

Capital Campaign Information Program
November 15, 2005

“Why is a community with a good library different from a community without a library? What difference does a library make in the life of the Lansing community, a mostly rural community comprised of an interesting mix of professors and farmers, and professor farmers; a community that spans the economic and educational spectrum leading to diverse interests, needs, and debate. Lansing is a proud and old community dedicated to the ideals of volunteerism and local pride. Is it worth the investment of time and money in Lansing to build a strong library?”

Libraries attract homeowners

Libraries support schools

Good schools and a solid homeownership attract business

Libraries build communities

Libraries help to create thinkers, dreamers and doers.

Libraries are worth the investment and deserving of our support.

As a society we move forward by relying on inquisitive minds and an informed literate population. Free public access to information is a cornerstone of democracy. Those are lofty ideals, not easily measured. But they begin with small concrete steps that can be seen and understood, if not actually measured, and that is what we see happening in the Lansing community with a library.

LCLC provides Internet access to school children who cannot afford or do not have access at home.

LCLC provides computer access to our adult population for information sharing and gathering, communication and personal education.

LCLC provides story hour to introduce toddlers and pre schoolers to the joys of reading

LCLC provides proximity and convenience to library services allowing the community, from toddlers to retirees, to become regular life long library users.

The conversations and exchanges that happen around books, ideas and imagination are different in quality than most any other interactions we have in our daily lives. These interactions are not defined by specific boundaries. I listen to the conversations that happen at LCLC, conversations that build relationships between people previously unassociated. Books have a magic quality, they allow us all to enter a world where we can dream, escape, grow, think and connect without judgment.

For a reasonable further investment, the Lansing Community Library Center can continue to deliver what is hard to put a value on”

The value of information?

The value of books?

The value of imagination?

So, I ask you again to ponder, "What is the difference between a community with a good library and a community without a library"? What is the difference that makes the difference?

LCLC was created by a totally volunteer force, is run and operated by volunteers only, and has raised, through volunteer efforts, all the money needed to run this wonderful institution, fill it's shelves with materials as well as the money needed to expand and renovate the building. With the support and help of the State, we are now in the process of obtaining a NY State Library Charter. This Charter will allow us to become an independent library supported and controlled by our community. We have grown to the point where asking volunteers only to continue overseeing and running this library as well as continuing to raise the funds to support the services is becoming too much of a burden on a few individuals. We are hoping that the community will support a librarian and the maintenance of the institution. You will be hearing much more about this in the near future. However, being our library supporters, I wanted to bring this issue to your attention first, ahead of our public awareness campaign being planned for over the next few months.

In summary, this library has become a building block for a new and vibrant center in Lansing, a place to gather, share information and meet friends. I'd like to invite your input and open this to questions and answers about our growing library and gather your thoughts on:

Programming

Use of space in the library

Hours of operation

Kinds of Books and materials you would like to see in the library

Our present collection.

Computer access

The building and expansion project

Again, thank you all for being here with us.