

Skaneateles alumni make legacy gift to new library to mark 50 years

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Skaneateles High School Class of 1976 alum Julie Stafford, left, and Skaneateles Library Executive Director Andrea Snyder hold a large check in the amount of \$56,000, a legacy gift from the class that will fund a mural in the lobby of the library's new building.

Provided

By Katy McCumber

Skaneateles High School alumni marked their 50th reunion on Monday with a large donation to help build the village's new library. The class of 1976 collected \$56,000 for the library through a legacy gift campaign, "It Takes a Library." The gift looks back on the 50 years since the class's graduation and paves the way for future generations and their education, the library said in a news release.

The money will go toward a mural at the planned 15,000-square-foot Skaneateles Library at 75 Fennell St. The new building will have an expanded book collection, tutoring areas, conference rooms and increased accessibility with 37 parking spaces.

The current library at 49 E. Genesee St. will become an arts and cultural center featuring the works of renowned painter John D. Barrow. The funding was collected by over 45 classmates from 1976. The campaign had a goal of \$50,000, referring to the reunion year.

"As we began to plan our milestone 50th reunion, we wanted to do something truly lasting as a class," said Julie Stafford, the chair of the legacy gift campaign.

"We believe the new library will become the social and intellectual heart of our hometown, a place where everyone is welcome and can find information, enrichment and inspiration."

Some members of the class of '76 still live in Skaneateles, the library said, but others are now located across the country. They all still share the same support for their hometown and appreciate the value the library brings to it, Stafford said.

"Thanks in part to our education and upbringing in this wonderful community, our class has gone on to do both well and good," she said.

Library Executive Director Andrea Snyder said she is grateful for the generosity of the alumni and their dedication to the future of Skaneateles. "Their contribution honors the place that meant so much to them," she said, "and helps ensure it will mean just as much to the community members who have yet to walk through its doors."