



# PCPLS Annual Impact Report

2024



Discover • Explore • Share



“

Staff is always very helpful. I love the kids area that has toys like trains, action figures, and blocks. They also have educational tablets for free to checkout. Lastly, the fact that DVDS are also free to checkout is a winner in my book. Overall, a great library.

”

“

Love the library! Staff is very helpful and I always walk away with a new discovery.

”

“

[PCPLS Staff] are ALWAYS helpful, very knowledgeable and of course friendly.

”

“

[PCPLS Staff] helped me through the confusing process on how to transfer [a file] from my phone to their printer. With their patient help, we got the job done, and I got it back to the Post Office before closing. And, they again taught me that I can still learn something new every day!

”

**Our mission is to enrich the residents of Porter County through discovery, exploration, and the sharing of books and resources.**

“

Clean, orderly library with a paperback book exchange in the vestibule and kind, helpful staff. I loved the idea of adding board games to the library to make it more social!

”

“

Our library system is one of my favorite public resources. What a gift to be able to check out any book or movie for free. And my family loves trying new board games from the library. And all the fun activities they provide. Thank you so much PCPLS!

”



# PCPLS IN 2024

Total Branch Visitors in 2024: 437,493



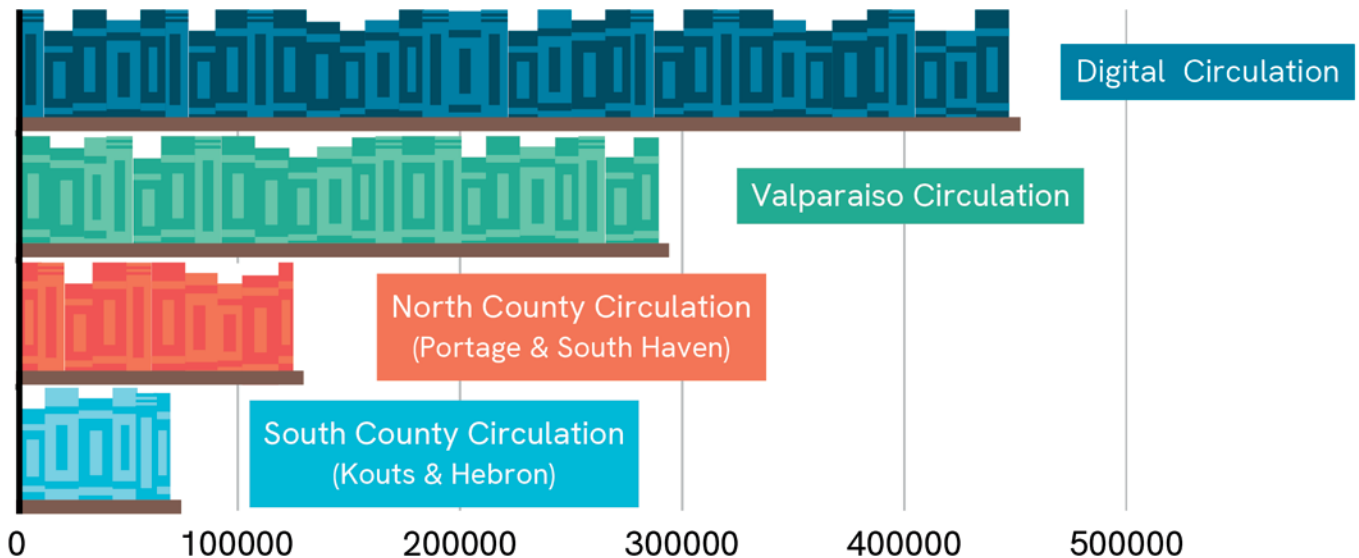
2024 New Patrons:

**5,741**

Total Active  
Cardholders:

**28,855**

## Circulation by Branch





The staff that interacts with people are amazingly helpful in dealing with the huge variety of people and concerns that come to them. I really appreciate the help with computer programs and reasonably priced printing that is offered.



## OUR SERVICES

Exam  
Proctoring

Tech  
Help

Did you know  
PCPLS offers all  
of these great  
services?

Meeting  
Spaces

Copying  
& Faxing

Notary  
Services

Free  
Wi-Fi

Computer  
& Laptop  
Usage

Databases

Curbside  
Pickup

Info  
Services

Study  
Rooms

Remote  
Printing

**52,031**  
uses of  
PCPLS  
databases  
in 2024

In 2024, our library patrons saved an estimated **\$9,702,938** just by borrowing from PCPLS. That's a saving of around **\$336** per person just from borrowing! Imagine how much more was saved making use of our other wonderful services!



# INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

- Dyslexia Friendly & Large Print Materials
- Multilingual Materials
- Accessible Technology
- Curbside Pickup & Home Delivery Service
- Mango Languages & Little Pim
- Accessible & Interactive Library Gardens
- Read to a Comfort Dog Program
- Early Intervention Play Group

## 2024 INCLUSION PARTNERS:



LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE



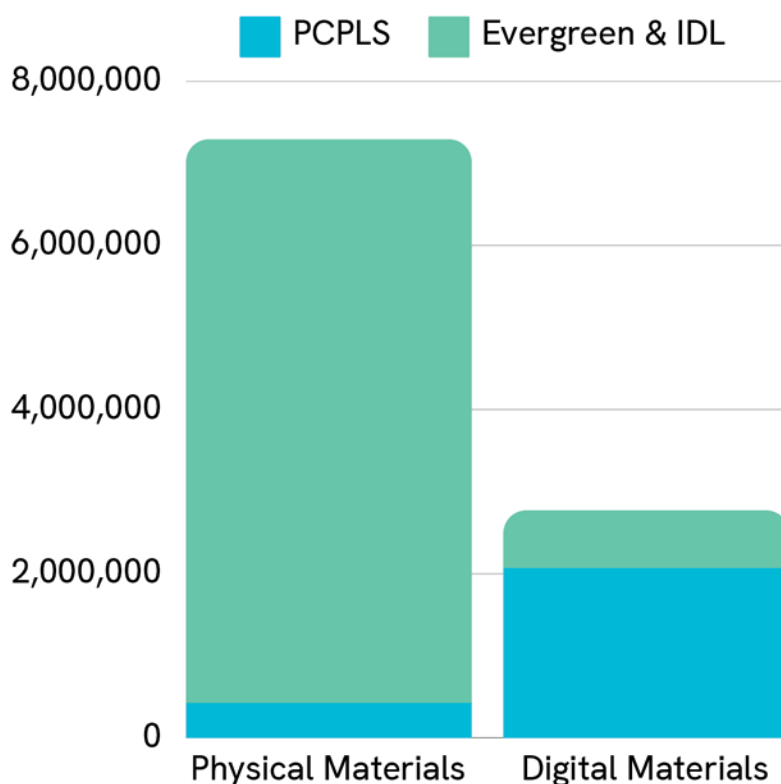




**INDIANA  
DIGITAL  
LIBRARY**



## Total Available Materials



“

Very nice library with a massive selection of DVD movies and if you can't find a certain movie they could possibly get it from a different library for you!

”

In 2022, PCPLS partnered with Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium and Indiana Digital Library to enhance library services, expanding access to diverse materials. Two years later, patrons appreciate the convenience and variety, enriching their reading and learning experiences.

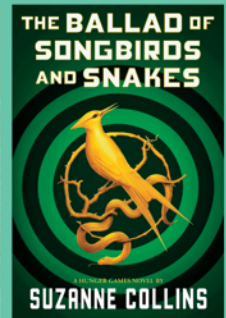
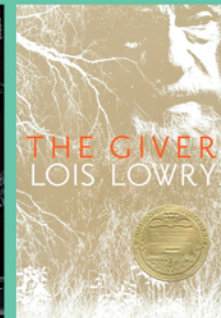
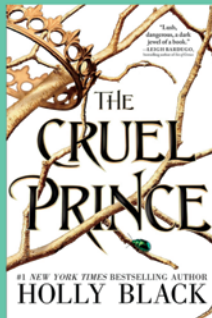


# MOST POPULAR BOOKS OF 2024

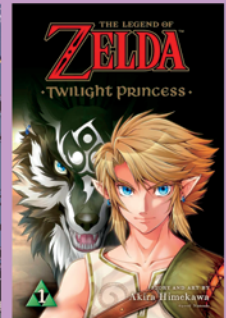
## Children Books



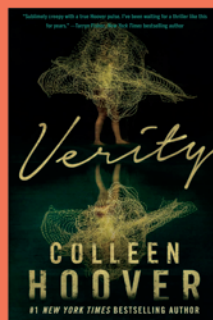
## Young Adult



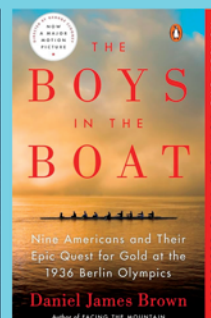
## Graphic Novels



## Adult Fiction



## Adult Nonfiction





# PROGRAMMING

**1,089**  
Programs

**26,350**  
Program  
Attendees

**Average**  
**91**  
Programs  
Per Month



## 2024 Reading Challenges



**Total Participants: 2,371**  
**Minutes Read: 881,029**



**Total Participants: 497**  
**Minutes Read: 67,013**





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bringing the library to you!



Our delightful StoryWalk® adventures are sprinkled across Porter County. Visit Sunset Hill Farm County Park, Butterfly Meadows Park, or any of our lovely Library Gardens to join the fun.



Our fantastic team visits schools, preschools and even Girl Scout gatherings via our 'Book a Librarian' program. We also have a 'Teacher Toolkit' to add a little library magic into your classrooms.



You'll find us at Porter County gatherings all throughout the year, spreading joy and knowledge. Drop by our blue library tent to hear about all the new exciting things happening at your library!

**207**  
Book a  
Librarian  
Visits



**40**  
Community  
Events



**7,204**  
Book a  
Librarian  
Attendees



**17,964**  
Smiling  
Faces





# GROWING



Portage Library  
Learning Garden  
Opened May 22, 2024

The Library Gardens of PCPLS are flourishing, and everyone is welcome to enjoy them! Our inaugural green space, the Valparaiso Rotary Library Garden, has been a delightful success since its opening in 2021.



Valparaiso Rotary  
Library Garden  
Opened May 12, 2021

The popularity of the Valparaiso Garden has led to new developments, inspiring the establishment of the Portage Library Learning Garden and the South Haven Library Garden. These vibrant new spaces offer endless opportunities for outdoor learning, exploration, and enjoyment.

## How To Contribute

Opportunities to support these amazing projects are still available. For more information, scan the QR code below or visit: [pcpls.org/library-gardens](https://pcpls.org/library-gardens)



South Haven  
Library Garden  
Opened August 21, 2024





# PCPLS LIBRARY GARDENS

Growing our gardens doesn't stop there. We're excitedly digging into new garden projects. The Kouts Library Garden is springing to life and will open its doors come spring. Not to be left in the shade, the Hebron Branch will reveal its garden in the summer, rounding off this fantastic collection of community spaces.

These gardens do more than just beautify our libraries; they create a vibrant backdrop for community connections, collaboration, and relaxation. Each new garden underlines our commitment to nurturing spaces that enrich the lives of our community and library-goers.

## MAJOR GARDEN CONTRIBUTORS:

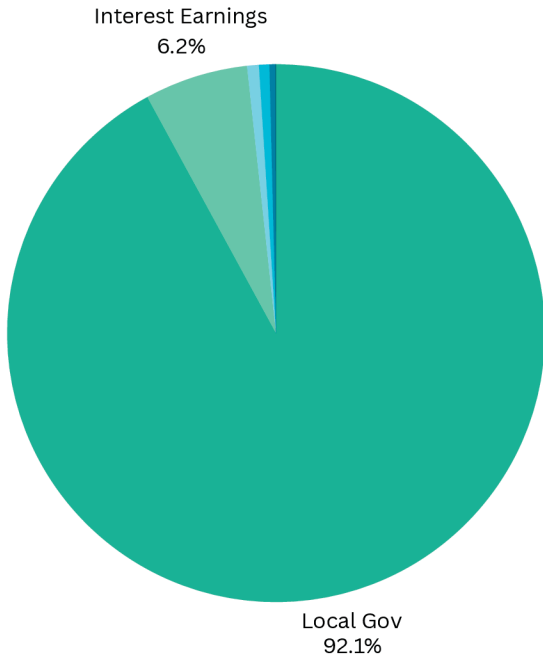


Kouts Library Garden  
Coming Spring 2025



Hebron Library Garden  
Coming Summer 2025

# REVENUE



Local Gov.	\$7,224,521
Interest Earnings	\$488,068
Fees	\$55,216
Donations & Grants	\$48,855
State Gov.	\$27,801
Other	\$3,288

# EXPENSES

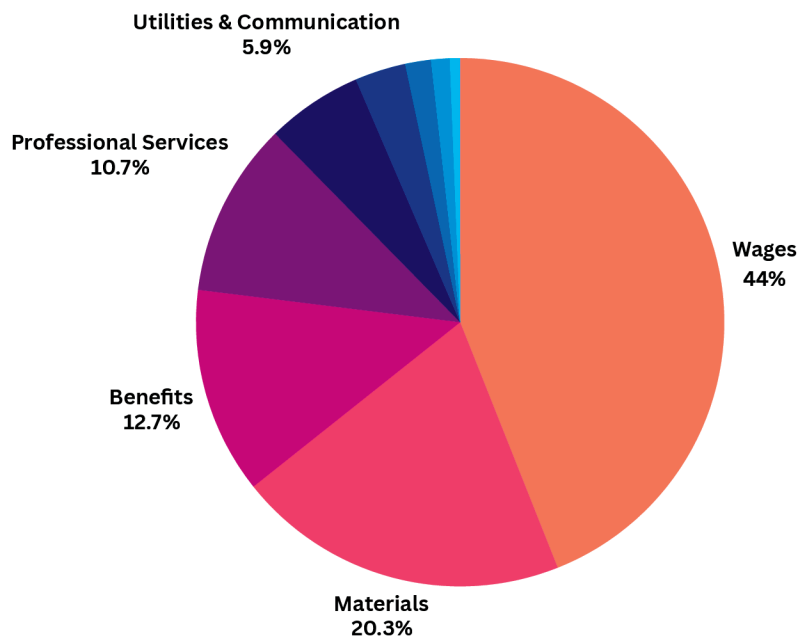
**\$44.68**

**per capita tax expenditure**

**\$44.72**

**per capita tax levy**

Wages	\$2,787,340
Materials	\$1,288,548
Benefits	\$801,850
Professional Services	\$677,416
Utilities & Communication	\$373,363
Facilities	\$197,739
Supplies	\$99,877
Furniture & Equipment	\$72,353
Programming	\$38,637
Other	\$777





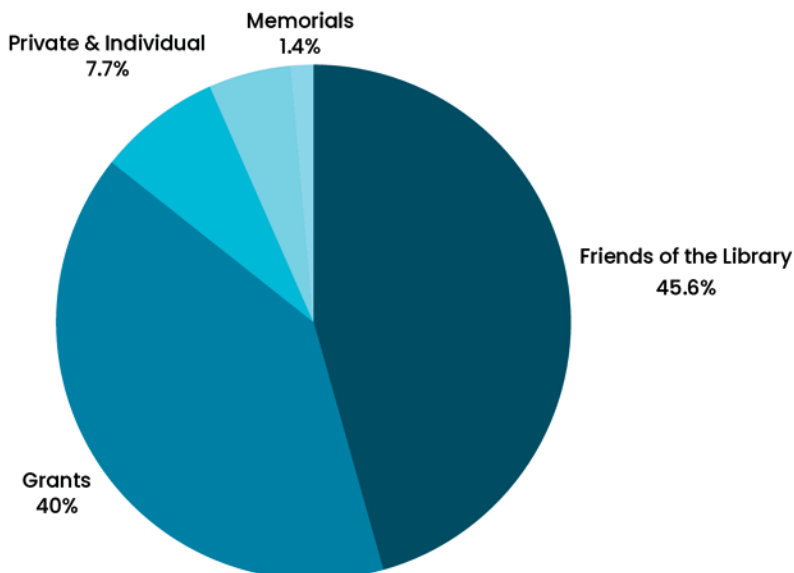
# VOLUNTEER

**In 2024, volunteers donated over 1,050 hours of their time to PCPLS.** We are grateful for our awesome team of volunteers at the Porter County Public Library System.

**We also want to thank the 157 Friends of the Library members who donated their time to support our library.** The Friends of the Library is a nonprofit organization that raises funds and promotes the library. In 2024, the Friends raised over \$27,000 through used book sales and other fund raising efforts.



# SUPPORT



Friends of the Library	\$19,480
Grants*	\$17,158
Private & Individual	\$3,316
Sponsorships	\$2,223
Memorials	\$605

*\*PCPLS recieved \$700,000 from ARPA in 2023 for Library Gardens currently under construction.*

Thank you to our 2024 Board of Trustees and our business and community partners for supporting PCPLS and the residents of Porter County.



## 2024 Business Donations



Hot Shop Valpo  
Glass Art Studio



MEMORIAL  
OPERA HOUSE



## 2024 Community Partners







**Thank you  
for an  
amazing  
2024 with  
our library.  
We can't  
wait to turn  
the page  
with you to  
2025!**





# PCPLS

PORTER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



(219) 462-0524



103 Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383



pcpls.org



@portercountypubliclibrarysystem



@portercolibrary

## PCPLS Board of Trustees

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