

## Know your library; Hub of the Community

The New Glarus Public Library has developed relationships with many community organizations to enhance the services it offers the greater New Glarus community. This article will describe just a few of the library's community partners: the New Glarus School District, the New Glarus Home, the Swiss Historical Society, and the Swiss Center of North America.

The New Glarus Public Library and the New Glarus School System have a long relationship that is most apparent with the summer reading programs and early childhood programs, such as the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. New Glarus students and teachers use our community library to access electronic encyclopedias, magazines, newspapers, and multimedia resources for school projects. Because the library is part of the South Central Library System, students and teachers can request books and other materials from over 50 libraries, including Verona and the Madison Public library. The items are delivered, free of charge, directly to the New Glarus library for convenient pick up—and are returned there as well.

The New Glarus Home has relied on the New Glarus Public Library to supply their residents with books (including large print editions), CDs, and DVDs. The library provides storytelling programs on the New Glarus Home campus. Looking ahead to an aging society, the New Glarus Home is excited at the chance for their residents to attend programs, to work in coordination with the library to bring programs to the residents, and to visit the new library. The New Glarus Home is committed to the library and has made generous donations to support it.

The New Glarus Historical Society has partnered with the New Glarus Public Library on mutually-beneficial projects such as the 2011 LSTA Local History Digitization grant. This digitization project made it possible for dozens of the Society's historic photographs and documents to be widely available (and searchable) for the very first time. The entire New Glarus community is the better for having a strong, vibrant public library and the Historical Society looks forward to continuing partnering with the New Glarus Public Library on projects, events, and special programs.

The Swiss Center of North America has the largest Swiss library outside of Switzerland with nearly 9,000 volumes on Swiss history, genealogy, immigration, art, science, education, business and contemporary life. The New Glarus Public Library genealogy databases and library expertise make them an exceptional partner organization for the Swiss Center to further appreciation of Swiss heritage, Swiss culture, and Swiss roots.

Good schools, public recreation, and a public library are key elements of attracting families to a community, which in turn has positive effects on property values and support for local businesses. The New Glarus Public Library continues to develop current and new partnerships to enhance services and programming to the community.

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