

Watauga County Public Library  
**Library Report January, 2022**

***Advocacy/Library Promotion***

Monica went on the radio to promote Food for Fines and Book Page reading recommendations. The Western Watauga Branch, in partnership with Project on Aging, the Western Watauga Friends, the Sheriff's Dept. and Revolution Boone, held a Senior Holiday Drive Through event. Goody bags were given out and Santa made an appearance.

Displays at the main library near our entrance include "Creative Crafts" highlighting crafting books, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" picture books, "Don't Flake Out on Reading" featuring fiction with a winter setting, Blowing Rock's Hide and Seek with Spot activity and the "Storyland" early literacy bilingual interactive traveling exhibit at BRAHM, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Job Search resources.

***Partnerships/Funding***

The library received funding for two spring Digital Watauga Technicians from the Watauga County Historical Society. The library once again is partnering with the IRS and Walker College of Business's Accounting Department to hold the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program this upcoming tax season. Two certification training sessions will be held here on January 21 and 28 if needed to prepare the volunteers. The IRS will award the NC High Country Free Tax Link funding which will be used to pay the Coordinators in Watauga and Ashe Counties a stipend and to purchase equipment. The library expects \$470 from the Downtown Boone Development Association for funding assistance toward two in-person programs titled "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Sigmon Theatricals. Judith WInecoff, Youth Services Manager, expects to receive two mini-grants; one from Leapintoscience.com for science programming in late February and the other from Blue Ridge Energy for decoding books.

***Programs/Services***

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will run February 4 – April 9 on Fridays and Saturdays. For the third year, the library is partnering with NAMI High Country on an Inclusivity Grant to provide programming and purchase items on the topic of "Gender Fluidity, LGBTQIA+, Story Time and Mental Health". Programming will be based on the [Human Library Concept](#). "Story Time" in the title refers to hearing about a person's life story.

The Human Library is a not for profit learning platform that has hosted personal conversations designed to challenge stigma and stereotypes since 2000. The first program is January 3 and is titled "The Ins and Outs of Being a Trans Guy". The Inclusivity Grant is supported by NAMI- NC, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and SAMSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

***Staff/Volunteer News***

Danielle Pollack will be coordinating the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program starting in February. Ellie McCorkle, new spring Digital Watauga Intern, will be starting work in January. Volunteers Natalie Kershaw and Brianna Davis have been helping in Youth Services. A big thank you to volunteers Sandi Basel, Cheryl Angel and Patty Swartzbaugh for all of their help with the Holiday Senior Drive-Through at the Western Watauga Branch on December 14. Volunteers are encouraged to pick up a holiday card with a small gift in Youth Services. We appreciate all of the volunteer support we receive throughout the year.

***Looking Ahead***

We will be closed on January 1 for New Year's Day and January 17 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.