

To the Editor:

I join the editorial staff of the Cortland Standard in celebrating the “Stone Soup Event” held in downtown Cortland on Sunday, June 2nd. However, I am compelled to correct inaccurate and misleading information in the paper (June 3rd story, June 4th editorial and June 7th “Making It Right”).

- Cortland Free Library staff did not – and would not -- call the police about a two-year old. As stated in the paper’s correction, the incident occurred at another library (and actually involved an older child.)
- Cortland Free Library staff would never use racial profiling. By raising that question, the paper planted that hurtful seed in the minds of its readers.
- From speaking with the police and the involved party last week, Tammy Sickmon (Youth Services Librarian and Interim Director) and I learned that a person developed a misunderstanding **about** the library after the convergence of several unrelated events. This is different than “a misunderstanding **at** Cortland Free Library” which incorrectly implies that the library was responsible for or involved in the misunderstanding.

The paper’s negative insinuations are particularly upsetting because Miss Tammy treats each and every child as if they were her own. Our entire staff and Board of Trustees are dedicated to making everyone of all ages in the community feel welcome and safe at the library. We take pride in serving all with respect.

This misunderstanding could have been resolved quickly had the Cortland Standard spoken with a representative of the library, a key party in their story. Instead of gathering the facts and seeking the truth, the paper opted for inflammatory innuendo at the expense of the library’s reputation.

These clarifications in no way diminish the value or success of the Stone Soup event. It was a wonderful event that brought many different groups from the community together. The library was a proud sponsor and participant because we value inclusiveness and support diversity in the Cortland community. Miss Tammy hosted a special story time, and thanks to two generous donations, Cortland Free Library gave out almost 100 copies of the book, Stone Soup. The library looks forward to being part of this event every year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Vivian Bosch
President, Board of Trustees
Cortland Free Library