

Know Your Library: Partnerships

We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together - Bill Richardson.

How true it is that when many entities work together, they can accomplish more than the individual. The New Glarus Public Library has formed many partnerships with other groups in our community to enhance the services offered to the area residents. A few of the well-established partnerships include the School District of New Glarus, the New Glarus Home, and the Swiss Historical Society.

The public library staff has worked closely with the staff at the schools in New Glarus to provide students with additional sources for research, to promote literacy through the Summer Reading Program and to provide New Glarus faculty members with an educator's library card, which can be used to check out materials for classroom use. The school district and the public library work together to promote the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program and encourage students to use the public library for pleasure reading or research. Additionally, they promote use of the many databases available through the public library such as, Badgerlink.net and Tutor.com.

The public library has worked closely with the staff at the New Glarus Home bringing residents materials to read, making audio books available and scheduling some library programs at the New Glarus Home campus, making it easier for the residents to attend.

In 2011 the New Glarus Public Library collaborated with the New Glarus Historical Society and the Swiss Church on a digitization project, which captures the images of historical documents and makes them available to anyone via the Internet. This way the original documents can be preserved, but the public can have access to the information. This project also involved working with the University of Wisconsin - Madison and using their digitization resources.

Other partners, who have played an important role include the Town of New Glarus, who has been very supportive over the years with special gifts to the library including the magazine shelving and a microfiche reader. The Public Library and the Board of Trustees have a good working relationship with the Swiss Center of North America and look forward to coordinating some activities in the future, including possible sharing of the collection at the Swiss Center and presenting genealogy programs and information workshops.

In the spring of 2014, the New Glarus Vision group worked with the public library and the school district to distribute books to grades Pre-K - 2 at the New Glarus Elementary School. Each year the library adds to its list of partnerships and knows how valuable each one is to the whole of the community. Please contact the library, if you have a way in which your organization can partner with the library to enhance the services that are offered.

Submitted by The New Glarus Public Library Capital Campaign