

# What is the Onondaga County Public Library Foundation?

The Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL) Foundation advocates for an ever-improving library System and generates resources to support the mission of libraries in Onondaga County. A separate entity from the Friends of the Central Library and the Onondaga County Public Library, with its own board of directors, mission and by-laws, the Foundation enlists the involvement of individuals, families, foundations, businesses, organizations, trusts and estates in support of OCPL.

The Foundation was formed in 2005 as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation to accept charitable contributions in support of the library's mission to "make a positive difference in every life we touch by putting the power of ideas and information to work for all."

All public libraries in Onondaga County are part of the OCPL System:

- The Central Library
- 8 branch and 2 satellite libraries in the City of Syracuse
- 19 suburban libraries

The OCPL System provides library materials, programs and a delivery service that would otherwise not be available to libraries and residents.

The OCPL Foundation board is made up of members of the Central New York community who understand that the needs of libraries and residents can best be met by public/private partnerships.



*Libraries are key to the growth of our residents and the quality of our communities. We support them because they support us. Here's a sampling of the ways in which they make a positive difference, all year long.*



*Spring:*  
Leading up to National Library Week, a System-wide literary scavenger

hunt mobilizes amateur sleuths who try to figure out which character has escaped from which book at which library. Designed for all ages, we've been told that this event brings families together as they try to come up with the solution. And best of all, they're talking and thinking about books! Winners are announced during National Library Week in April.

## *Summer:*

The annual Summer Reading Program means libraries filled with activities and young people who keep their reading skills strong over the summer. Grants administered through the System bring educators and performers to every library in the county. Each year over 5,000 children and teens read close to 100,000 books and attend more than 1,000 programs



## *Fall:*

Serving residents with special needs is a priority. Thanks to grants procured through the System, many blind patrons

can now use computers at their local libraries, rather than having to travel downtown.

For adult learners, the OCPL Literacy Coordinator works with libraries and community agencies to promote and expand literacy programming, and provides one-on-one appointments for adults learning to read and speak English.

## *Winter:*

Each week, in rain, snow, or sunshine, the OCPL vans travel over 1,200 miles while delivering the thousands of items requested by patrons at all System libraries.

Thanks to one shared online catalog, anyone can use the library from their home when travel is treacherous. It's easy to search the catalog, place a hold, or renew an item.

For answers to a specific question, System-wide reference help means that librarians are available 24/7 via phone, e-mail, or text.



## What types of things does the Foundation fund?

1. General enhancement of library System services
2. Cultural and educational public programs for youth, families and adults throughout the county
3. Technology & equipment to benefit all System libraries
4. Collection enhancement
5. Special family literacy projects
6. Endowment

## Who decides what projects and programs the Foundation will support?

Based on the needs identified by the Library Director and OCPL's Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board makes general decisions regarding the projects and programs for which we will seek funding. Donors to the Foundation may direct their contributions to specific identified areas. OCPL's Board of Trustees has the final legal say in accepting or rejecting any gift from the Foundation.

## Are there any assurances that the Foundation will use its funds as intended and will not lose funds through risky investments?

Yes. The Foundation is a non-profit corporation chartered by the State of New York and subject to guidelines covering fund raising activities. This corporation is granted exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue code and subject to further reporting requirements and rules covering such things as annual distributions, jeopardy investments, conflicts of interest, restricted funds, etc.

*Gifts to the Library Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*

## Ways to Give

Your involvement will make a meaningful difference not only to the library, but also to the lives of the many and diverse people it serves. Contact 315.435.1900 or [Director@onlib.org](mailto:Director@onlib.org) for more information.

### Planned Giving

Planned giving can help you remember the library in your will or estate planning.

### Naming Opportunities

The Foundation will be happy to discuss naming and recognition opportunities.

### Endowments

The Foundation's endowments build the resources necessary to maintain quality literacy, educational, and cultural programs in libraries throughout Onondaga County.

### Your support will:

- Provide programmatic and/or endowment support for one of the library's literacy, reading enhancement, or cultural offerings;
- Fund new computer equipment or subscriptions to electronic databases.

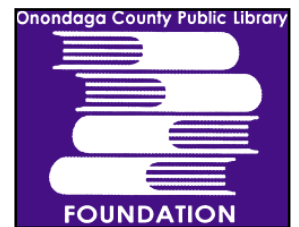
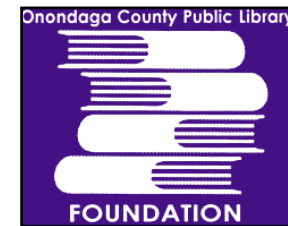
### You can:

- Create an endowment;
- Name a collection, a position, or a program (gifts of \$100,000 or more will establish a named endowment);
- Underwrite an event or exhibition;
- Make a tribute gift in honor or memory of a loved one or colleague.

*Support for the Onondaga County Public Library Foundation is direct support for the Onondaga County Public Library. Every dollar counts. Your gift to the Foundation helps the Onondaga County Public Library grow stronger.*

## ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

# FOUNDATION



*Giving for Lifelong Learning*