES. LATER IN THE MONTH, YOUNGER PATRONS RETURNED TO DECORATE SUGAR COOKIES DURING A SWEET AND SIMPLE PROGRAM ATTENDED BY SIX CHILDREN.

## FT. LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FORT LORAMIE COMMUNITY LIBRARY SAW STRONG PARTICIPATION IN ITS CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST, WITH 81 ENTRIES SUBMITTED. ENTRIES WERE GROUPED BY AGE RANGE AND VOTED ON, ENCOURAGING FRIENDLY COMPETITION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. THE LIBRARY ALSO HOSTED A CHRISTMAS FAMILY STORYTIME LED BY BECKI, WHERE 14 ATTENDEES ENJOYED HOLIDAY STORIES, A CRAFT, AND A SNACK TOGETHER.

# COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

## JACKSON CENTER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

JACKSON CENTER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY LIBRARY OFFERED CREATIVE PROGRAMMING FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN THROUGHOUT DECEMBER. SEVEN ADULTS ATTENDED A SPECIAL ADULT CRAFT PROGRAM, WHERE PARTICIPANTS CREATED LIGHTED STRING ART CHRISTMAS TREES. THE FINISHED PROJECTS WERE IMPRESSIVE AND SHOWCASED THE CREATIVITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP OF THOSE INVOLVED. FOR YOUNGER PATRONS, THE LIBRARY OFFERED A SNOW GLOBE ORNAMENT CRAFT AVAILABLE ALL MONTH LONG. THIS FLEXIBLE, DROP-IN ACTIVITY WAS WELL RECEIVED, WITH 55 CHILDREN PARTICIPATING OVER THE COURSE OF DECEMBER.

**38 PRESCHOOLERS**

JACKSON CENTER PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

**13 CHILDREN**

POP-TART HOUSES

## RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

RUSSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY CONTINUED A BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITION WITH ITS ANNUAL POP-TART HOUSES PROGRAM. THIRTEEN CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN BUILDING FESTIVE HOUSES USING POP-TARTS AND CANDY, SIMILAR TO GINGERBREAD HOUSES, AND ENJOYED EATING THEIR CREATIONS AFTERWARD. THE LIBRARY ALSO WELCOMED AMANDA HURLEY FOR A CONSERVATION STORYTIME PROGRAM. TWENTY CHILDREN ATTENDED THIS EDUCATIONAL AND INTERACTIVE SESSION, WHERE THEY EXPLORED TOPICS RELATED TO SNOW AND ICE BEFORE COMPLETING A WINTER-THEMED CRAFT.

-Jenny

ADULT OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SHELBY COUNTY Libraries

# LOOKING BACK:
## *A Month of Enriching Moments*

## COMMUNITY LIBRARY LOCATIONS