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Jesse Butz

Porter County Public Library System 103 Jefferson St. Valparaiso, IN

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pcpls.org

BOARD MEETING AGENDA: Wednesday, August 16, 2023

NOTICE: The Porter County Public Library System Board of Trustees will meet on August 16, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: (Kristy)

The public comment session is provided as an opportunity for patrons to address the Board of Trustees on matters related to agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Kristy)

- 1. Approval of the Minutes from July 19, 2023 (Paul)
- 2. Financial Report
 - a. Treasurer's Report (Stu)
 - b. Approval of the Claims Register (Hayley)
- 3. Approval of Communications (Jesse)
 - a. Friend's Report
 - b. Director's Report
 - c. Patron Comments

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

- 1. 2024 Budget Approval for Advertising (Hayley)
- 2. eBook Impact and Spending Analysis (Inge)
- 3. Job Description Updates (Jesse)
- 4. Library Gardens Update (Jesse)
- 5. South Haven Library Quotes (Jesse)

Any other items Adjournment (Kristy) Signature Session

Future Meetings: (Dates subject to change) 4:00 P.M.

- September 20, 2023 Valparaiso Public Library
- October 18, 2023 Valparaiso Public Library
- November 15, 2023 Valparaiso Public Library

Porter County Public Library System Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes for Aug 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the library board of trustees was called to order at 4:02 p.m. at 103 Jefferson St. Valparaiso, IN 46383. Kristy Merritt presided.

Members in attendance included Kristy Merritt, President; Roger Rhodes, Vice President; Paul Knauff, Secretary; Stu Summers, Treasurer; Kevin Pazour, Julie Giorgi, and Olga Granat. No board members were absent. Also in attendance: Director Jesse Butz, Library Attorney Clay Patton, and Associate Directors Inge Kokidko & Hayley Scott. Remote attendance was facilitated via Zoom.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Jan 1, 2023

Financial Report

Treasurer's Report

Approval of the Claims Register

Approval of Communications

Friends of the Library Report

Director's Report

Patron Comments

Motion: Kevin Pazour moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Olga Granat.

Discussion: Communications reports were summarized. A recommendation was given to close the account with First Internet Bank and move funds into Trust Indiana.

Vote: The motion was carried with the following roll call vote:

Rhodes	Knauff	Summers	Pazour	Giorgi	Granat	Merritt
Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ

Motion: Stu Summers moved to close the account at First Internet Bank and move funds into Trust Indiana. The motion was seconded by Julie Giorgi.

Discussion: No discussion followed

Vote: The motion was carried with the following roll call vote:

Rhodes	Knauff	Summers	Pazour	Giorgi	Granat	Merritt
Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y

2024 Budget Approval for Advertising

The 2024 proposed advertising budget was summarized, and various budget lines were explained, including insurance, building, periodicals, LIRF, and rainy day.

Motion: Stu Summers moved to "authorize the staff to advertise the budget for public hearing".

The motion was seconded by Roger Rhodes.

Discussion: No discussion followed.

Vote: The motion was carried with the following roll call vote:

Rhodes	Knauff	Summers	Pazour	Giorgi	Granat	Merritt
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

eBook Impact and Spending Analysis

A five-year history of the development of our ebook collection was given, including possible future trends and new developments.

Job Description Updates

Updates to job descriptions were summarized, including consolidation of documents, and organization of descriptions into a clearer career path for employees. It was commented that they seemed very transparent.

Motion: Roger Rhodes moved to approve the new job descriptions. The motion was seconded by Stu Summers.

Discussion: No discussion followed.

Vote: The motion was carried with the following roll call vote:

Rhodes	s Knauff	Summers	Pazour	Giorgi	Granat	Merritt
Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Υ

Library Gardens Update

Updates were given on lawn care services in Hebron, the Hebron property line, community conversations about the gardens, and South Haven garden installation preparation.

South Haven Library Quotes

The three responses were summarized. Recommend approval of Modern Edge, True Line Fencing, and Egolf Coats Excavation for \$73,080, as well as musical ensemble 34,965, and mushroom chimes 7,049. It was also recommended to accept the WillyGoat shade structure, not to exceed \$20,000, and the \$6,425 worth of musical features for use at other branches, due to the discounted ALA pricing and free shipping. This would put the project \$2,291.26 over budget should the worst-case scenario on the shade structure from WillyGoat, though it is more likely that we will be under budget.

Motion: Kevin Pazour moved to accept the bids as recommended. The motion was seconded by Olga Granat.

Discussion: It was clarified that an American company was not used for some of the musical structures because there were no comparable American options.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Kouts Dry Sprinkler System Repair

It was recommended to conduct the repair of the Kouts sprinkler system quoted at \$12,500.

Motion: Stu Summers moved to repair the sprinkler system as recommended. The motion was seconded by Kevin Pazour.

Discussion: No discussion followed. **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

Broadband Mailer Payment

It was recommended to purchase services totaling \$18,194.13 to complete a mailing related to the broadband commission project. This is a time-sensitive issue and would be reimbursed by the county.

Motion: Kevin Pazour moved to approve the recommendation. Roger Rhodes seconded the motion.

Discussion: No discussion followed. **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion: Paul Knauff moved to adjourn. Kevin Pazour seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

Adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Paul Knauff, Secretary

July 2023

Overview

- Summer Reading finished on July 31, and what an amazing program it was! This year we had 2,323 folks registered and 74% of participants completed a challenge! We had over 1,400,500 pages read and over 40,750 badges earned by our community. What an amazing job by our patrons!
- Our staff went above and beyond for our patrons again this summer. Program
 attendance was up 20% and overall foot traffic was up 7% in July. Our team did a
 fantastic job handling the increased traffic and creating a magical experience for our
 patrons.
- The Outreach team was so busy this summer, but one event stands out above the rest: The fair. This year's fair had us interacting with over 6,500 patrons and our booth won the most interactive! A huge thank you to all the staff that helped make this one of our best fair seasons yet!
- The groundbreaking event at the Portage Library was very well attended. We are so
 excited for this and our South Haven Garden to begin! Keep your eyes on our social
 media as construction will begin in the month of August!

Important Upcoming Dates

- August
 - 2: Friends of the Library Board Meeting
 - 16: Library Board of Trustees Meeting
 - o 26: Kouts Branch Closed: Pork Fest
- September
 - o 6: Friends of the Library Board Meeting
 - 9: Valparaiso Branch CLosed: Popcorn Fest
 - 20: Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Personnel

- Ending Employment
 - Kristin Schumacher October 2022 July 2023
 - Lawrence Hawkins March 2021 July 2023
- New Employment
 - None
- Staff Development
 - Ryana Backe, a team lead in north county, passed her notary certification and is ready to help offer that service to our community.

Finance Notes

• The budget benchmark for the end of July is that 58% of the budget should

be spent. So far, 56% has been spent and we're on target to be within our estimated budget.

- The Library earned \$28,881.68 from Trust Indiana in July.
 - Included in the total interest earned is the Valpo Garden Donations, which earned \$828.78 in July.
- Jesse, Inge, and Hayley met with the DLGF Rep in July to finalize the total budget and levy amounts. We received confirmation that all items and amounts entered into Gateway were correct and we are in a good position for our 2024 budget.

Subscription/Contract Renewals

- Subscriptions
 - New
 - None
 - Renewals
 - African American History Online \$2,381.77
 - Cancellations
 - None
- Contracts
 - New
 - None
 - Renewals
 - CollectionHQ & ESP \$28,744.00
 - Cancellations
 - None

Buildings, Grounds, and Technology

- Kelleen, the Valpo branch Volunteer Coordinator, worked with Hayley to create a visual guide for the identification of invasive plant species. This will be extremely helpful for those who want to help maintain the bioswale but aren't sure where to start. Kelleen has onboarded a new volunteer who is going to identify and remove invasive plants and weeds from our bioswale.
- The Kouts branch was able to get most of the issues with their sprinkler system ironed out this month, thanks to Jason and Shambaugh. Several lines were replaced without having to close the branch or disrupt patrons. Unfortunately, several other issues arose after the Kouts lost power during one of the bigger storms. A larger leak occurred in the AV area, but, thanks to staff, the issue was noticed right away and we were able to get Shambaugh in to do some emergency repairs before it became more of a problem. There are still repairs that need to be done. Jason will be working with Shambaugh on these issues.
- Both Kouts and Hebron have started major weeding and shifting projects. The hope is that all materials can be brought up from the very bottom shelves, to make it easier for patrons. We are also hoping that we can spread out some of our collections that have been feeling a bit crowded.

- The Valpo branch continues to make progress on its collection-shifting goals. Thanks to
 Jason and Aidan, two fiction stacks have each been extended by two columns, which
 allows this collection to breathe a bit. The team has also made significant headway on
 adult nonfiction shifting. Valpo managers have really joined forces and made this project
 a priority.
- PCPLS and the city of Portage broke ground on the Portage Library Garden. We have received great feedback and support from the community as everyone looks forward to beginning the project.
- Nathan is working with our programming team to start planning some IT classes for later this year. We will coordinate these classes with the implementation of our new patron computers.
- Jesse, Stu, and Roger met with contractors regarding our South Haven Library Garden.
 Challenges include drainage and the fast-growing forest.
- Jesse, Jason, and Sarah got together to finalize the pathway locations at the South Haven Library location. This path is meant to be whimsical and engaging. We can't wait for it to be constructed!
- We received a grant from the Valpo Tri Kappa group which we used towards our purchase of two new AWE Learning kids tablets. The tablets will be a great alternative to the AWE workstations. They should be set up and available to use by the end of August.
- We have been looking into our camera system lately and have researched a few different options but ultimately decided to continue using our current solution for now and reevaluate the system as a whole later on. We are working with Videotec to get cameras installed on the exterior of the South Haven branch to cover the new garden area.
- Managers attended a Sensource training to learn how to create and utilize different aspects of reports that our people counter has to offer. This information will help managers with staffing levels and program scheduling, as well as help them assess other needs of the buildings.
- Our leadership team attended a demo on a new product called PITS that would allow us
 to centrally manage our incident reports. Incidents happen throughout our system and
 being able to house and make the searchable would greatly enhance our processes.

Public Relations and Marketing

- The total reach for social media and newsletters during July was 124,417.
- Facebook:
 - Our Facebook reach was 41,622.
 - Our account has 6,250 followers.
- Twitter:
 - The System has 567 total followers. We made 2 tweets with 618 impressions this month.
- Instagram:
 - The System has 1,384 Instagram followers.
 - We shared 21 posts on Instagram with 3,227 impressions.
- YouTube:
 - The System has 140 total subscribers. Our videos had 457 views this month.

Pinterest:

- The System has 83 followers. Our Pinterest account's reach was 41 people for the month.
- Newsletters: Our e-blasts were opened approximately 76,338 times this month.
- TikTok: Our TikTok now has 805 subscribers. We posted 4 new videos and had 2,114 total views this month.
- Virtual Customer Service: Interacted with 84 patrons.
- Google: 9 new five-star reviews
 - "Clean building, well organized with very good selection, friendly & helpful staff."
 - o "Excelente"
 - "I ran in today to pick up my library card after applying online. I forgot to ask the name of the woman who helped me, but you were absolutely amazing. You were so genuinely helpful and willing to offer information. In what seemed like maybe 5-7 minutes, you made me feel welcome and like I should absolutely come back, because there's a lot more to find than just the digital services I was looking for. Thank you for being so positive!"
 - "I love Valpo library!♥"
 - "Donated a 2022 ed of Who's Who in America to them staff accepted nicely. Also visited Friends of the Library used books. Staff there are also very pleasant and helpful."
- PCPLS participated in Independence Day festivities more specifically, parades in three
 cities this year! Hebron, South Haven, and Portage all had a blast promoting our Imagine
 Your Story Summer Reading program to our patrons. Hebron's may have even had a Bigfoot
 sighting in the midst.
- Our Marketing team helped to promote the Friends of the Library on their Nelson's Chicken fundraiser, which was a finger-lickin' chicken-filled success!
- For the majority of the month, our Marketing and Outreach team planned our booth for the
 Porter County Fair, which we worked from opening day to the end and with great success!
 Our booth won the Porter County Fair's blue ribbon for Most Interactive or Engaging Display
 thanks to our story corner set-up designed by our Outreach Specialist, Makenna Fetch! We
 also managed to reach over six thousand patrons, and surveyed nearly 500 of them for our
 PCPLS Marketing Plan!
- Storytime at the Fair Several library staff utilized JUMBO picture books to hold an impromptu storytime at the Porter County Fair booth. Staff included Ashley M. (Systems Programming Coordinator), Kellie B (Valpo), and Miss Dawn from the Kouts branch who even engaged teenagers!
- Ashley M. and Courtney W. (Valpo) were invited by Alicia Vara (school librarian) to
 participate in a Pop-Up Summer Reading Program alongside the Valpo Fire Department at
 Thomas Jefferson Elementary. They had the opportunity to highlight the library and read a
 few stories to the children and their guardians.
- PCPLS' maintenance van is officially being wrapped with a beautiful Indiana Dunes design
 that parallels our library card design this will be a walking (driving) advertisement for
 PCPLS with the intent of driving traffic to our branches and getting donations to support our
 library system as a whole.
- Jesse, Willow, Nina, and Makenna have been working diligently in collaboration with the

- Porter County Board of Commissioners on promotional materials for Porter County's portion of the Indiana Broadband initiative.
- Our marketing team has begun launching two new ways to promote library programs and events - through print marketing materials in our elevators and using the televisions behind our circulation desks.
- Sunset Hill had a new addition to its already beautiful landscape as the System
 Programming Team installed the latest StoryWalk—the enchanting story of "Mother Bruce"
 by Ryan Higgins. Families and children alike could be seen enjoying the delightful tale as
 they strolled through the walkway.
- Allison and Monique worked together to create a display strategy for the Valpo branch.
 The goal is to add structure to the existing process while encouraging and empowering
 staff members to participate in display planning. This will be great for morale, with the
 added bonus of allowing our displays to be switched out more frequently.
- Jesse attended broadband webinars or meetings from the States of Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin to provide as much background information as possible as we work to help expand broadband access in Porter County.
- PCPLS' Community engagement team met with, attended, and/or coordinated several community partners and events during the month, with highlights below.
 - VU Service Day at Valpo branch
 - Nurse-Family Partnership
 - Help Me Grow Steering Committee / First Things First Porter County
 - Valpo Chamber's Rededication Ceremony and networking event
 - Valparaiso International Center
- The Friends of the Library held their first-ever Nelson's Chicken fundraiser. This outstanding event was an opportunity to raise both money and awareness of the Library.
- Jesse gave a tour to the Executive Director of Opportunity Enterprises. This core community partner meeting was an excellent opportunity to expand on the partnerships we have been developing for the last 5 years.
- Jesse gave a presentation to the Exchange Club of Portage. This was a wonderful
 opportunity to meet new community partners and open their eyes to the many ways our
 library is able to serve the community.
- Jesse has been meeting with School Superintendents regarding the Broadband initiative.
- Jesse was invited to be on Councilman Simms' radio show recently to speak about all things library for over an hour. We only scratched the surface and can't wait to be invited back on!

Youth and Teen Services

- The town of Kouts might not have had its own 4th of July parade, but the Kouts library put on its own little celebration during its Happy Birthday America drop-in program. There were games, crafts, and even a story or two read. Everyone's favorite part was getting to march around the library with shakers.
- The Hebron library had a fantastic time at their Family Fairytale STEAM Workshop. Kids got to try and figure out different ways to help get Jack down the beanstalk faster and

- how to make sure Humpty Dumpty didn't get hurt on his fall from the wall. The kids loved the challenges and the parents loved the educational experience. '
- July at the Valparaiso branch means Bubblepalooza! The team has been doing it for 3 years now, and it is a highly anticipated event for patrons and staff alike! This year featured a life-size inflatable unicorn sprinkler! We look forward to having it again next year, bigger and better.
- Our Systems Programming teams booked several exciting events for July at all five library branches. Balloon Artist Smarty Pants performed his Out of this World Space Show at Valpo, South Haven, and Hebron. He created amazing balloon sculptures that are truly out of this world! Meanwhile, Dave Dinaso's Traveling World of Reptiles visited all five branches. Children had an opportunity to hold and pet the reptiles, everyone was especially excited to touch the python. Finally, Nicole Harmon with Humane Indiana brought several of their Wildlife Ambassadors to each of our branches and presented at a Mini Renaissance Fair in Hebron.
- From July 10th through the 16th staff and patrons across all 5 branches enjoyed
 dressing up for the annual spirit week! All days of spirit week tied in with this year's SRP
 theme, Imagine your story. Any patrons that participated in spirit week had the
 opportunity to pick a prize from a treasure chest. Included in the treasure boxes were
 coupons given by local businesses Culver, McDonalds, and Family Express.
- The Valpo Youth Services department offered a different craft each day of Spirit Week, to go along with that day's theme. This allowed kids to participate in Spirit Week and get a prize. One stand-out craft was creating Paper Hat! A photo may be found in the System Snaps.
- The Hebron Library Mini-Renaissance Faire was a total success with 364 attendees! The event was filled with knights showing off their fighting skills, carnival games, and fun crafts, including local food vendor, Butter and Grace. The SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) generously donated their time and effort to come dressed in their armored best to give demonstrations of how medieval knights dressed and proved themselves in battle. Nicole Harmon from Humane Indiana also brought in their fantastic birds of prey to talk about how falcons were a big part of medieval European life. The library staff and volunteers worked hard to ensure everyone had a good time. It was a truly memorable event!
- The Valpo branch participated in the Festival of Magic again this year, a community-wide scavenger hunt created by local businesses Running Vines and Aftermath. Valpo team member Courtney hosted a Harry Potter bookmark craft as well as a scavenger hunt in the Library Rotary Garden. The event ran from July 28th-30th, and our building was definitely abuzz with excitement the whole weekend!
- While Book-A-Librarian requests slowed in July the community engagement team was able to update the appointment interface to make it easier for patrons who would like to book a librarian in the upcoming school year.
- The Community Engagement team updated the Teacher Toolkit to send out to the schools before school starts up again which includes book-a-librarian information, education resources, and our StoryWalk located around Porter County.

- Fairy Tales were a popular theme at the Portage and South Haven branch, our most popular programs for the summer included our Beauty and the Beast Breakfast, Twilight Tales, and Crayon Crafternoon.
- Each week in June we had weekly drawings for patrons who had filled out tickets
 including weekly prizes donated by Porter County Fair, Yours Truly Bath Co. (Valparaiso,
 IN), and the Friends of the Library. Each week a branch announces the raffle winner
 highlighting their displays while promoting summer reading and additional programs
 patrons can participate in during the summer. The video recordings were posted on our
 newsletters and Facebook.

Adult Services

- Valpo team members Allison and Kristin put on a new program for adults, Improv Night! Attendees clearly had a blast playing improv games together, judging by the sounds of laughter and applause coming from the meeting rooms throughout this program!
- Hebron and Kouts branches were able to have their very popular adult painting
 programs this month. To celebrate this year's summer reading theme, our talented Sarah
 M. took our patrons to explore the mythology of Greece through art. Patrons were able
 to come and create fun abstract Greek statue paintings.
- Ashley and Sandra visited OE for the monthly visit from the Library and played Giant Jenga with a twist. After each turn, the participants had to answer a "get to know you" question. Ashley promoted the Summer Reading Program and the fact that PCPLS carries board games and books and movies related to board games!
- Publicity for Portage's Senior Art Fair went out and we had many inquiries all month long. Staff prepped handouts, entry forms, place cards, and space gearing up for the month-long event.
- The Valpo manager team has been working hard to lay the groundwork for a new shelf reading system. This has involved labeling shelves and creating collection "maps" to keep track of what has been shelf read so far. The shelf reading system will be introduced in the upcoming branch meeting. Once this is in effect, the shelves will be tidier and more accurately in order.
- Sarah G. met with the South Haven and Portage Book Club leads to discuss possible 2024 book club titles and the coordination and vision of the clubs going forward.

Technical Services

- Inge and TS team members met with our new Ingram rep at the end of the month. We explored several tools offered including Ingram Express as a potential alternative to Amazon ordering, and different optimization options to streamlining our services.
- TS soft-launched several Roku devices to staff in order to gather feedback from staff and make adjustments to the service. Circulation to all patrons is the next step. The first devices to circulate will be preloaded with Netflix, with other streaming services to follow. This is especially important as popular TV titles are increasingly becoming available through streaming services only, with no, or a very delayed, DVD release.
- Tech Services has added a number of "high interest-low vocabulary" books to our system. This unofficial collection was selected in an effort to combat lower literacy

- comprehension brought on by the learning disruptions as a result of the pandemic. So far, about half of these books have been cataloged and added to our juvenile and young adult collections.
- TS staff have reached out to more librarians to better understand the benefits and pitfalls
 of implementing RFID in a consortium setting. We are particularly interested in hearing
 from front-line workers as they may provide the most relevant information on the
 day-to-day operations involved in using RFID-tagged materials along with traditionally
 barcoded materials.

Genealogy

- Preparation has started for our August workshop on using newspapers for genealogy.
 Kathy will be the presenter here in Valpo.
- Our volunteer Orlando has finished an index of the Valparaiso Technical Institute materials.
- Genealogy has become home to the donated MagniSight machine. It is very helpful for reading the current phone book.
- Our team is constantly working together with the branch teams. This month we were able to pass a reference question on Gabriel's Horn to Portage Reference. They had a file of clippings where we did not.
- We set up a department tour for Aug. 7 with DAR members. Some have been volunteers but did not do research here. What a great opportunity to expose them to all we have to offer.
- We pulled files on inventors that had lived in Porter County. Found articles about events in Beverly Shores and the original Crisman school in Portage.
- Visitors this month have included people from Idaho, Texas, and Fort Wayne.

Valparaiso











- Bubblepalooza is always a great time, but this year our unicorn sprinkler topped it all!
- Bubblepalooza is a lot more than just bubbles and water we also have giant games like Connect 4, crafts, and more.
- 3 Staff member Melaina made some beautiful faeries for our dollhouse in Youth Services to add to the summer reading spirit!
- Miss Emily's Slime program was a hit, and patrons just loved getting to make their own slime to take home.
- 5 Children pick their Spirit Week prizes on Paper Hat Day!

Hebron











- Did you know you could find a bunch of Fantastic Beasts at the Hebron branch? Just pay a visit to Trivia Night!
- Even our favorite stuffed friends can take part in Summer Reading Spirit Week at the Hebron branch.
- We love when Caleb the Comfort Dog comes to visit us he typically visits for our Paws to Read program, and everyone has a good time.
- This month at Storytime, we learned about how important it is to make a strong brick house so that the big bad wolf can't blow it down!
- At Hebron's Mini Renaissance Faire, we were lucky enough to experience some thrilling battle demonstrations from our local SCA group.

Kouts











- Though Humane Indiana are known for their bird ambassadors, their opossum friend was a welcome addition to their program this month!
- This scaly, slithery snake received plenty of pets from some brave patrons at Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles event.
- We had a great time at our Royal Ball Storytime, and plenty of princesses made an appearance.
- This month, we had tons of fun building troll bridges for our Wacky Wednesday program!
- Brush Away the Blues was a smash, and our patrons loved creating their own masterpieces during this one.

Portage











- Rain or shine, the Portage 4th of July Parade is always a blast!
- 2 Dave the Reptile Guy packed the house at Portage we loved having him.
- 3 Staff loved to dress their fairytale best for Summer Reading Spirit Week this year.
- We had some pretty brave patrons during Dave's Reptile Show some were even willing to let the snakes slither across them!
- 5 Everyone in the audience loved seeing Humane Indiana's live skunk!

South Haven











- 1 Fairytale-themed crafts were a hit for the duration of July at the South Haven branch!
- Nobody can compete with Mr. SmartyPants and his Out of This World Balloon Show.
- 3 Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles was a hit, and our kids loved getting to pet all the snakes and other reptilian pals.
- 4 Humane Indiana's owl ambasador is always a hit.
- Even staff got into the Summer Reading spirit this year. Jess from South Haven even got into her unicorn gear to help with some fairytale crafts!

in Our Community











- Miss Dawn hosts a fantastic pop-up storytime at the Fair for children, parents, teens, and everyone in between!
- A group of Valparaiso University students pose for a photo while helping to clean up our Rotary Library Garden.
- A few folks at Opportunity Enterprise's Respite House play "Get to Know Me" Jenga, where each block prompts an ice breaker syle question!
- Our beautiful blue ribbon was displayed on our table for the duration of the Porter County Fair after winning "Most Interactive or Engaging Display 2023" with our drop-in Story Corner!
- Tiffani and Ashley from our System Programming team install a new StoryWalk.