

Alpine Public Library 2023 Annual Report

The Alpine Public Library works to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning. We endeavor to create and maintain a welcoming facility with relevant and enriching resources that connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world.

Thank you for the invaluable support you gave APL over the past year. The library, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, relies on your individual contributions as well as a variety of funding sources including, grants, library sales, fundraising events, and local government support to meet the budget. Your tax-deductible contribution makes a significant impact on the success of the library and our community. We are fortunate that both Brewster County and the City of Alpine have increased annual allotments to the library for 23-24 fiscal year. The library also has a dedicated group of volunteers that give many hours of their valuable time, supporting every aspect of library operations. Thank you so much! Your support makes Alpine Public Library a valuable resource for our community.

APL's adult education program had a very



successful year. The first in-person high school equivalency (HSE) class started in May. Classes continued through the summer and two students completed their HSE tests in APL's Pearson Vue testing center. We had a graduation ceremony in October with about 30 family and friends to help celebrate the occasion. The

graduates still have smiles on their faces. A fall session started in September with ten students. One of the fall students completed the HSE exam and two more will finish soon.

APL's long-awaited expansion started becoming a physical reality in September. After almost six years of planning and



fundraising we are on schedule to finish construction in June of this year. Rough-in plumbing and concrete work are complete. Lumber, roof trusses, and some windows are in site. When the block wall is finished, framing will start followed by electrical and HVAC work. Of course, the schedule assumes favorable weather and adequate availability of materials and supplies. A few comments have been heard about more tax money going into the library for the expansion. Actually, no tax money is being used. APL is making a million-dollar investment in the future of our community. All funding necessary to complete the project was raised through grants and individual donations from library supporters. Our goal is to create a welcoming environment, a community hub that provides education and literacy and connects people with resources they need to thrive.

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In September APL launched the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory with support and funding from the Big Bend Regional Hospital District. The directory is a new source for health and social service information for residents and visitors to the Big Bend region.

BigBendHelp.org is a website that has links, phone numbers and addresses for programs, hotlines, and organizations throughout the tri-county area.

Kids Programming

Toddler Time continues to be a favorite program at the library. We usually have a full



house of kids and parents each week. The focus of the program is early childhood development with reading, finger-plays, singing, dancing, and sensory activities for kids up to the age of 5.

Throughout the year the library offers Family Science Nights with different STEM themes. Last year activities included astronomy, math, physics, and simple circuits. The programs are designed to be fun for the whole family.

The library received a grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Institute of Museum

and Library Services for a Texas Reads Program. In cooperation with the Alpine Independent School District, APL is working with kids in 4th and 5th grade classes.

The goal of the program is to help mitigate learning losses caused by the pandemic, generate enthusiasm for reading, and augment students' social-emotional learning using the novel, *The Tiger Rising*, by Kate DiCamillo. This program will focus on the literary technique of symbolism and includes a 3D printing project.

Summer Reading



Summer programs were well attended this year. *Better Together*, from June to August, included the *Kids United* program with different topics each week

including a couple of visits from Big Bend Ranch State Park rangers. Beanstack online reading programs were available for kids and adults.

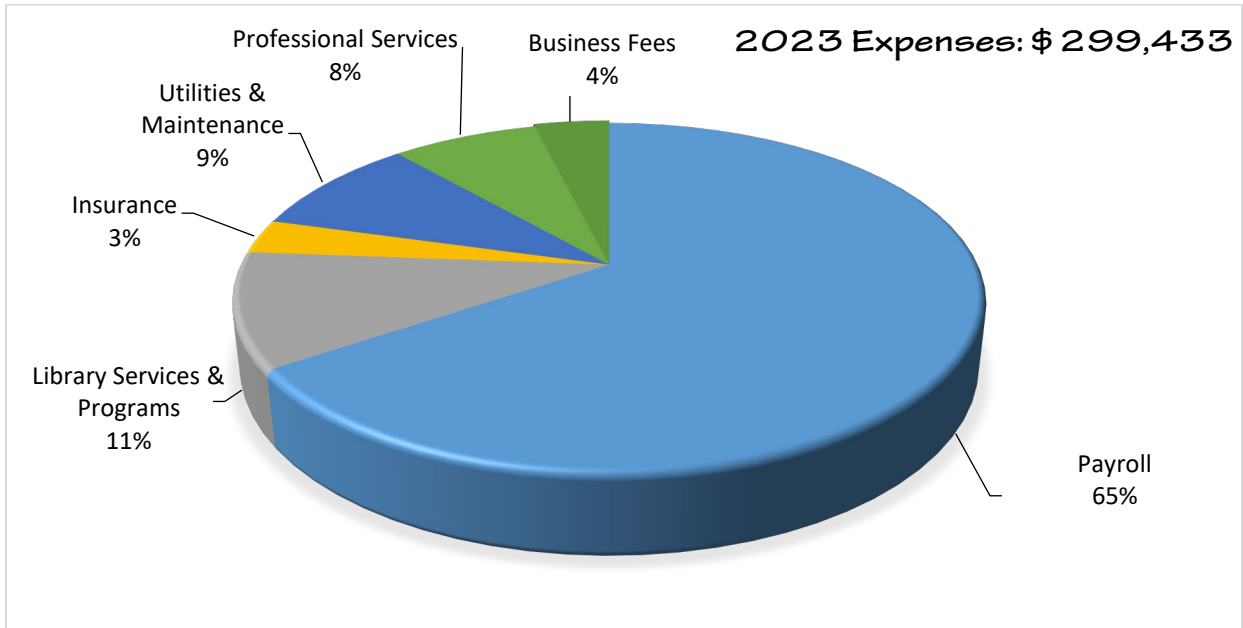
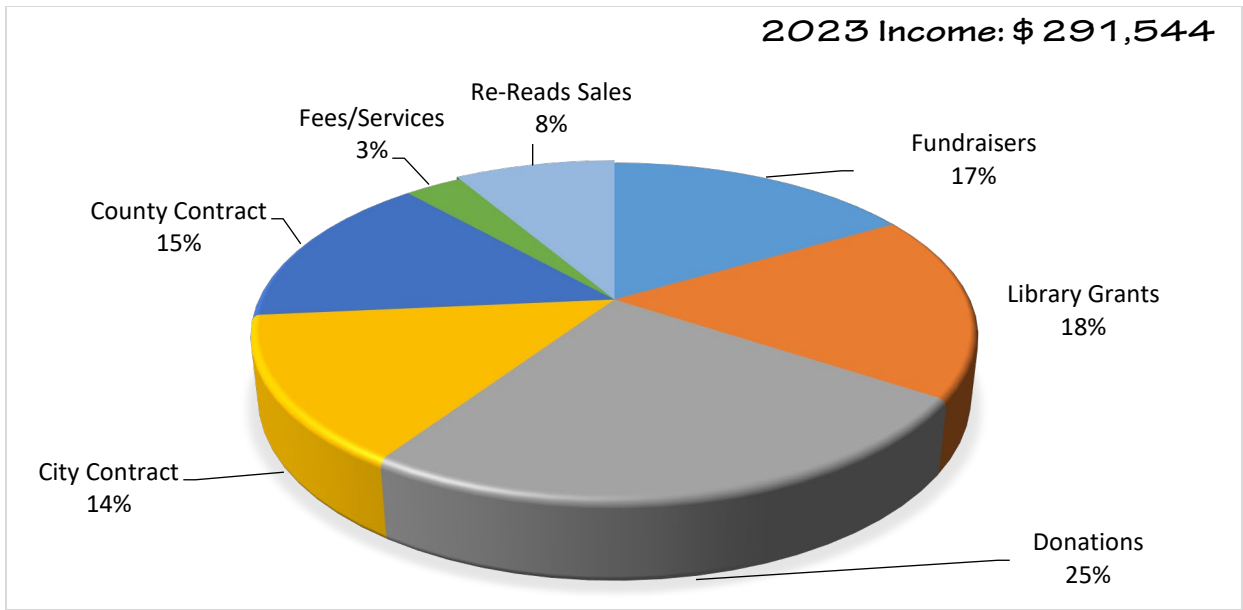
Finally, we just received a grant from Texas Rural Communities, Inc. for adult programming. We are planning workshops on health and wellness, first aid, financial management, and legal issues during 2024.

Thanks again for helping APL meet the mission.

Respectfully,

Don Wetterauer, Executive Director

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Library Statistics for 2023

3,055 patrons
326 new Brewster County patrons in 2023
50 non-Brewster County members
111 TexShare patrons
32,049 patron visits to the library
28,383 holdings
26,992 circulations
10,805 Re-Reads visits
163 Interlibrary loan materials sent from APL to other libraries
288 Interlibrary loan materials received for APL patrons
289 Youth programs
6,738 Youth program attendance
305 Adult programs
2,393 Adult program attendance

2024 APL Board of Directors

Linda Bryant, President
Isabel Jones, Vice President
Betsy Helesic, Secretary
Ralph Gruebel, Treasurer
Mary Bennett
Maggie Bootman
Judy Bowers
Marilyn Gruebel
Greg Henington, Brewster County Representative
Martin Sandate, City of Alpine Representative

APL Staff

Don Wetterauer, Executive Director
Mary Beth Garrett, Children's Librarian
Christine Cavazos, Technical Services
Joseline Cintrón, Circulation Librarian
Bianca Gutierrez-Barrera, Adult Education Coordinator
Michael Haas, Circulation Librarian
Sonia Pilonieta, Bookkeeper
Gina Richardson, Circulation Librarian
Miah Rodriguez, Circulation Librarian
Jocelyn Longoria, SRSU work study student