

Community Needs Response Plan

2021-2024

Rising City Community Library

Our Mission

The Rising City Community Library provides quality resources and innovative services to stimulate creativity, intellectual curiosity, and to facilitate lifelong learning and research within the township we serve.

Our Vision

The Rising City Community Library will be the hub and academic town square of the Reading Township community by being an essential component of the academic and creative life of our community. We will excel in: collecting, preserving, and providing access to the best scholarly and educational resources; providing high quality, innovative services; and creating a welcoming and comfortable physical environment. We will foster an atmosphere that encourages diversity, excellence, and continued growth in finding ways to surpass our own high standards.

Our Values

We believe the library is central to the intellectual and creative lives of the people we serve. We are committed to:

- Access
- Service to Reading Township
- Life-long learning
- Intellectual and academic freedom
- Collaboration
- Mutual respect and civility
- Responsible stewardship

The Rising City Community Library was founded in the 1960s by a majority vote of the people of Reading Township. Since then the Board of Directors has managed a mostly volunteer staff who has diligently loaned out a modest collection of books and media. In 2020 the Board of Directors and Library Director decided it was time to do more, and be more to our community. With our Mission, Vision, Values and Goals as our starting point and a desire to serve our community, our team, comprised of board members and staff, has reviewed information compiled from surveys mailed out to township residents and information seeking meetings and conversations with community members.

After reviewing all input several clear themes emerged.

Modernization: We need to bring our library into the 21st century.

Consistent comments were, outdated selection, uninviting presence, “nothing I want/need”, “we never know when you’re open”/Inconvenient hours.

Connection: We need to find new and innovative ways to serve our patrons and their changing needs.

Being “just books” is no longer enough, after reviewing the census statistics, we found an underserved population with low income, aging and immigrant families needing access to more than entertainment.

Awareness: We need to bring our changes to the public eye.

Being a rural library and serving a very diverse and sparse population, it is challenging to ensure everyone is aware of what the library has to offer. A newspaper ad or monthly newsletter is no longer enough.

Our Strategy going forward.

Modernization

Goal: To provide library services and resources in multiple formats that meet our users needs. To reimagine the physical space of the library to better meet the demands of our townships needs in the future.

Potential Actions:

Receive and review ongoing feedback from our community to ensure all needs are addressed and met if feasible.

Review physical spaces to ensure we are using our available space to meet our patron needs and plan for future spaces if or when they become available.

Connection

Goal: Increase collaboration with students, surrounding schools and organizations and our community as a whole.

Potential Actions:

Expand our current collection to include more diverse books and media to include education and personal development.

Seek out innovative ways to bring information to our patrons through resources available to the library, that we may, then pass on to the public.

Awareness

Goal: Educate users about the library's services and resources.

Potential Actions:

Redeveloping our newsletter to be more accessible to everyone.

Maximize our social media presence.