

**Ashe County Librarian Report
Recap November & December 2023
January 8, 2024**

Programs/Partnerships

- Food for Fines: 443 items donated to Musicians' Mission of Mercy; 68 patrons helped; may want to consider increasing amnesty amount in 2024 to \$1.50 or \$2 to account for increased food prices
- Dinovember, tiny libraries, holiday programs, the author event of the year, the grand opening of the Mamava, and winter break events kept programming staff busy with over 1,000 attendees at all events and an additional 726 people served through nontraditional programming (kits, self-directed activities, etc.)
- About 250 books given away at Stories with Santa programs, to new parents, and to Ashe Detention Center

Advocacy/Outreach

- Continued biweekly visits to Ashe Detention Center
- Reta began a new partnership with Ashe Assisted Living to offer events for older adults
- Attended Blue Ridge Energy Community Leaders Council meeting in December

Collections

- We reorganized most of our adult collections to anticipate the expansion of our large print collection, adjust to falling circ numbers for DVDs and audiobooks, and relocate periodicals to create a more visible display and comfortable reading area

Building/Equipment

- The water leaks have been repaired.
- There has been a delay in removing the dead evergreen tree from the front of the library.
- We are installing changing tables in both restrooms on the main level.

Personnel

- We posted a 19-hour Circ Assistant position on January 3
- Jessica Hackman was hired as a 19-hour Circ Assistant in November
- Monica Madden-Lynn celebrated her sixth year of service to the library (11/27)

Opportunities

- We would like to install a storywalk in 2024. We would prefer a location on a well-traveled path or trail in a township other than West Jefferson, but we are open to other ideas.
- We have a few service organizations using library spaces (other than meeting rooms) to conduct business. This business may include supervised visitations, pediatric speech therapy, and pediatric physical therapy. These sessions can be disruptive to normal library business. We would appreciate board members' perspectives on this type of library usage. Is it appropriate? How can we best balance the needs of families and individuals who visit the library with the service organizations' need to meet with families to provide critical services?