

Legislator Mills' Hot Dog Roast Events raise \$67,077 in 10 years

(Erie County, NY) – What started out with a \$1 hot dog 10 years ago, turned into 64 fundraisers and thousands of dollars raised for rural library branches. Legislator John Mills was proud to be joined by Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski and several library branch directors to announce that with overwhelming community support his Hot Dog Roast Fundraisers have raised a grand total of \$67,077 over the past decade.

“When I got into the Legislature, I knew I wanted to find a way to help raise ‘wish list funds’ for the library branches in my district, to help buy the extra items the annual budget wasn’t always enough for. I never expected we’d be raising well over \$1,000 at a single event by selling \$1 hot dogs but because of the community’s support and donors generosity, we did just that,” said Legislator Mills. “I couldn’t be more proud of the partnership that has grown and I can’t thank the community enough for coming out every year to support our libraries. Ten years of outstanding fundraisers is something we can all be proud of.”

President of J. Mills Distributing, a local food distribution company, Legislator Mills said the idea first came to him when he was driving across New York State for his private business. He decided on a hot dog roast, buying the product with his own money, and partnering with Sahlen’s Hot Dogs to use their event grill.

If you visit any of the branches in Legislator Mills’ district, you’ll see the results of his fundraisers. The beautiful hand-painted mural in the children’s area at the Eden Library was supported with these funds,

and funds were put toward the multi-purpose community room, a much-needed addition at the Angola Branch. After an extremely harsh winter, the Boston Library utilized the funds for much-needed structural repairs and will help ensure the library is safe to use for years to come. Furniture, materials, and programming were also all possible due to Legislator Mills’ annual event.

“ADDITIONAL QUOTES”

The totals for the individual branches are as follows, with 10 events held: Concord - \$11,710; Collins - \$10,345; Orchard Park - \$10,014; and with five events held: Angola - \$5,952; Eden - \$5,864; North Collins - \$5,231; Boston - \$5,088; and East Aurora - \$4,077.

During restructuring that took place within the library system, the West Falls-Colden Library was closed but reopened as a community library run by volunteers. Legislator Mills, having represented the area before Legislature redistricting in 2011, wanted to continue to help and held fundraisers for the community library from 2007 to 2015 and raised \$8,796.

For information on the Hot Dog Roast Fundraisers, or to speak with Legislator Mills, please contact his Legislative Office at 858-8850 or email john.mills@erie.gov.