

2024 Merit Award Winner (Community greater than 12,000)

Friends of the Hamburg Township Library



During 2024, the Friends of the Hamburg Township Library (FOHTL) carried out a number of successful activities that were significant for the Library and for our community. As a relatively new organization (incorporated in 2021), we continue to focus on increasing our fundraising efforts and interaction with the community.

Our spring and fall book sales now bring in more than \$5,000 each year, and our upscale rummage sale, a 1-day event that we started in 2023, grew in 2024 to collect about \$3,300. We coordinate the rummage sale with the Hamburg Senior Center's fall craft sale to attract large crowds for both events.

In 2024 we introduced a new garden series fundraiser that has been very well received. We are working with the Michigan State University Extension to offer two more garden series this year. We decided to try a scrapbooking/craftday fundraiser, as well. The first craft day was held in January, and the registration for it filled up within an hour. Attendees loved the event and want us to offer more of these crafting days.

With the money from these fundraisers and our Friends gift shop, along with Friends membership dues and donations received, our bank balance has steadily increased, allowing us to provide more funding for library programs. Previously when the Friends sponsored library programs, we were usually only able to provide 50% of the cost of each program. In 2024, we began providing full support for more programs, such as the Little Yogis Preschool Yoga series, a series of cooking demonstrations for adults, and several music programs. We also provide funding for the annual summer reading program, including a series of "dinner & a movie" events for adults. In March, the Friends supported a Mardi Gras Jazz concert that was enjoyed by a large crowd.

The Friends work with the Library Director and staff to provide support for the programs, as requested. We fund programs for all ages in the community, but our fundraising efforts, of course, are geared to adults. The Friends Board plans the fundraisers with help from other volunteers. For example, we have a volunteer who coordinates the book sales, working with the Friends Board, and many volunteers help throughout the event. For the fall book sale, we had 40 volunteers who worked a total of 257 hours. For the upscale rummage sale held in November, volunteers worked 120 hours. On the day of the rummage sale, the Library recorded a door count of 710 people, most of them coming in for the rummage sale.

All of our programs and fundraisers are promoted in the Library's newsletter and on their website, as well as in the Friends newsletter and our Friends website. We also have a strong presence on Facebook and a growing presence on Instagram. For the larger events, we also promote through the local radio station and other media. We measure the success of each project, program, or event by the attendance (and sometimes waiting lists) or by the amount of money raised. We also look at how many new Friends members join during the events.

The Friends of Hamburg Township Library are happy to work with our Library staff and community to help provide the best services possible, and we are so honored and appreciative to be recognized for our efforts.



"Connecting Friends Across Michigan"