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When I was younger, my brother and I spent hours at the library. He headed to fiction, and I turned towards graphic novels. What I remember most, sitting alone with a large stack of books next to me, was glancing up every time a librarian would pass by and seeing smiles on their faces, even when faced with a difficult question. However, the library is improving so much because of one group that gives them the extra financial assistance they need and the recognition that librarians deserve. The Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library group works hard to highlight the service of the library staff, as well as to fundraise for the library and recycle books by selling them in their bookstore.

I'm thankful for the Friends of the Library because without them, the library wouldn't be able to have as much freedom in its programs.

According to the Friends of the Library's website, in the last ten years, the Friends of the Library have given over \$203,000 and helped fund author visits, computers for the training lab, and a 3D printer, among other things.

Two years ago, six other students and I spent seven and a half hours working with The Friends of the Library. Before then, I hadn't known The Friends existed. We split the hours into three days, and each time we went, I could see the generosity of the group to its fullest extent. They would greet librarians they passed, smile, and treat everyone with respect. I could see them putting their effort into doing whatever they could. I truly believe they would do anything for that large brick building on Henry Street and all its inhabitants within.

Jon Bing, a Norwegian writer and law professor, once said, "To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is like asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads." This quote matters because technology has advanced so far that there are people who gather only digital information. It's essential to remember that many important websites are run by libraries, like online catalogs, digital libraries, library tutorials, and research support. It's important to be grateful for all the work that goes into keeping a library running, whether it's digital or physical. We should be thankful for what the Friends of the Library have done for our community, because technology isn't the only way to gather information. Libraries may not be your favorite, but they can offer friends, education, fun, and much more. After all, books are small worlds we get transported into, and the Friends of the Library are helping us travel.

Works Cited:

Friends of the Library <https://friends.sspl.org/>