Beyond the Page

How the library helps our community: 2023 Annual Report
Cultivating Community
The Delta Township District Library started a new campaign in 2022 to help members of our community, and it continued to grow throughout 2023. Our “Cultivating Community” initiative provides information and access to support culinary literacy, health, and food insecurity in our community. It began with a partnership with Greater Lansing Food Bank. DTDL is able to hand out **Grab and Go Meal Kits** to anyone under the age of 18. In addition to the meal kits, there are two 24/7 pantries outside the entrance to the library. One is food donations and the other is miscellaneous items patrons may need.

The second stage of the campaign was to launch a **seed library**. After the opening of the seed library, the **Lettuce Grow Farmstands** were installed. These grow a variety of herbs, lettuce, vegetables and some ornamentals. After harvesting, the produce is placed into a **Little Free Fridge** for

The raised bed garden on the Adult Services patio provides vegetables and herbs for enjoyment by the community. Additional raised beds reside on the Youth Services patio.
anyone to enjoy. If the produce goes bad, staff are able to compost it in a **Lomi composter**. Patrons are welcome to use the compost in their gardens.

In 2023, the third stage of the campaign launched. While continuing all of the previous services, the library added several new things. **Raised bed gardens** were placed on both the Youth and Adult Patios. The items selected included vegetables and herbs for enjoyment by the community and a Sensory Garden. Garden-themed Take It and Make It kits were distributed to foster healthy cooking and sustainability.

In addition, we offered several programs with a focus on gardening and healthy eating, including **Fun with Food**, **Worm Composting and Pickin’ with the Champ**, which gave patrons an opportunity to experience food and nature in a fun way.

dtdl.org/community

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**Welcome Baby Bags**
DTDL partners with Eaton County Great Start to provide free **Welcome Baby Bags** to expecting and new parents. Bags include: a sleep sack, books, diaper samples, wipes, bath time items, prenatal vitamins, self-care items for parents, resource sheets, and more.

dtdl.org/earlylit

A sample of what new parents can expect when they pick up a Welcome Baby Bag from the library.
@ Your Service provides one-on-one appointments with adult services staff. Designed to cater to the diverse needs of our community, this program offers dedicated support in these areas: basic tech assistance, information literacy, and connection to vital community resources. We aim to empower individuals with the digital skills and information they need to thrive in today’s interconnected world. Youth Services added a teen component in 2023 offering assistance with teen job skills.

dtdl.org/@

Library of Things and Little Things
The Library of Things is a collection of surprising library items whose purpose is to provide diverse opportunities for learning and engagement. DTDL has over 100 items, including: Instant Pot, Air Fryer, bike locks, button maker, laptops, sewing machine, tools and more!

Little Things are amazing resources for all ages to learn about science, technology, engineering, art, math, music and literacy through play-based fun. Kits provide unique resources accompanied by relevant and engaging books and guides.

dtdl.org/things
Teen Volunteer program
DTDL offers a year-round volunteer program for teens to gain job experience and earn service hours while learning about libraries.
dtdl.org/teenvolunteers

Legal Help
Adult Services staff help accessing michiganlegalhelp.org, a resource for people who are handling their legal matters without a lawyer. Patrons can learn about legal issues and get ready for court, including access to court forms and a guide to legal help in your area. Common areas of help include expungement and housing resources.
dtdl.org/legalhelp

Digital Services
In addition to all of the programs and resources in the building, the library also offers a wide array of digital services. Patrons can access books, magazines, movies, audiobooks, career and study guides, language learning, and more all from the comfort of their home.
dtdl.org/digital

Books By Mail
DTDL offers Books By Mail for those who cannot take advantage of our curbside service or digital collections. Books are delivered to local residents and returned to the library with prepaid postage.
dtdl.org/booksbymail
Carside and Locker Pickup
The library has two convenient options for picking up library items outside the building. Offering both carside pickup during library hours, as well as locker hold pickup 24/7, ensures that everyone has access to materials regardless of their circumstance.
dtdl.org/carside

Take It & Make It
DTDL offers free monthly Take It & Make It kits for kids and adults, with activities appropriate for different ages and skill levels (5 & under, 5-8, 9-18, and 18+). Kits include arts and crafts, STEM and or/literacy activities, and each kit contains instructions and supplies for one or more projects.
dtdl.org/make-it

Community Kids
DTDL offered a weekly program during the summer of 2023 where children explored ways to be good friends, neighbors, and citizens of the world with hands-on art, science, literacy, and community service projects. They learned how to get involved with citizen science projects, helped clean up litter in the neighborhood, and participated in a MDHHS Division of Environmental Health enviroscape drinking water activity.
Early Literacy Programs
DTDL offers a wide array of resources to support families and encourage the development of early literacy skills. They include: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Sensory Walk, StoryWalk®, Story Line, TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten, and Virtual Storytimes.
dtdl.org/earlylit

Computer Access & WiFi
The library has computers on site and laptops to check out or use in the building. Also offered are WiFi Hotspots for checkout to ensure community members have access to the internet at home or on the go.
2023 Stats

- 404,618 items checked out *
- 163,777 items in the collection
- 32,364 visitors to dtdl.org
- 32,452 cardholders
- $51,605 contributed by the Friends of the Library for services, programs and collections
- 3,513 MeLCat items loaned out to other libraries
- 9,906 MelCat items borrowed for our patrons
- CreativeBug: 402 sessions
- Mango Languages: 1,425 sessions
- Ancestry: 4,043 searches
- Take It & Make It & Garden Kits: 2723
- Grab & Go Meal Kits: 2046
- Literacy & School Supply Kits: 202
- Summer Reading Challenge: 888 registrants, 881,940 minutes read
- 300 youth programs attended by 9,828
- Youth Youtube content: 86,367 views

* This year was a new record for items checked out. Thank you all for supporting us!