

2024
Annual Report





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As the newest member of the Valley of the Tetons Library (VTL) team, it has been an incredible privilege to witness firsthand the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters in

advancing the library's mission: to inspire lifelong learning, encourage exploration and creativity, and enrich our community.

The heart of the Valley of the Tetons Library has always been you—our community. Your support, whether through financial contributions, volunteer hours, or simply by walking through our doors to borrow a book, attend a program, or share a moment of connection, fuels everything we do. Together, we've built more than a library; we've built a space where knowledge, creativity, and community flourish.

This year has been a shining example of how your support enables the library to grow and thrive. Your generosity has helped us expand programming, enrich our collection, and create spaces that are as welcoming as they are innovative. Every hour of volunteer time, every donation, and every visit reinforces the vital role the library plays in our community—

and that impact is truly cyclical. When you support the library, it grows stronger and more impactful, which in turn benefits our community, inspiring even more support. Together, we create a ripple effect that continually lifts us all.

The success of the past year is your success. It's in the child who discovered a love for reading at a storytime event, the homeowner who used the tool library to fix their home, and the family who gathered for a workshop that sparked creativity and connection. None of this would have been possible without you.

As we reflect on this year in our first-ever annual report, I want to extend my deepest gratitude. Thank you for believing in the power of the library to transform lives and for being part of a community that values lifelong learning, exploration, and enrichment. I am so lucky to work alongside such an incredible team and to serve a community that cares so deeply about the library's mission.

Together, we have achieved so much, and together, we can look forward to even greater things. I can't wait to see what we will accomplish in the year ahead.

Emily Bahr

Director of External Affairs and Advancement



LIBRARY

IMPACT

Valley of the Tetons Library (VTL) provides programs, resources and services that improve the lives of all Teton County residents thanks to your support. When you visit the library, check out books, use a computer, attend library programs, volunteer, donate and vote for the library you make an impact. Thank you!

Circulation

In 2024, there were more books in more homes than ever in Teton Valley. But books are just the beginning. VTL lends out laptops, hotspots, tools, magazines, DVDs, DVD players, science kits, storytime kits, books on CD and more.

VTL and our regional partners offer thousands of digital items in addition to **our collection of 40,054 physical items**. Our items circulated **an impressive 186,276 times in 2024, a 29.98% increase from 2023!**

TOTAL PHYSICAL BOOK CIRCULATION

132,431

TOTAL CIRCULATION

physical and digital items

186,276

TOP BOOK CHECKOUTS

Adult Fiction:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Young Adult Fiction:

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Childrens:

Should I Share My Ice Cream by Mo Willems

TOP ITEM CHECKOUTS

Technology: Internet hotspot

American Girl Doll: Luciana

Tool: Bissell Carpet Cleaner

THE MOST POPULAR CHECKOUT OVERALL

Internet Hotspot



VTL offers ebooks, audiobooks and digital magazines through the Idaho Digital Consortium on the Libby app. Thanks to our regional partners, you can use your VTL card to borrow digital titles from 12 partnering libraries through the Libby app for FREE:

- Idaho Digital Consortium
- Blackfoot Public Library
- Boise Public Library
- Cooperative Information Network
- East Bonner County Library District
- Idaho Falls Public Library
- IDEA by ICfL
- ID8 Digital Library
- Kuna Library District
- LIBRI System, Inc.
- Meridian Library District
- Valnet



Programs

From Storytime for babies to Seniors West of the Tetons Makerspace field trips, VTL offers playful programs for all ages. Programs in 2024 focused on literacy in its many forms - financial, technological, food and nutrition, language and more.

A new emphasis for library programs in 2024, made possible thanks to a 2023 voter-supported levy, was countywide expansion. In addition to the many quality programs offered within library spaces, VTL offered several programs in the community that connected with hundreds of residents who may not normally interact with the library.

THESE PROGRAMS INCLUDED

- Boys in the Boat Movie and Book Discussion at Pierre's Theatre
- Mobs, Mysteries and Mocktails at Tetonia Club
- The Bad Guys Summer Reading Kick Off Party at Pierre's Theatre
- Park Beats at Driggs City Plaza
- Offline Club at Wydaho Roasters
- Ink and Imagination: Author Jonathan Hill Visit to Teton Middle School planned with Teton County Library, Alta Branch
- STEAM in the Park and Storywalk at Victor City Park

IN 2024

256

programs sessions
(up from 164 in 2023)

124

Children's Programs

45

Adult Programs

74

General Interest
Programs

2,404

Total Program
Attendance



PROGRAM FEATURE

Author illustrator Jonathan Hill captivated hundreds of Teton Middle School students while speaking on creative writing and drawing as part of VTL's Ink and Imagination program. VTL programs manager, Tanya Alexander said, "I had several teachers approach me at and after the event expressing deep thanks for doing this. The principal commented that holding the attention of 450 middle schoolers for 45 minutes is an impressive feat and he was blown away."

Planned in partnership with Teton County Library, Wyoming, Ink and Imagination also provided community and small group workshops for all ages at Jackson Hole High School, TCL Alta Branch and VTL Makerspace. This impactful, larger-scale collaboration was the first of its kind in VTL history.



Professional Staff

Thanks to a 2023 voter-supported levy, VTL invests in its people. Funding from that levy improved wages and benefits, increased staff retention and made professional training opportunities available to promote organizational excellence.

Patrons agree, librarians are the best part of the library.

From Sept 2023 - Jan 2025 Library staff completed an eight part series of professional development courses to improve organizational excellence and provide better service to our community.

THIS TRAINING COVERED THESE VITAL TOPICS

- DiSC Workplace Assessment Self-awareness & Self Trust
- Effective Team Modeling
- Managing Conflict
- Team Commitment and Accountability
- Reactions to Change
- Improving Communication & Listening
- Effective Positive & Negative Feedback
- Team Norms & Desired Work Culture
- Leadership, Decision Making Continuum & Management
- Managing Problems vs. Polarities



“ I worked at the library full time for seven years, but had to leave in 2022 because I simply couldn't afford medical coverage and the library didn't offer it. Now that VTL offers medical benefits, I was able to come back full time. I love working at the library, it feels like I've come home.”

—Jaine Lewis

“ Living in Jackson and Teton Valley over the last 30 years, I always had multiple jobs and worked more than full time hours. At one point I had five jobs at once, working every day of the week just trying to make ends meet. Even when I started at the library five years ago, I still had to pick up extra work when I could. But the levy changed my life. With increased wages I can finally work just one job that offers a living wage. I feel more financially secure and supported thanks to library leadership advocating for us as professionals.”

—Tanya Alexander



Best Small Library in America Honorable Mention

In September 2024, Valley of the Tetons Library was thrilled to be nationally recognized with a Best Small Library in America Honorable Mention from Library Journal magazine. This competitive honor is only awarded to three libraries in the United States each year.

In addition to Library Journal, VTL has been featured in several local and regional publications in 2024.

Patron Stories

With library branches in Victor, Driggs and new for 2024, Teton, plus a Makerspace, VTL provides safe, warm spaces throughout the community.

In 2023, VTL asked the community to share how the library impacts their lives through library love letters. Here are just a few of the over 200 responses received.



“Some of my father’s fondest memories are visiting the library with his mother in the 50s and 60s, something I cherished as well growing up in the 80s. Now, my daughter checks out books every week in our Victor location to read before bedtime. There is no question the importance of our local libraries, not just on the book front, but also as a welcoming place to all. A place that allows community members to thrive and provides services to those in need.”

—Will Frolich, Victor City Mayor

“One of the library’s standout qualities is its ability to provide a refuge for introverts in the valley, offering a quiet and contemplative space where individuals can immerse themselves in the world of literature and knowledge. In an age dominated by digital distractions and fast-paced living, the library serves as a sanctuary for those who seek solace and rejuvenation through the written word.”

— Jasmine Millman, Driggs



VTL truly believes in its mission, vision and values to enrich the lives of Teton Valley residents.

Mission

Inspire lifelong learning, encourage exploration and creativity and enrich our community.

Vision

A space for individual discovery and expression where the community comes together through conversation, interaction, and collaboration.

Outreach and At Home Services

Our 2024 countywide expansion initiative included outreach to connect with more of our community. Outreach events and at home services provide opportunities for every Teton County resident to connect with the library.



2024 OUTREACH EVENTS

- SWOT Library Lunch Table
- Annual July 4 Book Sale
- Tetonia Celebrates America
- Noche Familiares with Latinos in Action at Teton Middle School
- TSD 401 Kindergarten Registration
- Back-to-School Open Houses
- 23 school field trips to VTL

AT HOME LIBRARY SERVICES INCLUDE

- Book delivery for homebound residents
- Ebooks, audiobooks and digital magazines available online through the Libby app and Talking Book Service
- Lili.org access to over 150 prime academic journals
- Language learning, streaming, digital music checkout, and more available through our reciprocal agreement with Teton County Library, Wyoming

Core values

TRADITION & INNOVATION

Upholding unbiased access to past stories, wisdom and knowledge to help inform and create our future, while striving to be ahead of the technological curve and to provide space for the creation of new knowledge.

INTEGRITY

Holding true to our professional standards of providing equal and confidential access to a diverse community while providing a safe space for exploration.

RELATIONSHIPS

Building bridges with sincere interactions throughout our community and serving as a hub for what is happening in our valley and our world beyond.

FREEDOM

Serving the community with sincerity and openness; maintaining a safe space to explore and discover, with equal access to all.



The Future

Through the incredible generosity of our supporters, in 2024 we secured a land donation and foundational funding to pursue a new library building in Driggs. This multi-year project will establish VTL as a community hub for Teton Valley's future.

Thanks to the tireless dedication of VTL Friends, volunteers, and countless supporters, we are thrilled to report on the achievements made in this first chapter. We will continue with planning and strategy and architectural design phases in 2025. If you have a particular area of interest related to building or capital fundraising and would like to discuss being part of this exciting future please let us know! Contact Emily Bahr, Director of External Affairs at e.bahr@valleyofthetonslibrary.org.

Funding & Financials: Investing in Our Community's Future

At Valley of the Tetons Library, every book borrowed, every program attended, and every community connection made is possible because of your support. Libraries are more than just buildings filled with books—they are vibrant hubs of learning, innovation, and connection, serving people of all ages and backgrounds.

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Reliable funding is the foundation of a strong, sustainable library. Public funding keeps our library running, but private donations allow us to grow and innovate. Your contributions ensure we can adapt and meet evolving community needs while reducing reliance on any single funding source.

Your contributions make a direct impact—whether it's a book in a child's hands, internet access for a job seeker, a program for seniors to connect, or spaces that inspire learning and connection.

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY!

Scan the QR Code to Donate Now

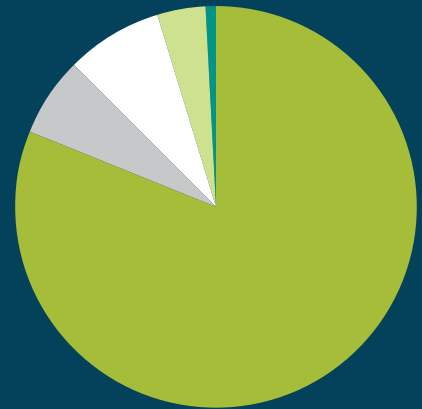


“A public library provides a safe, free and accessible public space for every age group, every demographic, every income level, everyone. Many of the households we serve [at The Community Resource Center of Teton Valley] cannot afford to pay for internet service or devices and we regularly send clientele to the library to use computers to research and apply for jobs, update and print resumes, get free tax assistance, etc, and we do so knowing that they will be well taken care of and assisted by library staff with respect and care.”

—Alex Bontecou, Executive Director of the Community Resource Center of Teton Valley

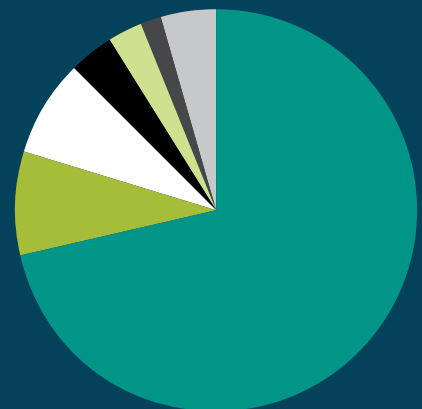
HOW WE SPEND OUR FUNDS

Every dollar invested in VTL directly benefits the community, from keeping our doors open to expanding access to books, technology, and educational programs.



FINAL REVENUE

● Property Tax	81.2%
Maintenance and operations only	
● Donations, Operating	6.5%
● Donations, New Library	7.6%
● Grants	3.9%
● Library Services	.8%



FINAL EXPENSES

● Personnel	71.6%
● Facilities	8.3%
● General and Administrative	7.8%
● New Library	4.4%
Property tax is not used for new library expenses	
● Collections	3.5%
● Outreach and Development	2.7%
● Programs	1.7%

COMMUNITY

SUPPORT

Library Visitation

Valley of the Tetons Library is grateful for consistent, dedicated community support. From our humble beginnings operating out of donated storage shed space in Victor, VTL has grown to have branches in Victor, Driggs, and, new for 2024, Teton.

A 2019 Gallup poll found that visiting the library is the most common American leisure activity.

“Visiting the library remains the most common cultural activity Americans engage in, by far. The average 10.5 trips to the library U.S. adults report taking in 2019 exceeds their participation in eight other common leisure activities [including going to a movie at a movie theater, attending a live sporting, music or theatrical event, visiting a national or historic park, museum, casino, theme park or zoo.]”

In 2024, people visited VTL spaces 68,151 times, the highest visitation ever recorded at VTL!

See our locations and hours at:
valleyofthetonslibrary.org/hours-and-locations/



6,900

VTL card holders in 2024

How to get a library card

VTL library cards allow you complete access to all physical and digital materials from our library branches in Victor, Driggs, and Teton, ID. Library cards need to be renewed in person every two years.

To get a library card, visit any branch and bring both

- Current picture ID
- Proof of residence (1)
 - Idaho drivers license with a Teton County address (counts as both your photo I.D. and proof of residence)
 - Current Utility Bill – electric, propane, water, sewer, cable, etc.
 - Car or Voter Registration
 - Lease agreement
 - Mexican Consular ID card, or Matrícula Consular with Teton County, ID Address
 - Property Tax Receipt
 - Teton County District 401 School ID card

Countywide Expansion

Valley of the Tetons Library thrives thanks to support from our community. Funding provided by a voter-supported levy in 2023 came into effect in 2024, providing resources to retain and hire exceptional staff while offering competitive wages and benefits and to increase countywide library services and resources.

Countywide expansion efforts from 2024 include offering reciprocal cards with Teton County Library, Wyoming, incorporating a new Teton Branch, a remodeled VTL Makerspace and increased library outreach and at-home services. We've accomplished a lot in 2024 and look forward to continuing to expand services and resources for our community in 2025.



262
Reciprocal Cards
issued in 2024



Reciprocal Card with Teton County Library, Wyoming

At the beginning of 2024, Valley of the Tetons Library began a reciprocal agreement with Teton County Library, Wyoming. Now all WYdaho residents can have free access to physical and digital resources on both sides of the state line.



How to get a reciprocal card

Show your Valley of the Tetons Library card at Teton County Library Wyoming, Jackson or Alta branches to get a FREE Reciprocal Card. A reciprocal card gets you access to library collections and services at Teton County Library.



Tetonia Branch

A recent community needs assessment found that residents living in more rural areas of the county felt as though library services and resources were inaccessible for them. VTL held a public outreach meeting in Tetonia to help better understand the town's needs. Attendees participated in an exercise called Keep, Toss, Create to evaluate the situation. Some of the responses included:

- **KEEP** - Books and library materials, audiobooks, book displays, makerspace.
- **TOSS** - Barriers between towns within Teton Valley, isolation and loneliness, seasonal depression.
- **CREATE** - Safe space, afterschool programs, food offerings, remote book returns and pick up, programs on heritage and tradition.

“*Libraries are more than just books; they are a community anchor and especially in Teton Valley. We are a small rural community with limited community resources, the library fills a very large need.*”

—Nan Pugh, Tetonia



On May 1, 2024, Valley of the Tetons Library incorporated the library shed located at 6168 S 2nd St, Tetonia, as a third VTL branch. Library advocates, volunteers, generous donors and Tetonia city officials worked for years to provide consistent library services to north-end county residents.

VTL is thrilled to now provide resources and programs for residents of the northern region of Teton County including:



dedicated collection of approximately 1,300 books, DVDs and kits



after school and book club programs hosted regularly in Tetonia



computer, internet and printing services



a kids' reading loft



24/7 library hold lockers and book return



Makerspace Remodel

Our most popular program, VTL Makerspace, got a major renovation in 2024 thanks to staff, patrons, and community volunteers. This free and accessible space allows adults and kids to create with an audio studio, kitchen, sewing station, crafting stations, STEM supplies and more.

As part of the renovation, we now invite every patron to sign a community agreement outlining behavior expectations for the space to help everyone have a positive experience.

Thank you to the many patrons and visitors who love VTL Makerspace as much as we do.

IN 2024

16,451

Makerspace visits

797

active youth makers registered
by December

“As a homeschool parent, Makerspace is a great interactive place for my kiddo. The staff is incredible and helpful at helping teach skills like sewing and coding that I am not knowledgeable about. We love coming to MS.”

—Aubree and Kristin



VTL Trustees, Friends and Volunteers

VTL loves its volunteers! We thrive thanks in a large part to dedicated volunteer service from our community. Thank you!

VTL Trustees

Provide governance and management for the library, ensure legal compliance and ethical integrity, ensure adequate financial resources and monitor program performance to ensure impact.

2024 VTL BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

- Jan Borstelmann, *Chair*
- Boots Knighton, *Vice Chair*
- Pauline McIntosh, *Treasurer*
- Connie Tyler
- Lauren Vu
- Cortney Rodriguez



VTL Friends

Support quality library services in the community through fundraising, volunteerism, and advocacy to support the library's mission, vision and goals.

2024 VTL FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS

- Jill Callahan, *President*
- Debbie Nussbaum, *Treasurer*
- Deb Rouleau, *Event Coordinator*
- Debbie Susong, *Secretary*
- Cindy Weber, *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Laura Curtis, *President Emeritus*

We LOVE

volunteers!

Are you looking for a way to give back to Teton Valley?

Library volunteers are engaged, energetic, passionate, and fun! There are ongoing and one-time volunteer opportunities to suit a variety of schedules and interests, both behind the scenes and interacting with the community.



VTL Volunteers

Engaged in ongoing and one-time projects at the library including assisting with book circulation, at makerspace, with programs or with deep cleaning and facilities improvements.

IN 2024

45
volunteers
(up from 25 in 2023)

2,875
volunteer hours
(up from 2,349 in 2023)

VOLUNTEERS

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Gail Baron | Randy Curtis | Meredith Hardwick | James Loch | Carl Ripplinger |
| Gavin Behrens | Laurel Eastman | Mary Heller | Harry Lowenthal | Jeff Roelke |
| Garret Brown | Melanie Fischel | Norjalda Hobbs | Anna McCuan | Karen Schroeder |
| Emily Campbell | Andrew Ford | Dave Hood | John McIntosh | Jeri Thomson |
| Lois Cannon | Amy Fradley | David Huson | Logan Meek | John Unland |
| Linda Caufield | Barbara Frank | Douglas Johnson | Chris Mientjes | |
| John Cheeseman | Marlene Griffin | Sarah Kuchenberg | Walt Overgaard | |
| Boyd Colt | Emma Hammill | Ada Leavitt | Harry Richardson | |

NEW LIBRARY CHAPTER 1 CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM AND EVENT HOSTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jill Callahan | John Unland |
| Laura Curtis | Lisa Vitucci |
| Marjie and Tom Peter | Pam and Tom Walker |
| Frank and Maryann Russo | Susie and David Work |
| Jeri Thomson | |

LIBRARY PERMANENT SPACE COMMITTEE

- Laura and Randy Curtis
- Pauline and John McIntosh
- Marnie Oakes
- Marjie and Tom Peter
- Connie Tyler

Scan the QR to view all opportunities and submit an application if there is one (or more!) that match your interests and availability.



Join our team of volunteers today!



Conclusion

We're so grateful for the patrons, volunteers, donors and voters who contributed to the library in 2024. From the beginning, community support has been essential to Valley of the Tetons Library.

In 1965 a ladies auxiliary group of the Victor Chamber of Commerce called the Chambermaids determined that a library was the most vital need for the community. Through hard work, these foremothers rallied 76% of voters to create the Valley of the Tetons Library District.

VTL has grown since those humble beginnings, but we still depend on community support for the library to have an impact. Please continue to be a patron, encourage your friends and neighbors to be patrons, attend library programs, check out books, tools, tech and more, support the library in elections, volunteer, and donate to Valley of the Tetons Library. Thank you Teton Valley!



Valley OF THE Tetons Library

VICTOR

56 N. Main Street
Victor, Idaho 83455

Branch (208) 787-2201

Fax (208) 787-2204

victor@votlib.org

DRIGGS & MAKERSPACE

79 N. Main Street
Driggs, Idaho 83422

Branch (208) 354-5522

Makerspace (208) 354-6388

Fax (208) 354-5523

driggs@votlib.org

makerspace@votlib.org

TETONIA

6168 S 2nd Street
Tetonia, ID 83452

Branch (208) 932-6113

tetonia@votlib.org