

Groton Public Library

Groton is a rural town located in Tompkins County, NY. It is a working class community with a population of 5,950 in which the "Families below Poverty Level" is 11.5%, (US average is 9.9%), but it has a beloved Public Library that is invaluable to the community. In fact, over ¾ of its budget is raised through property taxes, and generations of Groton high school students have worked there as Library Aides. Patrons not only have great pride in, and respect for, their library, but depend on the services offered therein. Some of those services are:

*(combined average of Groton Town & Village, US Census, 2010)

COMPUTER USAGE:

October, 2011 -- 4/5 desktop computers in use during every open hour (600 1-hr sessions)

Wi-Fi usage -- 1000 hrs. on personal laptops

PATRON USAGE: 2011 evening usage increased by 50%

OPEN HOURS: 2011 increased Open Hours by 11%

COLLECTIONS: Revamping & enriching Youth "Easy-Reader" collection (Grant from Friends of TCPL)

TEEN ED PROGRAMS: "Ag Ed Sustainability" -Green Initiates Practices – eat healthy, growing own food, career paths in agriculture

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING: 15 tutoring sessions per week of one-on-one teacher/high school students

ADULT ED PROGRAMS: Implemented free "Monthly Book Club" & "Learn to Knit" programs

TECHNOLOGY: Added 2 "Nook E-Readers" – in continuous circulation (FLLS grant from NYS Sen. Valesky)

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: 2011 highest enrollment in program's history

FRIENDS' GROUP ACTIVITY: "Garden Gnomes Program" Summer, 2011 volunteers spent 15 hrs./mo. maintaining Library's perennial gardens (appx. \$500 savings to the Library)

All these programs, activities and services were provided in 2010-11 with an annual budget of \$195,760. That's a lot of bang for the buck. We came here today to make you aware that for every dollar NYS Aide to Libraries is reduced, a disproportionate result is felt in rural communities that are already fiscally at risk. With an ever-growing number of families falling below the poverty level, the citizens of Groton, NY, are increasingly dependent on their public library to provide internet services to job-seekers, a place to receive tutoring during after-school hours, educational programs for young children, teens, adults, and summer reading programs to keep kids engaged in education over the summer recess—services they would not otherwise have access to. Enrichment programs (often community led) and volunteer activities also speak to the library's local support.

In summary, we recognize that you, our State legislators, are facing major fiscal issues, but as you do so, I ask you to "remember the rurals", the library in the community in which you grew up. I also ask you to remember during these deliberations just how important that library was to you then, and how you might possibly not be where you are today had it not been there for you.

2010 Budget \$195,760

24% from NYS and Tompkins County

76% from property taxes

WITHOUT NYS & County funding (8% reduction from each of these 3 categories) would result in:

Salaries	56.44%	Salaries	884 less hrs./yr (@\$10/hr)
Operating	36.12%	Operating	41 less open days/yr.
Materials	7.44%	Materials	100 fewer new books

Population Served: 5,950 **WITHOUT NYS & County funding** (8% reduction)

Per Capita Expenditure \$32.90 **Per Capita Expenditure** \$25.00