

Lydia Taft Pratt Library Expansion





Introduction

- The Current State of the Library
- The Presenters
- The Agenda

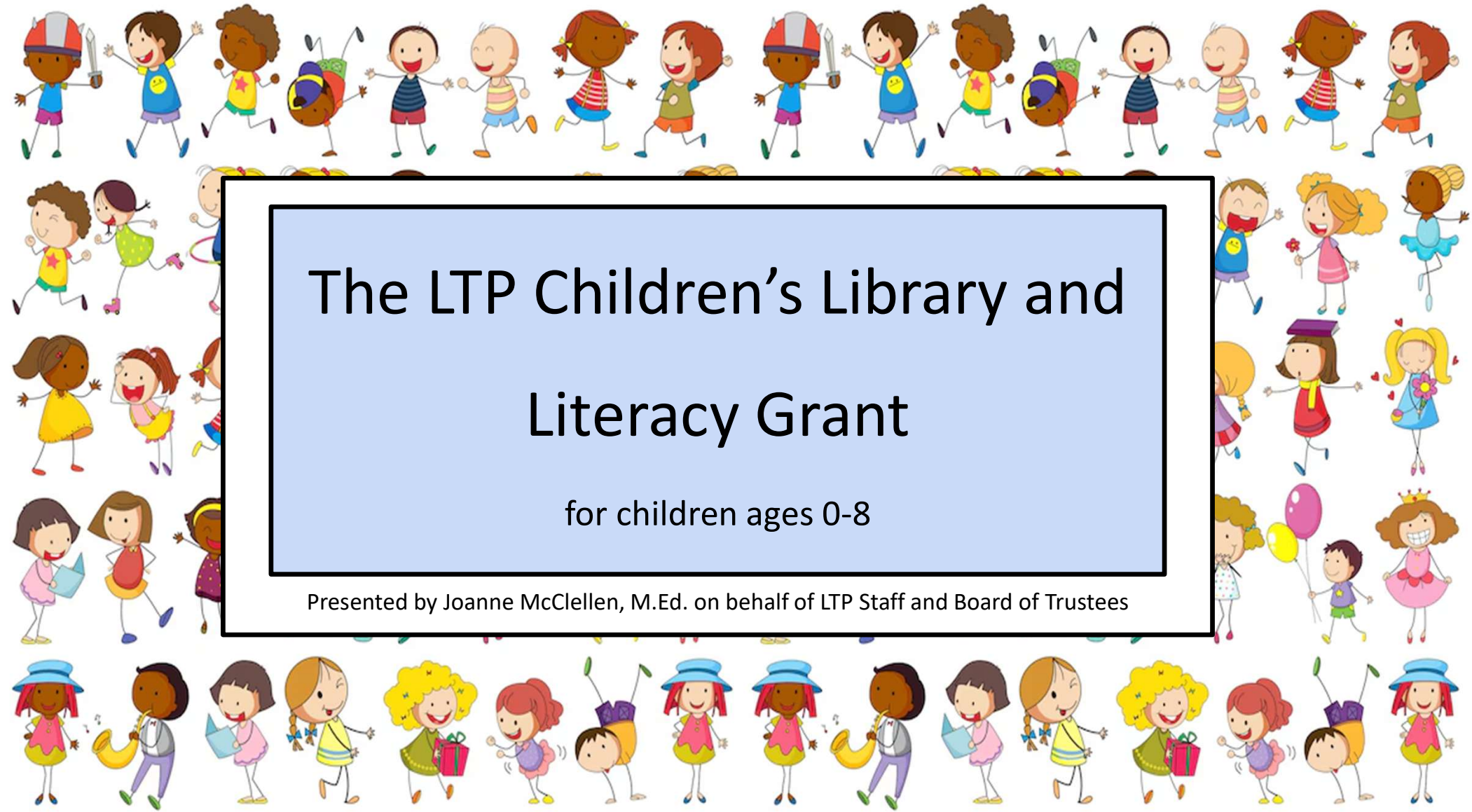
Agenda

- **Timing** – Linda Burns
- **The Grant** – Joanne McLellen
- **Library Statistics** – Linda Burns
- **The Budget** – Linda Burns
- **Conclusion** – Dave Schottland
- **Q&A**

Timeline of the Budget Process and the Grant

- Fiscal Year – Current and Next
- Grant Application
- Budget Preparation
- Grant Awarded – Current Fiscal Year
- Overlap
- Budget Proposal





The LTP Children's Library and Literacy Grant

for children ages 0-8

Presented by Joanne McClellen, M.Ed. on behalf of LTP Staff and Board of Trustees

Background



In Fall of 2024, Dena Marger asked if I would like to help write a grant to expand the LTP children's library and literacy program. Dena's vast experience and knowledge of library services paired well with my teaching and early childhood experience.

We discussed Dena's vision for a children's literacy program and began to write. In November, we were awarded a grant of \$54,700 that runs from January 1 through September 30, 2025.

Our grant is funded through the Vermont Early Childhood Funding (VECF) program and is administered by *Building Bright Futures*.

Building Bright Futures is Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network and is charged under state and federal statute as the primary advisor to Vermont's Governor, Administration, and Legislature on the well-being of children and families from the prenatal period to age 8.

Who else receives VECF grants?

Businesses and agencies from all around Vermont receive grants.

Our grant focus is to:
increase access/provide equitable access to early childhood services and programs.

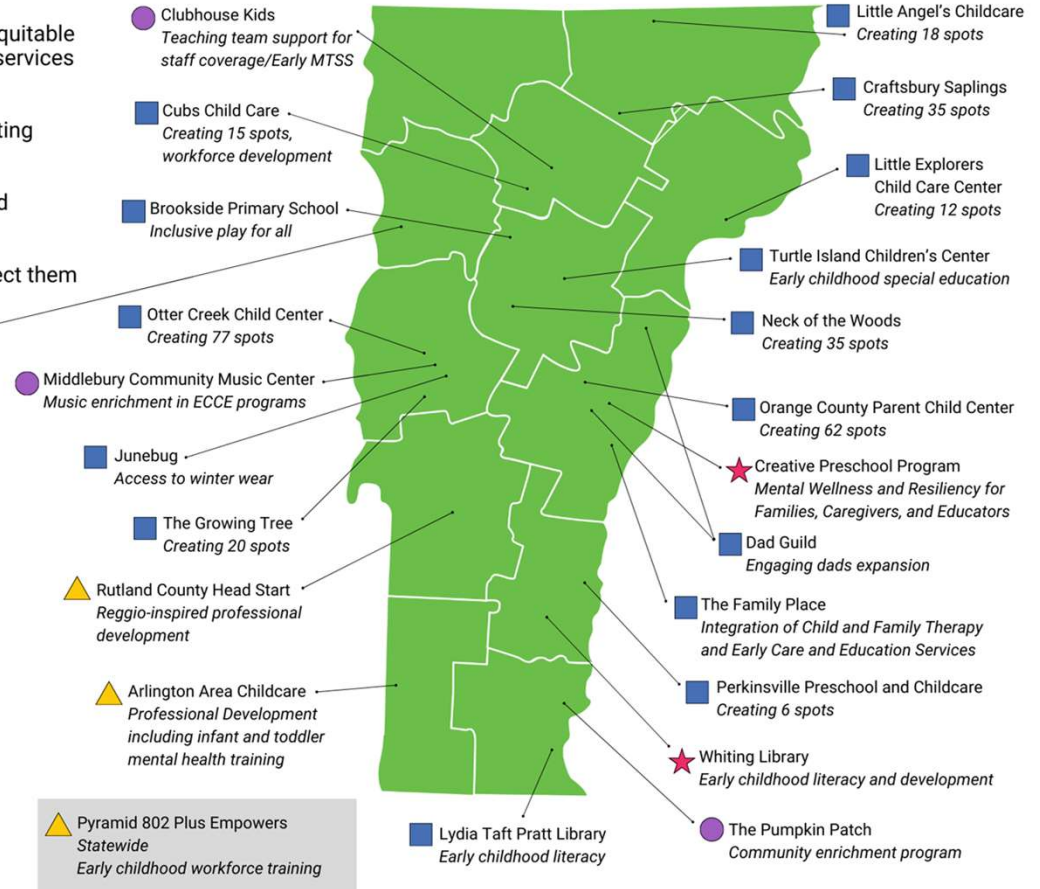
Grantee Focus Areas

- Increase access/provide equitable access to early childhood services and programs
- Improve the quality of existing services and programs
- ▲ Develop the early childhood workforce
- ★ Engage families and connect them to services

Chittenden County

- Champlain Center for Play Therapy and Family Counseling
Child parent relational therapy and therapy
- ★ Greater Burlington YMCA
Expanding family engagement & teacher support
- ▲ Lund
Growing the childcare workforce: pathways for New Americans year 2
- One Arts
Nutrition support program
- ★ Steps to End Domestic Violence
Early intervention violence prevention project

Fall 2024 VECF Grantees



How does a community library support children?

Community libraries...

- ...give children an environment to let their imaginations go wild by exploring books and resources that are different from what they find at home and school.
- ...provide children with a space to meet peers of different ages and develop relationships they may not find in school or with family activities.
- ...provide age-appropriate resources and knowledgeable staff.
- ...foster a feeling of belonging to the community. This is an important aspect of development during the early years as the child's sense of self expands from family and home to the community and world beyond.
- ...show children that the adults in their community care enough to provide a space just for them.
- ...provide a space for parents and caregivers.

Children feel valued.



What does a library literacy program include?

- Listening to stories that are read aloud helps a child develop “receptive language.”
- Retelling stories using materials such as puppets helps a child develop “expressive language.”

- Early vocabulary acquisition from ages 0-4 is directly linked to a child’s later ability to learn to read.

- A literacy program for children ages 5-8 who are reading provides the opportunity to develop a love of reading, libraries, and lifelong learning as well as a sense of independence.

- Public libraries and especially summer reading programs are designed to prevent “summer regression” by augmenting what is learned at school and at home.

- A program goal is to build interest in fiction *and* non-fiction literature.

- Doing a “Make and Take” activity such as paper bag puppets gives a child something to bring home to retell the story or create their own.
- Reading response activities help a child process the story they heard, learn new vocabulary, and develop early writing skills.

Learning locations support each other.

If children are homeschooled, the community library acts as their school library.

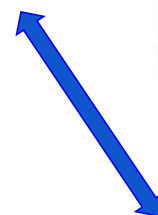


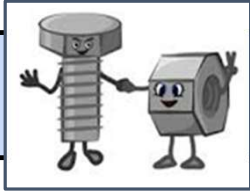
Home



Library

School





The Nuts & Bolts

- The new children's program is located in the room across from the current library in the back half of the room.
- The children's program space will be open during library open hours and potentially at other times for special events and programs.
- The children's program will be staffed by professional staff. The Building Bright Futures grant has funded a library assistant for 12 hours/week.
- Starter furniture and materials are scheduled to arrive in late February.
- An open house event is planned for Saturday March 1 from 10 am - 4:00 pm. A visit from *Dinoman!* is scheduled for 2:00 pm.

What can/will grant money pay for?



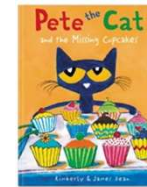
Furniture



Books & Materials



Technology



What can/will grant money pay for?



Events large and small!

- On-site visits from outside vendors
- Library-sponsored events like the Stuffie Sleepover and family movie nights



Room Rental thru Sept:
half of the room across
the hall from the current
library



Personnel

- P/T Assistant Librarian
- Specialist Consultants (as needed)

What are the grant requirements?



Grant requirements include (but are not limited to):

- This grant is for children of the Dummerston community ages 0-8; decisions made reflect their library and learning needs.
- The focus as defined by BBF is to *“increase access/provide equitable access to early childhood services and programs.”*
- The intent of the grant must be adhered to.
- Data must be collected about program usage.
- A grant representative (Dena) works with a BBF contact to submit monthly costs and to review grant progress.
- A grant representative (Joanne) will attend monthly BBF meetings and share progress and feedback as requested.

Public library vs. School library?



Benefits of a community library:

- Children see peers of different ages.
- A community library keeps a year-round schedule.
- Families can visit together - adults can model a love of reading by checking out their own books.
- LTP offers more than books for children. LTP offers professional staff, programs, events, audio and visual materials, museum passes and a community gathering space.

Voices from the community...

People have commented that....

- ...they have been wanting a larger children's library space for years.
- ...the Dummerston need and deserve this.
- ...they are looking forward to having a space to bring their child when it's snowy or too hot outside.
- ...they like the idea of being able to hang out with other families.
- ...there is nothing else like this in town, and it will be so nice to have a space dedicated to children and families.
- ...this plan makes sense for the children and is long overdue.

Summary

The Lydia Taft Pratt library representatives are excited to be part of a state-wide collective to better the development of Vermont's youngest children.



At the stuffie sleep-over.

We thank *Building Bright Futures*, who has provided a wonderful opportunity for the Town of Dummerston and LTP to establish a dedicated library space and literacy program for the children of our community.

The children of Dummerston deserve the very best!

Library Statistics

- **Dummerston Census Data (2020 Decennial Census):** Used for our budgeting purpose
 - 1,865 People
 - 371 Children ages 1 day – 14 years old
- **Dummerston Census Data (American Community Survey (ACS):** Used by Vermont Dept of Libraries
 - 2023: Dummerston Population reported as 2,213 people
 - Only used for comparative purposes – comparing libraries in towns of similar size
 - Margin of error increases for smaller communities
- **Registered Borrowers**
 - 446 People (does not include young children) – 24% of Dummerston residents
 - People with an out-of-town address: 86 people ~19%

Library Statistics con't

- Visitor's Recorded (Unique visitor information not captured)

	Jan-04	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dec / Jan	
Library # of Visits													
Adults	91	106	89	104	124	119	104	162	144	125	68	137	
Children	12	10	8	15	37	26	30	55	48	34	17	31	
On-Line (E-Book & Audio Book) Distinct Users	13	17	20	18	19	18	20	19	18	18	18	31	

- Library open 15 hours per week
- Total # of Physical Items in Collection (books, DVD's, etc.) – 6,033

Data Supplied by Vermont Dept of Libraries – 2023 (2024 currently being submitted)

Town	Type	Overview			Total Librarian Hours	Annual Staff Hours Divided by Allotted Pop.	Number of Staff
		Population	Weeks Open	Hours Open			
Townshend	Municipal	1,617	52	1,144	32	1.40	4
Wilmington	Municipal	1,767	45	1,710	74	2.41	4
Whitingham	Municipal	2,203	52	1,144	58	1.37	3
Dummerston	Municipal	2,213	52	780	13	0.31	1
Guilford	Municipal	2,313	52	1,248	32	0.91	3
Vernon	Municipal	2,548	52	1,352	36	1.14	3
Putney	Municipal	2,630	52	2,149	91	1.80	4

Library Statistics con't

- Data Supplied by Vermont Dept of Libraries – 2023 (2024 currently being submitted)

Town	Facilities	Operating Income					Total Income Divided By Allotted Pop.
	Square Footage	Total Local Tax	Local Tax Divided by Allotted Pop.	Total All Grants	Non-Resident Borrower Fee	Total Income	
Townshend	2,700	\$57,719	\$35.70	\$800	\$0	\$92,014	\$56.90
Wilmington	2,640	\$140,000	\$79.23	\$1,371	\$0	\$145,357	\$82.26
Whitingham	1,342	\$73,771	\$33.49	\$300	\$0	\$84,262	\$38.25
Dummerston	784	\$15,300	\$6.91	\$300	\$0	\$23,935	\$10.82
Guilford	800	\$41,693	\$18.03	\$5,725	\$0	\$60,274	\$26.06
Vernon	2,858	\$95,823	\$37.61	\$871	\$15	\$103,947	\$40.80
Putney	4,200	\$193,792	\$73.69	\$14,786	\$40	\$240,916	\$91.60

Dummerston Community Center

Dummerston Community Center (DCC), located in West Dummerston –
150 West Street



- Non-profit organization
 - Maintains and promotes use of facilities
 - Town leased to DCC in 1995
 - DCC responsible for utilities
 - DCC maintains, repairs, and purchases insurance at own cost
-
- Current Rent for the Library in the Dummerston Community Center is \$6,300 per year

The Budget

- What we are asking for

INCOME	Budget FY 24-25	Budget FY 25-26	\$ Increase 25 vs 26	% Increase
Town Support	\$22,240.00	\$42,505.42	\$ 20,265.42	91%
TOTAL	\$32,348.64	\$ 51,514.42	\$ 19,165.78	59%
EXPENSES	Budget FY 24-25	Budget FY 25-26	\$ Increase	% Increase
<i>Librarian Salary/Benefits (Total - breakout below)</i>	\$17,912.96	\$22,950.98	\$5,038.02	28%
<i>Librarian Assistant 12 Hours (Childhood Programming) Salary/Benefits</i>		\$9,068.44	\$9,068.44	100%
Librarian Gross Hourley Wages (with 4 hour increase)	\$16,640.00	\$20,800.00	\$4,160.00	25%
2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment		\$520.00	\$520.00	100%
Librarian Town Portion of FICA/Medicare	\$ 1,272.96	\$1,630.98	\$358.02	28%
Librarian Assistant Gross Hourley Wages (12 hours a week @ \$18.00)		\$8,424.00	\$8,424.00	100%
Librarian Asst Town Portion of FICA/Medicare		\$644.44	\$644.44	100%
Rental	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 9,675.00	\$ 4,275.00	79%
Insurance- LTP portion of CC	\$ 111.00	\$ 111.00	\$ -	0%
Telephone	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	0%
Town Support	\$23,312.96	\$42,505.42	\$18,381.46	82%
TOTAL	\$33,421.60	\$51,514.42	\$18,092.82	54%
Per Capita Spending	\$ 11.92	\$ 22.79	\$ 10.87	91%

Per capita Spending based on 2020 Census – 1,865 people

The Budget, con't

- The town budgeted expenditure for Library Support for the current year (2025) represents **4 %** of the General Fund
- **The increase for 25/26 includes**
 - Increase Library Director's hours from 16 to 20 hours and 2.5% COA - **\$5,038.02**
 - Increase of rent for main room from \$5,400 to \$6,300 per year - **\$900 increase**
- **Library Expansion**
 - Continuation of Asst Librarian - **\$9,068.44**
 - Rent for Additional Space
 - Expansion of space
 - LTP and Dummerston Community Center (DCC) agree to lease for expanding space for a combination children's library area / community space
 - Annual cost of expansion is **\$3,375** (\$375 per month)
 - This expansion may not be the final space allocation in future
- The total increase the Library is asking for is **\$18,381.46** In the proposed budget, the Library expenditure would increase the Library's share of the General Fund to **6 %** of the total
- The Selectboard has approved an increase of **\$7,822** for 25/26, **5%** of the General Fund

5 Year Anticipated Investment Cost of Library Expansion

- Overall, town expense to fund library expansion—beyond the grant money—over the next five years would be the following, assuming a 2.5% increase each FY:

Budget Year	LTP anticipated budget with expansion Anticipated budget w/o expansion	Anticipated budget w/o expansion	Yearly increase
FY26	\$42,505	\$30,062	\$12,443
FY27 (increase due to 12-month coverage)	\$47,239	\$30,814	\$16,425
FY28	\$48,400	\$31,584	\$16,816
FY29	\$49,600	\$32,373	\$17,227
FY30	\$50,100	\$33,183	\$16,917
Total 5 year investment			\$79,828

Pilot program: Grant provides for establishing a project to for showcasing value

- LTP will provide user data for at least two years (2024 and 2025) of
- monthly usage outlining:
 - Total number of visits
 - Number of individual unique users
 - Increase in monthly individual users throughout pilot program

Data will be used in FY27 budget planning cycle for future funding

Conclusion

- **The Library is well over-due for an expansion**
 - The current configuration does not serve our community
 - Lack of space to browse comfortably
 - No place to sit and do research or read
 - No table for adults
 - Expanding the Children's library into another room has the following benefits:
 - A dedicated space for children encourages a love for learning and a feeling of belonging
 - Moving the children's items out of the main room opens up the main room for adult activities, book clubs and other programming
- The Grant provided a way for us to have a proof of concept
- Please support the expansion effort – Dummerston deserves a functional library!

Q&A / Discussion

