

ELANCO LIBRARY

2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



ELANCO Library

The Eastern Lancaster County Library (ELANCO Library) aspires to be a **community center aiding in the creation of a stronger and healthier community and civil society**. As the public library for approximately **25,000** residents of five rural municipalities (Caernarvon Township, East Earl Township, Earl Township, New Holland Borough, and Terre Hill Borough) and beyond, we've served the public for **91** years since our establishment in **1933** by the New Holland Business and Professional Woman's Club.

In **2024**, ELANCO Library made the bold move to expand and renovate our Children's Library, and the Library's entire Lower Level. This project was made possible due to a generous donation of **\$150,000** from an individual who insisted upon remaining strictly anonymous and stipulated that the contribution could not be used for ordinary operating expenses but rather was for a special new project to "do something good for the library". Listening to library users, ELANCO area residents, and community leaders and organizations, we identified the most pressing need and desire that ELANCO Library could fill: a new high-quality learning and gathering space for families, especially for parents of preschool-aged children. ELANCO Library thanks the numerous **individual and business donors** who gave funds towards the renovation, the **volunteers** who contributed their **expertise and labor**, and the **businesses** who provided **donated and discounted products and services**. **Weaver Commercial** was wonderful to work with as they completed the construction, renovation, and finishing, and their final products are beautiful. A most special thank you is due to **Jen Watson**, ELANCO Library's **Assistant Director/Youth Services Coordinator** who displayed remarkable dedication, ingenuity, and skills beyond those normally required of a children's librarian during the execution of this project. Due to the hard work of **ELANCO Library's extraordinary team**, which includes **nine Library Assistants and our Controller**, ELANCO Library continued all services and children's programs as usual and made sure that approximately **64%** of the library's children's books and other materials remained available for checkout during the renovation, although the Children's Library, and the Library's entire Lower Level, was closed from January to May 2024.

The vision of the ELANCO Library is to be a highly valued, **inclusive** community resource for education, empowerment, enlightenment, enrichment and entertainment. Approximately **40%** of children who live in the Library's service area do not attend public schools, but rather, are **homeschooled, attend small church-based schools, or participate in co-ops or other educational arrangements**. A focus for ELANCO Library in 2024 was to **increase the support the Library offers to these learners and their families**, while **maintaining our strong partnership with, and extensive provision of services to, ELANCO School District**. Initiatives included launching a **speaker series featuring guest experts** who provided their insights on navigating Pennsylvania's homeschooling laws, developing reading fluency, and charting the path from homeschooled high school to college, career, or military, and more; **beginning to select, create, and assemble new hands-on learning kits to support homeschooling families to add to the library's lending collection**; and providing additional library instruction, resource sessions, and alerts to homeschooling families and co-ops.

If 2024 was the year of enhancements to the library's Lower Level, in **2025**, you can look out for **exciting changes on the library's Top Floor**. ELANCO Library plans to make urgently needed improvements to building infrastructure in 2025. Finally, 2025 will mark the conclusion of the library's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. We will work with our community to **craft a new five year plan** to continue to offer cardholders and other library visitors free, convenient, and consistent access to the books and other information resources they need, and to intentionally and effectively provide quality programs and services to **all** residents of ELANCO Library's service area.

Thinking even farther ahead, to cope with the formidable challenge of having to **raise 60% or more of our very frugal operating budget each year**, we will be seeking creative solutions to obtain **stable, sufficient, and sustainable funding** for the library so that we make it to our **100th anniversary in 2033** and ensure that **our vital offerings continue for many generations to come**.

Sincerely, Anna D'Agostino, Library Director

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A NEW CHAPTER:

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY EXPANSION AND RENOVATION



ELANCO Library

ELANCO Library is thrilled to have ***expanded and renovated*** our ***Children's Library***.

The project included:

Transforming a storage closet into an ***Early Learning Area*** for education and recreation for ***children age birth to five and their parents*** or caregivers

Creating a ***suitable space*** for ***teen programming***, which doubles as an ***attractive meeting room*** for community groups

Upgrading the HVAC system for ***improved air quality***

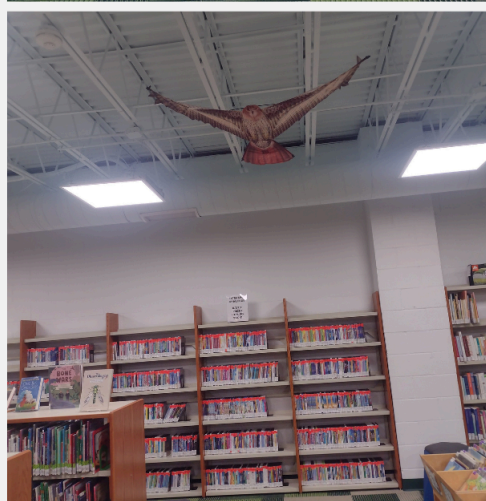
Enhancing the entire Children's Library with a ***raised ceiling, carpet, paint, improved lighting, some new furnishings, and more.***

Please visit

elancolibrary.org/a-new-chapter/

for more photographs of the Children's Library and a ***slideshow of pictures*** from the grand re-opening celebration.

A heartfelt ***thank you*** to all the ***volunteers, donors,*** and other community members who helped to make this project possible.



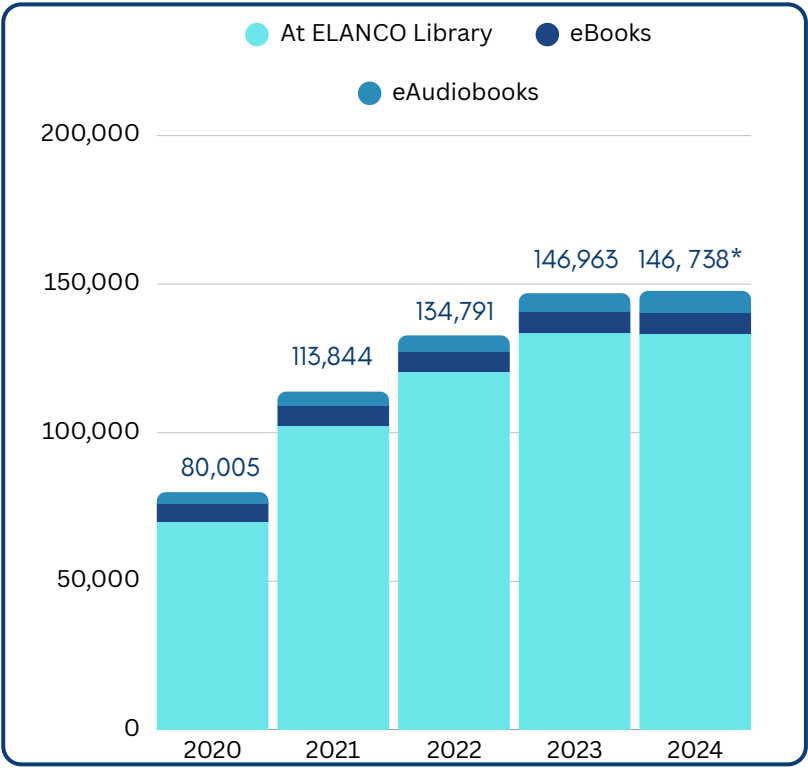
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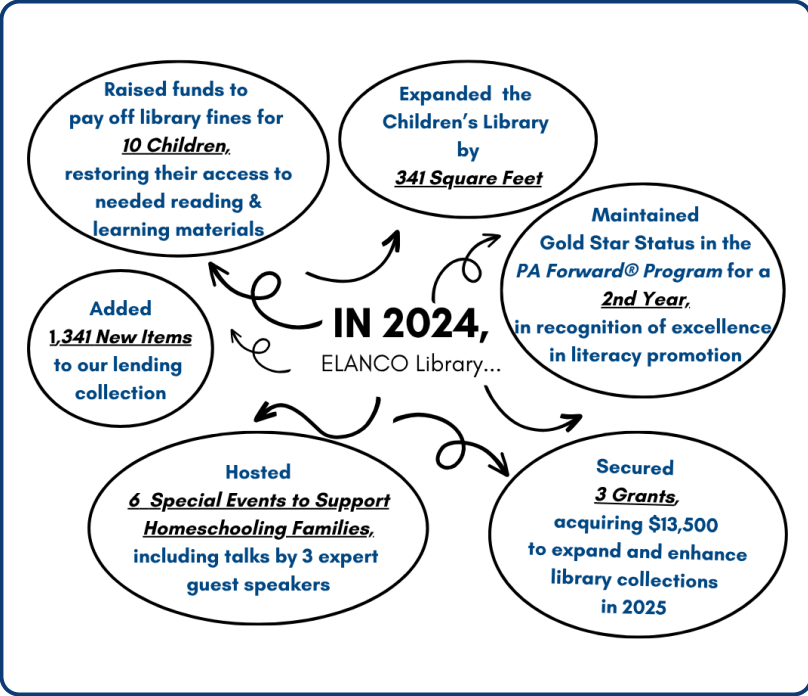
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SELECTED STATISTICS

Checkouts



Community Impact



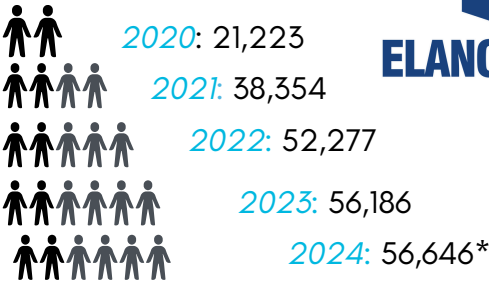
In 2024:

3,689 used the library's public computers for a total of **2,197** hours.

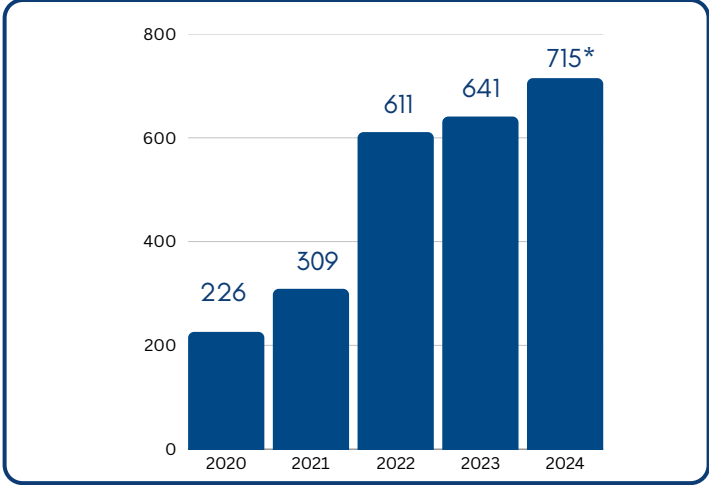
6,516 unique devices connected to the library's free WiFi network.

www.elancolibrary.org was visited **51,665** times.

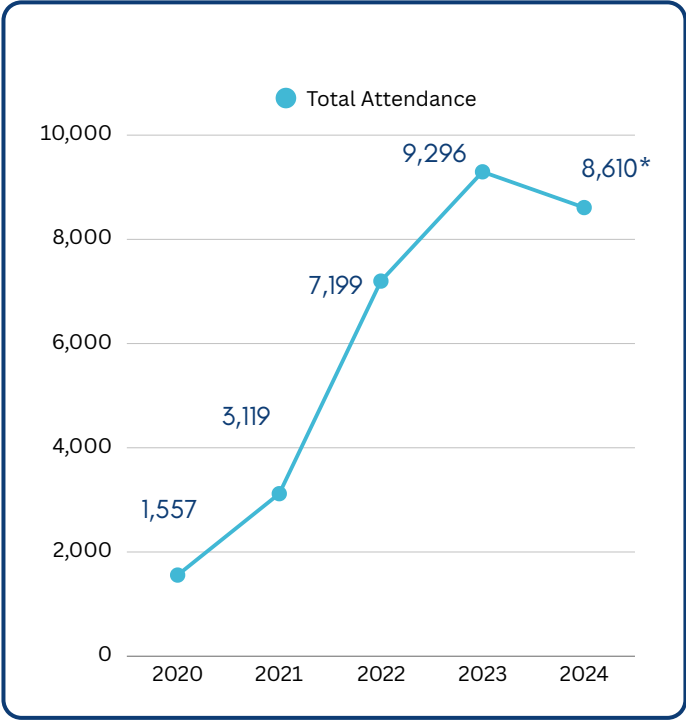
Door Count



New Library Card Registrations



Educational Programs & Special Events



ELANCO Library offered 299* programs in 2024!

*ELANCO Library's Children's Library, and the Library's entire Lower Level, closed for renovations on January 6, 2024 and re-opened on May 30, 2024. During that time, approximately 30% of the Library's collection was UNAVAILABLE for browsing and checkout, and the library offered fewer programs than usual. Despite this, new library card registrations increased significantly, door count increased modestly, checkouts remained nearly identical, and program attendance decreased only modestly, from 2023 to 2024.

TREMENDOUS VALUE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Can we calculate it? Well, we can multiply the number of checkouts for various types of items by the average retail cost of that item. By that math, we can determine that **in 2024, ELANCO Library patrons got a physical item value of \$3,560,736!** That's an average of **\$536 per cardholder!** But the community space; the programs; the expertise; the support; the online resources; the **education, empowerment, enlightenment, enrichment, and entertainment from reading**; and everything else that comes with your local library? **Priceless.**

ELANCO Library's cardholders checked out

186,345 physical materials in 2024.

159,957

BOOKS

1,416

KITS, TOYS,
& GAMES

457

MAGAZINES

17,579

DVDS & VIDEO

6,806

AUDIOBOOKS & CDS

130

OTHER ITEMS

+ instant online access to materials
**pro-rated across county usage by percent of cardholders*



626

POWER LIBRARY

research & entertainment resources
through partnership with the Office of
Commonwealth Libraries

14,724

EBOOKS, EAUDIO, &
EMAGAZINES

Libby & Flipster

115,129

BUSINESS REFERENCE

business profiles & residential records
through AtoZ Databases

54

LOCAL NEWS

including LNP articles, through
NewsBank

65

TUTORING & TEST PREP

school and career help with
Mometrix & other resources

120

EARLY LEARNING

with Tumblebooks and ABC Mouse

**Other ways ELANCO
Library made an
impact in 2024...**

During the Summer Reading Program, children aged 5 to 19 read for a total of **17,245 hours** – that's the equivalent of **726 days!** In addition, **14,968 books** were read aloud to children aged birth to 4. **1,374** children participated.

We distributed more than **2,300 free books** to residents of the municipalities we serve!

We conducted **58 outreach events** conveniently bringing library programs, materials, and services directly to schools & and other community venues.

A total of **8,610 people** attended the **299 community events** we offered!

3,689 people used the library's public computers for a total of **2,197 hours**; and **6,516** unique devices connected to the library's public wi-fi network.

715 people registered for a new library card!

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ELANCO Library's 2024 door count was **56,646**.

SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS TO AREA RESIDENTS



ELANCO Library's Service Area includes Caernarvon Township, Earl Township, East Earl Township, New Holland Borough, and Terre Hill Borough.

2024 TOTALS FOR SERVICE AREA

Items checked out from ELANCO Library by service area residents: **88,588**

Children who participated in the Summer Reading Program: **1,374**

Total funding for ELANCO Library from Municipalities in Service Area: **\$49,300**

Average Cost per resident*: **\$1.93**

Cost savings provided by ELANCO Library to residents*, **: **\$3,074,660**

Average Per capita cost savings for residents*, **: **\$120**

*Based on 2020 census data.

**Based on checkouts of print, AV, and other physical materials only.

ELANCO Library saved residents of our service area more than \$3,074,660 in 2024!**

3,434 service area residents are active cardholders!

Cards must be renewed by a patron every three years to remain active.

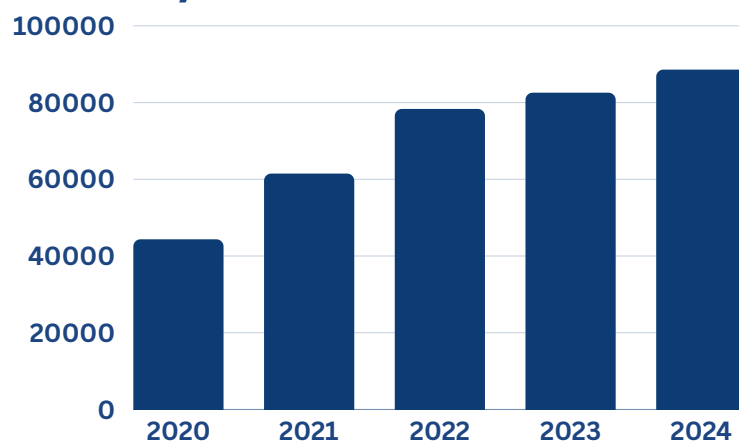
Since initially signing up for a library card with us, these cardholders have checked out 1,138,688 items to date!***

ELANCO Library also offered over 299 free educational programs to residents in 2024.

ELANCO Library's Children's Library, and the Library's entire Lower Level, closed for renovations and expansion on January 6, 2024 and re-opened on May 30, 2024. Approximately 30% of the Library's collection was UNAVAILABLE for browsing and checkout as usual during this time... despite this, checkouts still INCREASED from 2023 to 2024!

*** As of March 17, 2025

Checkouts of Library Materials by Service Area Residents



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SUMMER READING STATISTICS



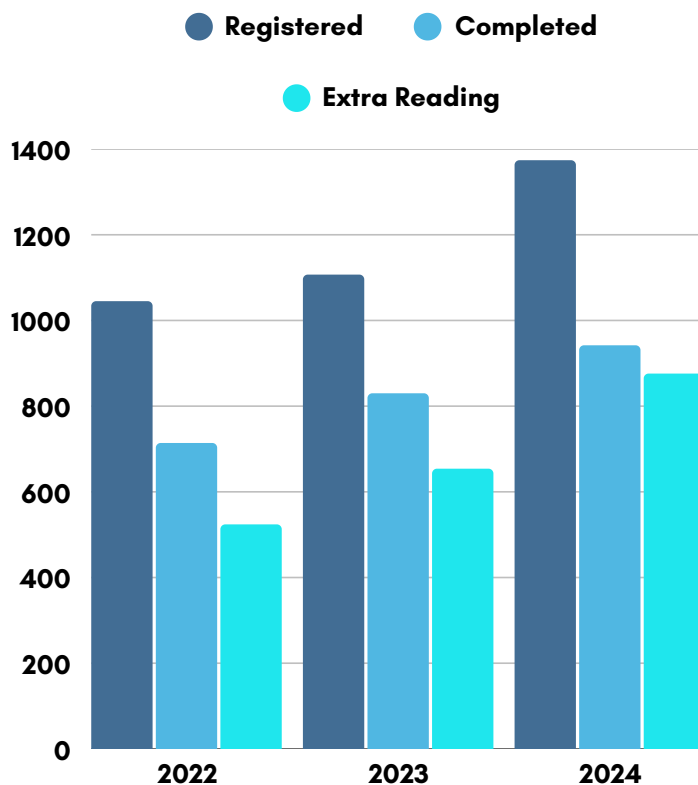
ELANCO LIBRARY 2024 TOTALS

Registered for reading program: **1374**
 Completed reading program: **942**
 Participated in GO! Lancaster: **96**
 Completed GO! Lancaster: **35**

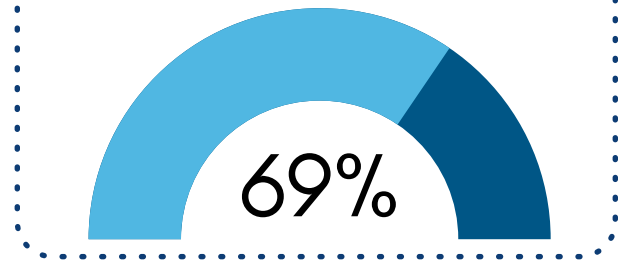
Additional "Extra Mile!" Challenge
 Completions: **876**

Total Books Read (ages 0-4): **14,968**
 Total Hours Read (ages 5-19): **17,425**
 *(17,425 hours = 726 days!)

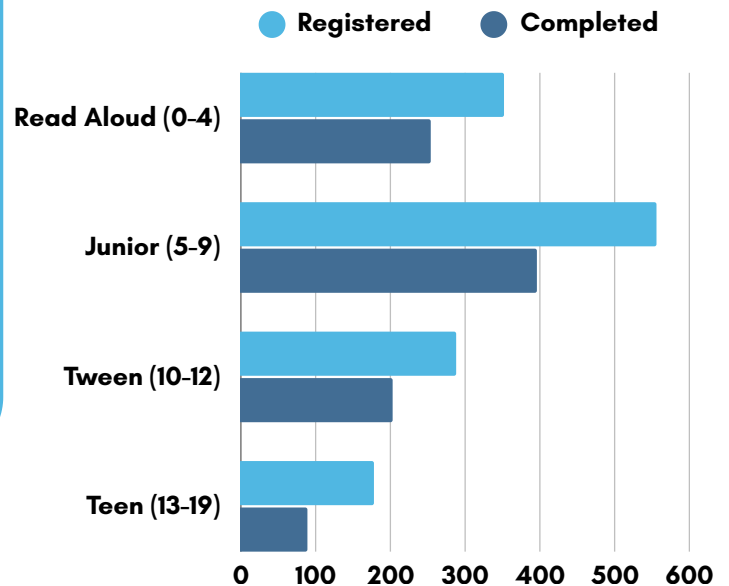
ELANCO PARTICIPATION BY YEAR



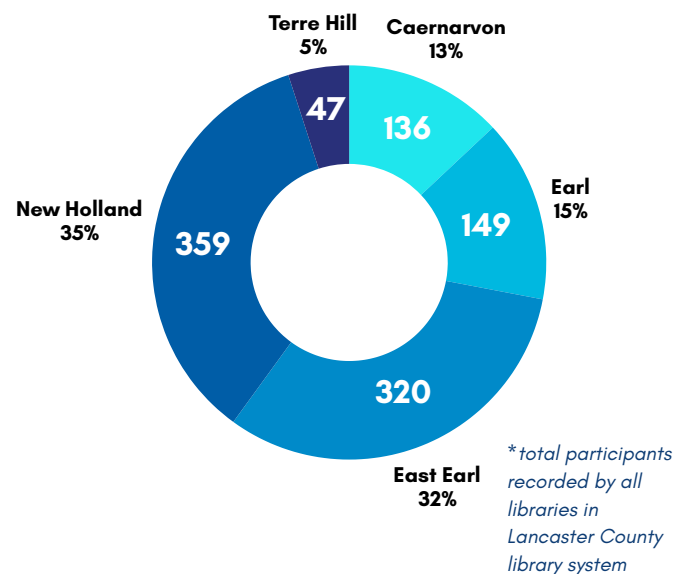
READING LOG COMPLETION RATE



AGE OF PARTICIPANTS



ELANCO SERVICE AREA DISTRIBUTION AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



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