



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

the **TOOL**
LIBRARY

Borrow Tools. Build Community.

www.thetoollibrary.org

We share the tools our neighbors need to create the change they want.

The Tool Library has a track record of successfully providing affordable access to tools, hands-on skill-building, and supporting community-based change making.

By sharing tools with our neighbors, repairing more of the things we own, and caring for the spaces we share, The Tool Library has had a demonstrable impact across Western New York.

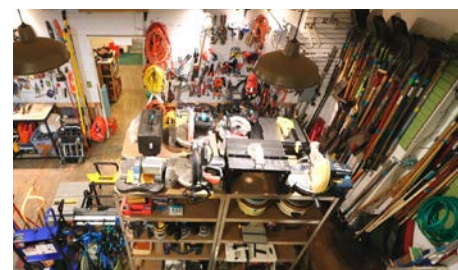
At The Tool Library, we believe that cost shouldn't be a barrier to fixing up your home, growing your own food, and improving your community. As a community-driven non-profit, a membership to the Tool Library gives community members access to thousands of tools and free educational programming. Whether you're a renter on a budget, a homeowner with a fixer-upper, or a block club organizing a cleanup, The Tool Library provides the tools and resources to turn ideas into action!

Since 2011, The Tool Library has grown from a small storefront helping neighbors fix up their homes to a region-wide resource center helping individuals and organizations make a significant impact in their community through the power of sharing.



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THE IMPACT

the TOOL LIBRARY

The Tool Library's brick and mortar storefront located at 5 W. Northrup Place in Buffalo's University Heights serves over 1,100 active members from across WNY. Members include renters, homeowners, small businesses, community organizations, and other nonprofits. Memberships start as low as \$30/year and allows members to borrow tools for up to a week at a time.

By prioritizing access over ownership, and creating a collectively held resource or "commons", The Tool Library represents a new way to fight inequalities in our communities. Through its work over the past decade, The Tool Library is demonstrating that a collective way of sharing, accessing, and using resources is not only possible, but urgent and necessary.

OUR IMPACT IN 2022

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| # of members | 1,170 |
| # of tools | 4,500 |
| # of transactions | 14,554 |
| Cost savings | \$587,355 |

Spring SERVICE DAYS 2022

Through its **Spring and Fall Service Days**, The Tool Library partners with over a dozen community organizations to put its tools to work improving shared spaces. These events bring together community members, teach new hands-on skills, and help steward public spaces like parks, gardens, and trails.

More than just picking up trash or planting a tree, Service Days at The Tool Library are about reconnecting neighbors, harnessing the power of collective action to address quality of life issues, and building a culture of stewardship over the spaces we share. These events bring together hundreds of volunteers each year and have helped catalyze significant public investments along the North Buffalo Rail Trail, Tyler Street, Main Street, and Bailey Avenue.

OUR IMPACT IN 2022

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| # of events | 12 |
| # of volunteers | 460 |
| # of service hours | 1,360 |
| Value of service | \$40,732 |

Dare to RUPAIR Cafe

Dare to Repair Cafes are pop-up community events where individuals can bring broken items and work with a team of volunteer fixers to try to repair the item for free. Dare to Repair not only helps people save money and keep items in circulation and out of landfills, but also teaches basic repair skills.

As current recycling technologies reach their limits of usefulness, repairing the things we own has become an increasingly important solution to addressing the challenge of the growing global waste stream.

Repair Cafes connect highly skilled volunteer fixers to individuals with broken items and, through hands-on instruction and troubleshooting, teach people the value, ease, and sense of accomplishment repair can bring.

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| # of events | 24 |
| # of participants | 1,161 |
| # of repairs | 491 |
| Items diverted | 4,229lbs |

A YEAR OF BORROWING AND BUILDING AT THE TOOL LIBRARY

2022

The Little Free Sled Library debuts at Shoshone Park thanks to a \$1,000 grant from Awesome Buffalo.



The Tool Library issues its first Request for Proposals as part of its Spring Service Days.



A new partnership with RAF Tool Supply allows The Tool Library to spend more locally.



The Tyler Street and Bailey-Dartmouth Community Gardens continues to blossom as spaces loved and shared by many thanks to ongoing stewardship efforts of The Tool Library and partners.



WINTER 2022

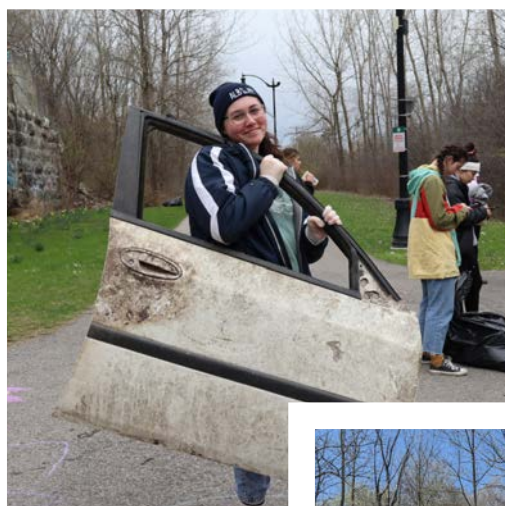
SPRING 2022



A \$5,000 grant from Majority Leader People-Stokes Office allows The Tool Library to upgrade and electrify its lawn and garden equipment



Lissa joins The Tool Library as the organization's first paid staff member, an all-important Shop Manager to organize the store and inventory and coordinate our many volunteers



The Tool Library teams up with the University Heights Collaborative and a UB Environmental Design Studio to clean-up the North Buffalo Rail Trail and propose Starin Nature Preserve



Six new trees are added along the Minnesota Linear Park Bike Path thanks to volunteers from National Grid



Tree stewardship continues to be an important part of The Tool Library's Spring and Fall Service Days, including ongoing work at Dewey Park.

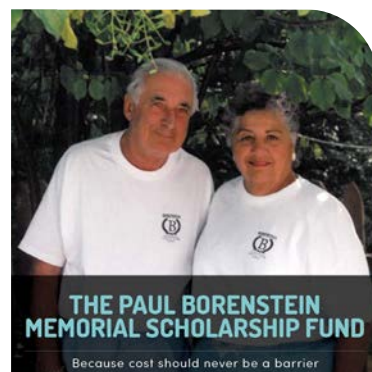
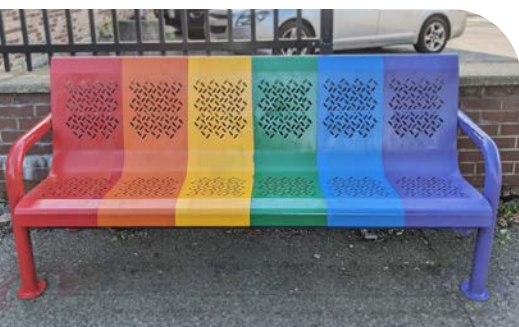


The Tool Library celebrates the power of sharing at its Second Annual Gather Garden + Grow fundraiser and recognizes Tooligans of the Year, Alex and Santiago.

Thanks to a grant from M&T Bank and partnership with ABC Hardware & Rental, The Tool Library adds over \$5,000 of new tools to its inventory.



The rainbow bench on Main Street in University Heights gets some love and a fresh coat of paint from Tool Library volunteers.



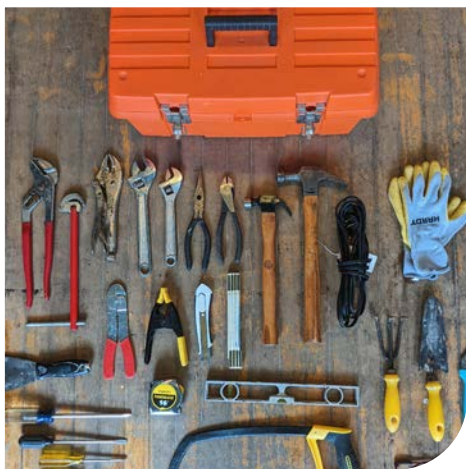
Thanks to a gift from the Paul & Dorothy Borenstein Memorial Foundation, The Tool Library launches a new scholarship program.

SUMMER 2022

FALL 2022



The Tool Library selects the Resource Council of WNY as its inaugural Service Day partner.



The Tool Library starts a new partnership with Journey's End Refugee Services, giving old hand tools a new life as free community tool kits.



Working closely with the Norfolk Avenue Block Club #1, Tool Library volunteers continue to steward the trees and trails along William Gaiter Parkway



The Dare to Repair Crew has a blast fixing items at the Merriweather Library thanks to a renewed partnership with the library system.

The Tool Library is selected as the "Share the Plate" recipient by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo and receives over \$700 in donations.



Thanks to a partnership with UB's Office of Student Engagement, The Tool Library becomes the pilot location for a community work/study program.



We Prioritize Sharing Through The Tool Library

The average power drill is used **twelve minutes** over its lifetime.

Instead of buying a tool that you'll only use once, The Tool Library maintains an inventory of over 4,000 tools that members can borrow for up to a week on an as-needed basis. Need a wrench or a screwdriver? No problem! How about a circular saw or pressure washer? We've got a few of those, too!

By sharing tools, we promote a more sustainable and equitable approach to community development and enable neighborhoods to build wealth by making home and community improvement projects more accessible and affordable.



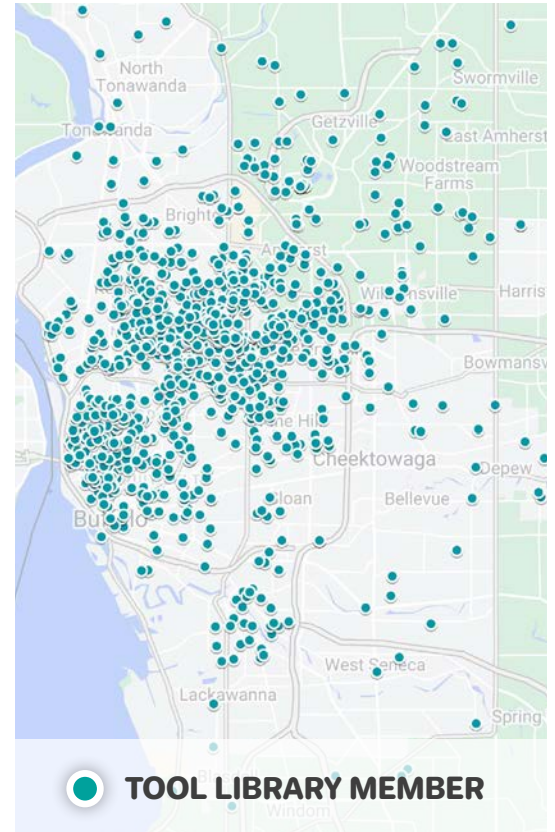
Our Members & Partner Organizations

1,170 Active Members

Tool Library members hail from over 70 different zip codes across WNY. In addition to individuals, our members also include small businesses, neighborhood groups, block clubs and other nonprofit organizations that leverage our tools to further their missions.

Some of our partners include:

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| UB Center for Urban Studies | Hertel Business Association | Grassroots Gardens of WNY |
| Vision Niagara | Friends Of Ellicott Creek Dog Park | Fillmore Forward |
| Elmwood Village Association | Greater East Side Fields of Dreams Block Club Association Inc. | PUSH Buffalo |
| Niagara River Greenway Commission | Buffalo in Bloom | Re-Tree WNY |
| Medaille College | Preservation Buffalo Niagara | Buffalo Central Terminal |
| UB Sustainability | Heart of the City Neighborhoods | Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission |
| Capen Garden Walk | University Heights Collaborative | Buffalo State College |
| University District Junior Impact Team | Buffalo Community Fridge and India Walton Campaign | University at Buffalo Rotaract Club |
| Black Wall Street 716 | Home Beneath Our Feet, Inc. | University at Buffalo Office of Sustainability |
| Minnesota Avenue Block Club | Chestnut Ridge Conservancy | Norfolk Avenue Block Club #1 |
| Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy | | Gardens Buffalo Niagara |
| WNY Trash Mob/Community Canvases | | Montrose Avenue Block Club |



Welcoming Our First Staff Member, Lissa!

What started as a dream to raise \$10,000 to celebrate ten years of borrowing and building, 2021's 10th Anniversary Capital Campaign raised \$74,858 thanks to the gifts from so many of you who believe in what we do and a \$25,000 challenge grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation.

This funding allowed The Tool Library to hire our first staff member, Malissa (Lissa) Rhodes as Operations Manager. Lissa comes to us from Northwood Historic Restoration, where, as a carpenter's apprentice, she learned the ins and outs of repairing and rebuilding historic windows. Her knowledge of carpentry and the skilled trades comes as a graduate from the Assembly House 150 SACRA program.

Over the past year, Lissa has been instrumental in streamlining shop operations, training and building relationships with volunteers, providing project help to members and walking them through our 4,000+ tools, building new partnerships, and reorganizing our increasingly space-challenged storefront.

If you haven't already met Lissa at the shop, please join us in welcoming her to the team and thank YOU again for helping our scrappy little all-volunteer organization take deeper root!





We Facilitate Caring Through Service Days

“You cannot change society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it.”

– Grace Lee Boggs

Seeing is believing! The Tool Library supports low-cost, high-impact neighborhood improvement and beautification projects that are transforming Buffalo’s University District, as well as other communities across the city and Western New York. By providing residents and organizations affordable access to tools, it becomes easier to turn ideas for change into on the ground action.



The Tool Library's Fall and Spring Service Days are an opportunity to put our tools to work transforming the spaces we share into the places we love.

The Tool Library hosted 12 Service Days over the course of 2022. Working with over 17 community partners, our volunteers stewarded parks, trails, and community gardens such as the Tyler Street Community Garden, Bailey-Dartmouth Community Garden, the North Buffalo Rail Trail, William Gaiter Parkway Walking and Biking Trail, Dewey Park, and Perkins Park.

New in 2022 was a Request for Proposals as part of our Spring Service Days. We asked community partners to nominate a project that needs extra hands (and tools). We received over half a dozen applications from organizations and ultimately chose to work with the Resource Council of WNY beautifying the planters in front of their building and stewarding the adjacent Perkins Park.

OUR IMPACT IN 2022

460 Volunteers Engaged

\$40,732

Worth of Volunteer Hours

3,150

Bulbs Planted

52 Trees Planted

190 Bags of Trash Removed

Fall SERVICE DAYS 2022

- OCT 01 Perkins Park Cleanup**
Meet at 10AM @ Resource Council of WNY (347 East Ferry St)
- OCT 08 Tyler Street Gardens Work Day**
Meet at 10AM @ The Tool Library (5 W. Northrup Pl)
- OCT 15 William Gaiter Parkway Planting**
Meet at 10AM @ Norfolk @ East Delavan Ave (1016 East Delavan Ave)
- OCT 22 Bailey-Dartmouth Garden Work Day**
Meet at 10AM @ Bailey-Dartmouth Garden (3259 Bailey Ave)
- OCT 29 Dewey Park Tree Care & Cleanup**
Meet at 10AM @ Dewey Park (494 Kensington Ave)
- NOV 05 ReTree Fall Planting**
Meet at 9AM @ The Tool Library (5 W. Northrup Pl)

Want to volunteer? RSVP by visiting or scanning:
www.thetoolibrary.org/service
Get in touch: info@thetoolibrary.org | 716-510-1745 | @thetoolibrary

nationalgrid
Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes
Legislator Lisa Chimera

Spring SERVICE DAYS 2022

- APRIL 23 Linear Park/Rail Trail Cleanup**
Meet at 10AM @ The Tool Library (5 W. Northrup Place)
- APRIL 30 Tyler Street Garden Work Day**
Meet at 10AM @ The Tool Library (5 W. Northrup Place)
- MAY 07 Bailey-Dartmouth Garden Work Day**
Meet at 10AM @ Bailey-Dartmouth Garden (3259 Bailey Avenue)
- MAY 14 Dewey Park Cleanup**
Meet at 10AM @ Dewey Park (494 Kensington Avenue)
- MAY 21 William Gaiter Tree Stewardship**
Meet at 10AM @ Kensington @ William Gaiter (852 Kensington Avenue)
- MAY 28 Perkins Park Cleanup and Planting**
Meet at 9AM @ Resource Council of WNY (347 East Ferry Street)

Want to volunteer? RSVP by visiting or scanning:
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Get in touch: info@thetoolibrary.org | 716-510-1745 | @thetoolibrary

nationalgrid
Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes
Legislator Lisa Chimera



We Encourage Repairing Through Dare to Repair

According to recent estimates, Americans generate an average of **254 million tons of trash** each year.

Started in 2017 thanks to a partnership with the City of Buffalo Department of Recycling, Dare to Repair Cafes are The Tool Library's take on the global Repair Cafe movement. Conceived as a way to rethink waste and transform our throw-away economy, the Repair Cafe model is helping to rekindle a culture of fixing the things we own.

Repair Cafes connect highly skilled volunteer fixers to individuals with broken items and, through hands-on instruction and troubleshooting, teach people the value, ease, and sense of accomplishment repair can bring. Small shifts in our thinking and habits can have a huge impact on one of our world's most pressing challenges.



OUR IMPACT TO DATE

Dare to Repair Cafes are a tangible, hands-on example of how the circular economy can help reduce waste, save money, and promote greater economic equality.

After a several year hiatus following the pandemic, Dare to Repair Cafes returned in 2022, with a total of four events, hosted by schools, libraries, and community centers across Western New York. 145 people attended these events, with 79 items being successfully fixed, 889lbs of potential waste diverted from landfills, and \$5,187 saved on replacement costs.

Hosted
24 
Events

From school cafeterias to community maker spaces, Dare to Repair Cafes have been hosted in communities across Buffalo and WNY and have connected hundreds of individuals.

Repaired
491
items



Our fixers have seen 669 items in total and have been able to fix just over 73% of those. By repairing usable items, we're not only saving people money, we're helping to save the environment.

Diverted
4,229
pounds
of waste from the landfill



Alternatives to recycling, such as repairing and reusing, are becoming an increasingly important part of a much larger movement to transform waste management.



The Tool Library is powered by volunteers like you!

What does it mean to be volunteer-powered? It means that every email, tool loan, Instagram post, tool repair, program delivered, and so much more is accomplished in somebody's free time. This work is done by many talented, dedicated people who we are incredibly grateful for.



OUR 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Darren Cotton | Barbara Bono | Jack Greco | Kevin Brady |
| Dylan Steed | Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin | Zhi Ting Phua | Jenna Curran |
| Barbara Cross | Rob Townsley | Dylan Burns | |
| Eric Borenstein | | Barry Weiss | |

OUR 2022 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Brittany Owens | Scott Maze | Tala Harden | John O'Brien |
| Bridget Houck | Antoinette McClain | Kamal Patel | |

OUR 2022 VOLUNTEERS

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dylan Steed | Sawyer Kost-Peters | Todd Kranock | Mark Rivera |
| John O'Brien | Joseph Carleton | Shweta Pillai | Revathi Nithipalan |
| Caitlin Whyte | Santiago Castillo | Eric Borenstein | Rufus Nguyen-McDowell |
| Darren Cotton | Will Giegerich | Aria Grisham | Bailey Kim |
| Maddie Toczek | Elliott Borden | El Stephan | Zack Glick |
| Alex Elhage | Milagros Buschfrers | Neal Fatin | Malkiel Asher |
| Keith Alexander | Jeffrey Crane | Skylar McLeod | |
| John Reedy | | Christiana Limniatis | |
| Krish Patel | | | |
| Dave Harter | Robert Jahnke | Norman Hirschey | Leonard Goerss |
| Chip Blenk | Darrel Kassahn | Jack Eppolito | Jennifer Gettings |
| Joyce Jones | Don Winkelman | Adam Blair | |
| Paul Jones | Tom Guerra | Justin Lowe | |



Are you interested in getting more involved with The Tool Library?

Below are some of the opportunities we have available. Want to contribute in a different way? Please reach out!

TOOL LIBRARIAN

Time Commitment:
5 - 15 hours/month

Our tool librarians are the face of the Tool Library. This role is for folks interested in working on-site at the library and helping visitors. You would learn how to open and close the library, check tools in and out, assist visitors with finding tools, signing up for memberships, and more. You don't need to be a tool expert, but if you're a kind, helpful, adaptable, decision-maker you'd be great! Ideally these volunteers are able to commit to a regular weekly or bi-weekly schedule to help us staff the library.

TOOL FIXER

Time Commitment:
5 - 10 hours/month

Calling all tool geeks and tinkerers! Our volunteer repair team helps assess, maintain, and repair the tools in our inventory. Are you skilled or interested in tasks like these: Blade sharpening, small motor repairs, wiring and electrical, tool cleaning and de-rusting? Then you might just be the fixer we've been looking for!

WORKSHOP LEADER

Time Commitment:
5 hours/month

Do you enjoy teaching people new skills? Do you gain satisfaction from empowering others to do for themselves? Then you might be the perfect person to lead a DIY workshop at The Tool Library! One of our most requested programs by members, we are looking for individuals who are willing to lend their talents to lead workshops ranging from how to reglaze windows and repair plaster to tiling a backsplash or swapping out a light fixture and everything in between!

BOARD MEMBER

Time Commitment:
10 - 20 hours/month

As a volunteer-powered organization, board members are a critical part of furthering the mission and implementing the vision of The Tool Library. Tasked with developing the strategic direction for the organization, maintaining financial oversight, and identifying programmatic priorities, the board meets monthly and also self-organizes committee meetings to democratize decision-making.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Time Commitment:
5 - 10 hours/month

Committees are one of our most important tools in turning ideas into action. Consisting of Development, Finance, Governance, Programs, Operations, and Spatial Planning, each committee is chaired by a board member and has open membership. Those with a particular skill or passion are highly encouraged to join a committee prior to becoming a board member.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Time Commitment:
5 - 10 hours/month

Events like our Dare to Repair Cafes and monthly Service Days can't happen without the behind-the-scenes support and management necessary to connect people and resources. From event planning to day of logistics, program support helps put our tools to work in the community!

Financial Snapshot

Statement of Financial Position

| ASSETS | 2022 |
|---|-----------|
| Current Assets: | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$93,631 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$5,329 |
| Merchandise Inventory | \$2,403 |
| Prepaid expenses | \$2,859 |
| Total current assets | \$104,222 |
| Tool Inventory | \$108,867 |
| Board Designated Funds | \$29,084 |
| Board Designated Operating Reserve | \$42,000 |
| Total Assets | \$284,173 |
| Liabilities and net Assets | |
| Current Liabilities: | |
| Accounts Payable | \$335 |
| Accrued Expenses | \$671 |
| Deferred Revenue | \$390 |
| Gift Card Liability | \$255 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$1,651 |
| Net Assets: | |
| Without donor restrictions | \$282,522 |
| With donor restrictions | \$- |
| Total Net Assets | \$282,522 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$284,173 |

Statement of Activities

For the Fiscal year ending December 31, 2022

| | Total 2022 |
|---|------------------|
| Revenue | |
| Government & Foundation Support | \$37,400 |
| Contributions | \$16,758 |
| Gifts in Kind | \$24,371 |
| Merchandise sales, net cgs | \$(366) |
| Membership | \$29,488 |
| Special Events | \$6,400 |
| Late Fees | \$4,527 |
| SuperTool Rental Income | \$1,050 |
| Net assets released from restriction | \$50,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$169,628 |
| Expenses | |
| Program Activities | \$82,899 |
| Management and general | \$2,268 |
| Fundraising | \$5,600 |
| Total Expenses | \$90,767 |
| Increase in net assets without donor restrictions | \$78,861 |
| Change in Net Assets | \$28,861 |
| Net Assets - beginning of year | \$253,661 |
| Net Assets - end of year | \$282,522 |

We know not everyone can give the same way, but for those who are able to financially support The Tool Library, your donation helps us provide the tools and resources our neighbors need to create the change they want.

There are several ways to give:



Scan this QR code or visit thetoollibrary.org/donate to donate online



Ask us about sponsorship opportunities!

SUSTAINING DONORS

Good Neighbor Home Inspections

Cheyenne Ketter-Franklin

Darren Cotton

Hadar Borden

Paul Neubecker

Dylan Burns

Rob Townsley

Zhi Ting Phua

Ally Butter

Mary Jo Davila-Ryan

Bart Roberts

Elizabeth Constantine

John Batson

Tricia Korzelius

Matthew Silkey

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JOHN R. OISHEI
FOUNDATION



Majority Leader
Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



Legislator
Lisa Chimera

The Paul and Dorothy Borenstein Memorial Foundation



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