



# YOUTH SERVICES YEAR IN REVIEW

## 13,221

**recorded youth participations**

Everyday opportunities to read, create, play, and connect.

## 3,498

scheduled-program  
attendances

## 9,723

self-directed activity  
participations



## FALL

Growing storytimes and Builders & Makers welcomed new families each week. Outreach at NES, Zombie Barbie, the Halloween Party & Parade, DiNovember, Pokémon Club, and Friendsgiving filled the season with creativity, play, and connection.

## WINTER

A Noon Year Bash began the season, followed by Woolly Whitins, Blind Date with a Book, teen drop-ins, cozy crafts, and a family craft night. LEGO expanded to twice weekly, and Reading with Casper gave young readers a supportive new way to practice.

## SPRING

Weekly storytimes, building programs, reading visits, and hands-on activities kept families coming back. School and community outreach continued to grow, while scavenger hunts, art, play, and drop-in discovery made the children's room lively every day.

## SUMMER

20 community partners joined our scavenger hunt. PlantMobile, Pollinator Rockets, Sub Zero Ice Cream, were popular programs.

**PLANT A SEED, READ**

264 Summer Reading Registrants  
28 Programs  
20+ Community Partners



My first year at Whitinsville Social Library has focused on building relationships and creating a welcoming place for children, teens, and families. Through storytimes, creative activities, STEM programs, and opportunities to play and socialize, I have worked to make the library part of Northbridge families’ routines.

Across FY2026 and summer 2026, our records show 3,498 youth attendances at scheduled programs and 9,723 participations in self-directed activities, including scavenger hunts, building stations, and art activities. Summer’s “Plant a Seed, Read” theme brought together reading, creativity, science, and community exploration, with local businesses and community organizations participating in our town-wide flower pot scavenger hunt.

Collection development has also been an important focus. I have been reviewing the children’s, tween, and young adult collections to identify gaps, assess circulation, and prioritize updates. Particular attention has gone to finding engaging options for reluctant readers and using patron interests and feedback to guide future purchases. This ongoing work will help keep the collections appealing, accessible, and responsive to the young people who use them.

I also secured \$9,300 in grant funding: \$800 from the Northbridge Cultural Council, \$8,000 through Greater Worcester Community Foundation’s Arts Programming in Public Libraries program, and \$500 through the Young Adults Write Now Endowment for horror writing programming. This support expands opportunities for creative expression and literacy, including the upcoming Threads of Northbridge project connecting young people with community stories through art.

Listening to families has been central to this work. Survey comments praised the children’s space, engaging programming, and opportunities for connection. Respondents also identified priorities for continued improvement, including more flexible program times, additional tween and teen activities, and clearer communication about library offerings. These responses will help guide the next year as I build on successful programs and make participation easier for more families.

## You shared. We’re listening.

Youth Services Program Survey • 52 responses

62%

Drop-in crafts  
and activities

56%

Science  
and STEM

46%

Open play  
for different ages

67%

Evenings and/or  
weekends

Program interests (first three) and preferred attendance times (fourth).

### WHAT FAMILIES VALUE

- Welcoming children’s space
- Engaging programs and storytimes
- Opportunities to play and connect

### PRIORITIES TO EXPLORE

- More flexible program times
- More tween and teen opportunities
- Clearer event communication

“The toys and space are very inviting.”

— Survey respondent