

# Montana's Libraries.....



## Develop readers which leads to higher reading scores



In FY23 libraries provided **9,480** story times which exposed **174,195** participants to new words and literary concepts that promote reading and learning. Parents and caregivers learn how to best support their child's development.

Montana families borrowed **1,755,830** children's items. Access to books is one the greatest factors in a child's ability to read.

**"Storytime at my library has been an amazing adventure for my granddaughter since she was 6 months old. I believe her time spent there has helped in the development of her speech and ability to interact with others. At 2 1/2, she looks forward to her time spent at her library and I am sure this experience will shape her lifetime."** -Response from "Why I love my library?" survey

## Reduce social isolation

In FY23 libraries provided space and staff to assist **2,997,069** visitors.

Montana libraries offered **16,927** programs that encouraged **285,450** people to learn together.

Library staff helped **56,754** Montanans with 1-on-1 tech support to help them use their devices for a variety of reasons – including connecting with loved ones.



**"I have been a member since my children were preschool, MPL was never as important as when my husband died in 2014.. I didn't feel comfortable ANYWHERE.. Not at home, not at our business, not shopping or socializing.. The only place I really found comfort was our library.. after Albert died I would come to the library 2-4 times a month, and check out books that he and I had listened to together....you helped me get through the toughest time in my life."**

-Response from the Montana State Library "Why I love my library?" survey, 2024

# The Montana State Library consulting and learning team support this work around the state.

Providing **762** consultations – which included researching issues, brainstorming, answering questions and addressing local challenges.

Supporting programming and early literacy work through our Lifelong Learning program. Examples include our **Creative Aging** program, **Ready2Read Rendezvous**, and **virtual programming** for Montanans.



Providing training for **407** unique learners (board members, directors, and staff) who earned **7,168** credits.

Strengthening **local government relationships** through training, webinars, and work with other partners

**"Thank you again for your time and expertise with us! You were so helpful and patient with our board. I felt like it was a very productive time and we were motivated to go forward despite our issues. There are things we can be doing instead of waiting for others. I feel hopeful and optimistic about our plans."** -2024 feedback from library director on board training evaluation survey