

# 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

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## The East Haddam Library System



Rathbun Free Memorial Library  
36 Main Street, East Haddam CT 06423  
860-873-8210

East Haddam Free Public Library  
18 Plains Road, Moodus CT 06469  
860-873-8248

[easthaddamlibrarysystem.org](http://easthaddamlibrarysystem.org)



## 2 SMALL LIBRARIES

# 1 BIG HEART

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Welcome!

This year has been one with many firsts, and lots of things that we're proud to share with you. We joined a cohort group with six other Connecticut libraries and worked to develop our first-ever strategic plan. This plan outlines our hopes and dreams for the library for the next three years. The staff at the library participated in their first staff development day in September. We hosted many first-time programs, such as Reading to Rover, Trans 101, Kids Write Club, and Forever YA book group. Pat Griswold was the first librarian to receive the Outstanding Performance Award from the town of East Haddam. While all of these firsts were happening, the library continued to provide excellent customer service to our patrons. You'll see by the numbers that our circulation and program numbers continue to grow.

We can't wait to see you in the year ahead!



## OUR MISSION:

The East Haddam Library System engages the imagination, inspires curiosity, and fosters lifelong learning in a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible environment.

## OUR VISION:

The East Haddam Library System aspires to be a welcome, accessible space for the entire community that embraces a diversity of differing thoughts and ideas, lifelong learning, and innovation with a respect for the past and a view to the future.

## Five Things to Know About the Library:

- 1.** The library offers storytime programs for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. We also provide creative outlets for school age kids, such as Science Saturday and Kids Write Club. Teens enjoy Dungeons and Dragons and a Teen Advisory Board.
- 2.** The East Haddam Friends of the Library group fundraises for the library by running a two-day book sale in the fall. The Rathbun Friends raise funds through the Book Nook, a used bookstore located at Rathbun Library. Both Friends groups provide the library with museum passes and summer reading programs. Find out how to join a Friends group here: <https://www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org/friends-2/>
- 3.** We have free or discounted museum passes to over 20 museums, including the Eric Carle Museum and the Florence Griswold Museum.
- 4.** The library subscribes to a variety of databases, such as Ancestry.com, Medline Plus, and Small Business Reference Center. You can find a full listing here: <https://www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org/resources/>
- 5.** Meet new friends and socialize at one of our adult book groups or craft programs. You can see a list of all of our programs on the calendar and sign up there: <https://www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org/>

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

## Month by Month



**January:** Hosted two chess clubs for kids at Rathbun and East Haddam Free Library.

**February:** Celebrated graduates of the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. So far, over 20 children have graduated!

**March:** Organized Tiny Art Shows at both Rathbun and East Haddam Free Libraries. This community event was open to all ages

**April:** Started Tech Help sessions with our Teen Librarian. Patrons can sign up for help with computer, phone, or any other device.

**May:** Collaborated with the Goodspeed Opera House to start the Goodspeed Good Neighbor Program. Free tickets to East Haddam residents!

**June:** Kicked off our summer reading program for kids with musician and performer Al deCant.

**July:** Obtained a donation to purchase two early literacy computers for children.

**August:** Held Escape Room programs for teens and adults, as well as a Family Tie Dye Party to conclude our summer reading program.

**September:** Staff participated in our Staff Development Day to learn about reader's advisory, diversity in the library, and safety training.

**October:** East Haddam Friends held their annual book sale and the Rathbun Friends hosted the popular Half Pint Hamlet.

**November:** The East Haddam Community Lions Club showcased their Light Up the Holidays auction at Rathbun Library.

**December:** The library's Strategic Plan is completed. Also, Rathbun Children's Librarian Karen VanZetten retires after working here 20 years.

# NUMBERS TO BE PROUD OF

**22,360**

Library visits for fiscal year 2022-23



**2,686**

Total registered library cards

**200**

New library cards for middle schoolers



**7,520**

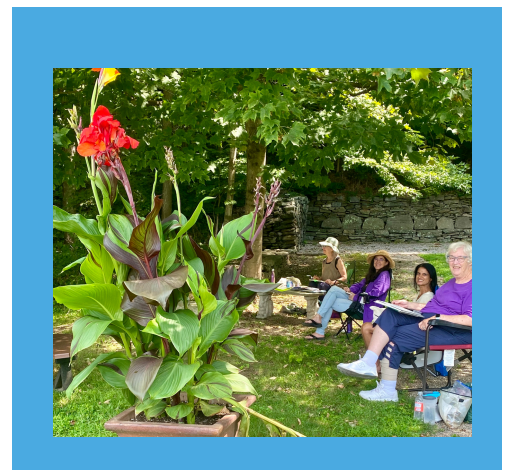
Number of sessions on public computers

**105**

One-on-one tech consultations

**1,564**

Programs for children and teens



**33,342**

Total physical materials checked out

# THANK YOU!



We appreciate your care for the East Haddam Library System. We are always looking for new ways to support, educate, and encourage our patrons.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to help fund future success for the library, please consider writing a check payable to the East Haddam Library System. Your tax-deductible contribution will help kickstart innovative programs, provide seed money for fundraising projects, and meet critical needs of the library system for which Town funds are not available.

You may also make a tax-deductible contribution to the East Haddam Free Public Library Friends or the Rathbun Free Memorial Friends.

