

Collaboration*

How do you work with other organizations/institutions in the community? Please give examples and be specific. We value collaboration over competition.

Character Limit: 2500

The Groton Central School District stands as our most important & successful collaboration. Through our work with both the Elementary School & the Junior/Senior High School, we have built a meaningful connection with children & young adults in our community. Superintendent Margo Martin has supported every request we've made, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to partnership. In one remarkable example, she even arranged for bus routes to be adjusted so that third-grade students could visit the library weekly as part of our LEAP program. Today, we continue this strong partnership through initiatives like Read2Grow at the Elementary School & Tween Thing at the Junior/Senior High School.

Our collaboration with Friendship Donation Network (FDN) is one of our longest-standing partnerships. Through FDN, we receive free food for distribution every Tuesday & on the first Saturday of each month. Simply put, Healthy Tuesday would not exist without their support.

Our partnership with Groton Recreation has grown creatively over the years. What began as summer Nerf Play events with hot dogs & s'mores in the park has expanded into shared resources like cross-country skis in our Library of Things. Recreation Director Becky helped facilitate this by securing skis from the Elementary School & offering to store them. Together, we created a seamless system—patrons place holds through the library, & the skis are delivered as needed. It's collaboration at its best.

The Groton Youth Commission, led by Keith Davenport, has also been a tremendous supporter. Keith regularly uses our library space for youth programming, creating opportunities for learning & connection. The Commission is an invaluable partner in sharing library news, & Keith goes even further by volunteering at our annual Fright Night event each October.

We are also excited about our growing partnership with Groton Community Church. After many conversations about how we could best work together, we've found the perfect opportunity: hosting our Annual Book Sale in the church's downstairs space. Its proximity & size make it an ideal location, allowing us to begin sorting & storing books

well in advance. In return, we will support the church by helping to design a bookmark to highlight their work.

First National Bank of Groton has long been a loyal & generous supporter, contributing through donations & by hosting our Bright Red Bookshelf. Their continued commitment strengthens our ability to serve the community.

The Groton Community & Business Association, recently reformed, has already made a meaningful impact. They invited us to participate in their Holiday Home Tours & selected the library as the beneficiary of the fundraiser. It was not only a fun & engaging event but also a wonderful opportunity to showcase the library & build support.

We've begun an exciting new collaboration with Schoser Talent & Wellness Solutions. Owner G. Schoser approached us with the idea of offering a free monthly class on AI & it has proven to be engaging & valuable for our community members.

The American Legion continues to demonstrate its dedication to community service by supporting the library year after year. This includes providing space for the pickup of our Annual Geranium Sale—an essential fundraising event.

One of our strongest & most consistent partners is the Village of Groton. Whenever we need assistance, they respond quickly & generously. From practical help—like cutting hedges, removing fencing, cleaning gutters & relocating our card catalog—to playing a vital role in our building expansion by providing additional land. Their support exemplifies true teamwork.

The Groton Historical Association enriches our youth programming by offering private tours, complete with thoughtfully designed scavenger hunts & goodie bags. These experiences bring local history to life in memorable ways.

Similarly, Groton Cemetery has partnered with us to provide unique educational experiences for our Tween Thing participants, including guided tours & hands-on activities like tombstone rubbings—an experience that has been especially popular with youth.

Together, these partnerships reflect something truly special. Groton is more than a collection of organizations—it is a community defined by collaboration, generosity & shared purpose.

