

Friends of the Lackawanna Public Library
560 Ridge Road
Lackawanna, New York 14218

[Date]

Dear [Donor/Business Name],

On July 10, 1922, Clara Whelan spoke these words about Lackawanna Public Library at its grand opening, "We hope every individual in the city will love to come here. In order to make this place a power in our community, we must love it. We want it to be a joy to our dear children... The richest treasures of all lands and all peoples have been gathered here under this roof... May these books be the gateways to a thousand joys to all who enter here."

The Lackawanna Public Library, one of the last Carnegie-funded libraries to be built, has opened its doors wide to all the city's residents for over 102 years now, bringing enrichment, learning, a sense of belonging, and community connection to Lackawanna. While the staff remain unwavering in their dedication and service, the building itself, resplendent with charm and character, needs some love to restore it to its former glory.

Built in 1922, with an addition added in 1937, the library is a brick gabled building in the Colonial Revival Style. Its tall, arched windows, columned front entrance, and cupola are visually stunning as you pass by on Ridge Road. Upon closer inspection, it is clear that the columns are in poor condition, showing signs of rotting, the cupola is in need of repairs, and the roof, although attractive, is not the original slate that the architects had intended. To restore and preserve the beauty of this historically significant landmark, we will need help from the community. Although recovering from the blight caused when Bethlehem Steel closed, the City of Lackawanna does not yet have the socio-economic base to fund the costly repairs and restoration. This is where your help is greatly needed.

As a committed Lackawanna community member, we are asking you to donate to help us make this well-loved, respected, and treasured community resource the elegant place it once was. If you are able, please know that no amount is too small, and would be gratefully accepted. Donors who contribute \$100 or more will have their name added to a plaque in the library vestibule, acknowledging their generosity.

Lackawanna deserves community treasures like the Lackawanna Public Library. Let's work together to preserve them.

Gratefully,