



TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT
LIBRARY

Talking Book Library
Annual Report to the Antrim County Board of Commissioners
July 2020

TADL's Talking Book Library provides people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding a printed page in eight northwestern Michigan counties with audio players, audiobooks, audio magazines, sheet music, and braille materials through a federally mandated program, the National Library Service, overseen by the Library of Congress.

The service is completely free, and materials are shipped directly to our patrons and are returned via the U.S. Postal Service's "Free Matter for the Blind" program. Nearly 80 percent of our patrons are those who have lost their vision due to age-related issues such as macular degeneration and diabetes; they often have few or no other options for education and entertainment aside from television and radio. Talking Book Library services provide an engaging and informative alternative through the convenience of their mailbox.

Finances - Calendar and fiscal year 2020:

Projected revenue	
Local funds (TADL millage, county contributions, donations)	\$36,521
State Aid	\$41,074
Total	\$77,595
Projected expenses	
Personnel	\$71,790
Services	\$4105
Supplies and capital expense	\$1700
Total	\$77,595

Programs:

The Talking Book Library is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm, excluding holidays, staff training days, and pandemic related closings. In 2019, the library circulated over 46,000 titles, visited at least one venue in each of the eight counties we serve, and offered a monthly book discussion, a holiday open house, a World Sight Day program, and ongoing one-on-one technology tutorials. We also offer a small senior outreach program that includes regular monthly visits to area senior living facilities, providing reference and circulation services.

During the last year, TBL staff regularly communicated with Antrim County facilities such as Meadowbrook Medical Care Facility and Bellaire Public Library, both exceptional partners in promoting the service to potential new patrons and continued support for existing patrons through book orders and book discussion groups.

Circulation:

The Talking Book Library circulated 3,621 items to our 40 Antrim County patrons during the past 12 months. Patrons in Antrim County continue to increase their use of the BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) digital service, which allows patrons to download titles on demand, providing great freedom and flexibility to meet their reading needs. Over 110,000 books, magazines, and musical scores are available for immediate download.

Respectfully submitted,



Polly O'Shea, MLS
Librarian, Talking Book Library
610 Woodmere Avenue
Traverse City, Michigan 49686
(231) 932-8558
poshea@tadl.org