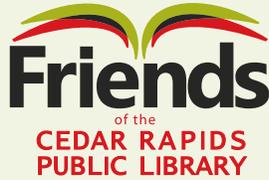


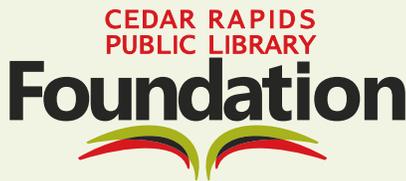
Summer 2014 FOCUS

The newsletter for **friends** and the **foundation** of the Cedar Rapids Public Library



Mission

Friends supports the Cedar Rapids Public Library services and programs; promotes literacy through outreach programs that encourage and enhance reading throughout the community; and conducts fund raising activities to assist with library and outreach projects.



Mission

The Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation secures resources in order to enhance and enrich library programs, services and facilities not normally met by public resources.

Inside:

Tablets4All

Teen Programs

Little Free Libraries

Get Involved!

Summer Reading Fun

Books + Summer Meals = Success

Leadership Transitions

The Cedar Rapids Public Library is excited to be gaining the leadership of Dara Schmidt as the new Library Director this summer. Dara comes to us from Brighton, Colorado, a northern suburb of Denver, where she most recently served as branch manager at an Anythink library.

Harriet Kalinsky, Vice President of the Library Board of Trustees and head of the board's selection committee, said Schmidt's leadership qualities and background impressed the board and the library staff. "She is well suited to lead our library into the future," Kalinsky said.

Dara has been described as a risk-taker who isn't afraid to lead change and to ask "why not?" Her extensive professional background includes service as a young adult librarian. She is particularly interested in the library's role in the maker movement—in which people come together to explore, create, or do something, often aided by technology.

Dara and her husband Brandon are from Manchester, Iowa. We are certainly excited to have them and their three children back in Eastern Iowa, as is their family who still live in the area. She officially starts her work in leading the library on July 23.

We would also like to take time to acknowledge and thank past Library Director Bob Pasicznyuk for his leadership over the last five years.

Bob has been a visionary leader for the library during its period of rebuilding and rebranding after the 2008 flood. His leadership initiated the implementation of the automated sorter for processing returned materials, the launch of the library's volunteer program, the building of Ladd Library on the west side, the new tablet lending program, and, of course, the grand opening of the dynamic downtown library. He has also led the team in developing our strategic goals for the future: Invest in Young Minds, Engage the Digital World, and Build Community.

While Bob will certainly be missed at the library, he has left the organization on solid footing and poised to attract national talent.

Bob now serves as the Library Director for the Douglas County Libraries in Colorado. We wish him all the best!



Dara Schmidt's first day as the Cedar Rapids Public Library Director is July 23, 2014.



Bob and Vickie Pasicznyuk smiling big at the "Bob the Builder" themed goodbye party thrown by staff to celebrate the two libraries that Bob built.

Support 4 Tablet Lending

The Foundation was excited to support and celebrate the launch of tablet lending at the library in March 2014. With two new lending programs – Tablets2Go and Tablets4Tots – the Cedar Rapids Public Library is among the first public libraries in the nation to lend tablets on this scale. Customer Service Manager Christina Riedel and Community Relations Manager Amber Mussman have, in fact, been asked to present about these tablet lending programs at a session for peers from across the country at the 2014 Internet Librarian Conference on October 28 in Monterey, California.



Tablets2Go, sponsored by ITC Midwest, offers library card holders the chance to check out a Google Nexus 7 tablet from the downtown library for up to seven days. The tablet comes loaded with apps that allow cardholders access to a world of digital content such as eBooks, magazines and music. The library started with 50 Tablets2Go and, in the first two months, checkouts were constant. The circulation department added 50 more tablets to the collection in May.



“This project is a great fit for ITC’s support, given our company’s daily use of technology to ensure the reliable and cost-effective transmission of electricity,” said Doug Collins, president of ITC Midwest. “We’re pleased to support the library’s entry into offering this new digital media and the new opportunities it will bring to library patrons.”



Tablets4Tots, sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Cedar Rapids, offers LeapPad Ultra Learning Tablets—ideal for kids ages two to nine—for check out for up to seven days. These tablets are specifically designed to be durable and easy to use, and include educational games and apps. Each of the 80 tablets in the collection also comes with an additional literacy-themed game cartridge.



“The Cedar Rapids Kiwanis Club is dedicated to the youth in our community,” said Christina Djerf, 2nd Vice President of Kiwanis Club of Cedar Rapids. “We believe our partnership with the Cedar Rapids Public Library on this program is the perfect opportunity to support a significant number of youth in their educational development.”

The library is focusing on finding ways to get technology into the hands of the community, and the Foundation is proud to support this large step toward that goal. Private support from organizations like Kiwanis Club of Cedar Rapids and ITC Midwest is helping all of Cedar Rapids power up in a whole new way.



Lucy Giorgio and John Bednar served as Tablet Ambassadors along with members of the Kiwanis Club of Cedar Rapids at the launch event of the Library’s two new tablet lending programs—Tablets2Go and Tablets4Tots—on March 8, 2014.



Librarian Trevor Hanel shows library-lover Harriet Kalinsky the features of the Nexus 7.

A New Level of Teen Engagement

The Cedar Rapids Public Library is thinking bigger than ever before in developing collaborative, engaging teen programs. Young adults are among the hardest populations to reach through informal learning opportunities like those offered at the library. Thankfully the Giacoletto Foundation agrees that this age group is worthy of extra resources and made a transformative, three-year investment of \$150,000 in support of teen engagement programs at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. This outstanding private support is allowing the library to spark the interests of this important population in exciting new ways, right when they need inspiration most. Thank you!



Students from Metro High School demonstrate team robotics in Whipple Auditorium as part of STEM Career Night on February 25. Metro High School and partners brought more than thirty STEM-focused employers and educators from the area to the library as interactive exhibits, engaging more than 200 eager young visitors.



This unconventional Knock Out Knitting class had 15 students ranging in age from 11 to 17. Using their arms as knitting needles, they created original scarves in an action-packed hour. This session was held twice in the month of February and had teens creating together and exploring an entirely new medium.



Duct Tape Designs was one of the first of several Spark a Reaction teen summer reading events in June and the attendance was terrific – with 26 participating downtown, 18 at Ladd Library and an additional 15 kids reached during a Four Oaks outreach program. Eager teens were given all the supplies and instructions to make multi-colored duct tape accessories including wallets, flowers and bags.

Minecraft Madness

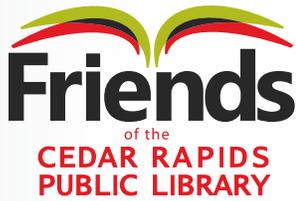
More than 300 tweens and teens took over the library during Live Action Minecraft Day on March 25. Gamers logged on to computers to play this uber-popular virtual block building game with others around the library and across the web. Beems Auditorium was home to a live action version of the game complete with blocks, creepers and water features. Downstairs in the children's programming room, younger kids made Minecraft tools just like the ones found in the game.



Wrapping all the required boxes took a lot of pre-planning and approximately 100 volunteer hours. Teen volunteers like Nieve Funston (left) helped keep the day running smoothly. Nieve is a member of the Teen Advisory Council and she has a ton of great ideas for the next Live Action Minecraft Day.



One Creeper took a break to read a few pages and pose for the camera in his custom designed costume.



Focus on Friends

Friends Foster Little Free Libraries

The Little Free Library movement is sweeping the nation. Here in Cedar Rapids, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library are helping the grassroots literacy and community building effort grow by leaps and bounds.

Little Free Libraries are simply a wooden box—often decorated in imaginative ways—where anyone can stop and pick up a book or two and bring back a book to share. The idea is to “take a book, leave a book.”

At the end of the school year, several library supporters and local businesses teamed up to install Little Free Libraries throughout the Wellington Heights neighborhood—a focus area of the TotalChild initiative through Four Oaks—to help ensure books would stay in the hands of kids over the summer months.

The Friends donated 1,000 books, sorted by genre, to put inside the Little Free Libraries. “They did a great job of making sure there was a variety of books in each library,” said Joe Lock, President of the Library Board of Trustees and Executive Director of the Affordable Housing Network, which is connected with the TotalChild neighborhood initiative in Wellington Heights. “There were adult mysteries, easy readers and chapter books, even board books.”

In total 20 Little Free Libraries were built and installed throughout the neighborhood. And they are already proving to be a big hit. “The books are really turning over,” Lock said. “It’s really exciting to see people embracing literature in this neighborhood, no matter what age they are.”

Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Board of Directors

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Participants in Leadership for Five Seasons 2014 worked with Matthew 25 and the Friends for their class project as well. The team worked to improve Matthew 25's Urban Farm and created a gathering space that includes play equipment and a Little Free Library. Friends got the library started with its first round of books, specifically about cooking, agriculture and gardening.

Young residents of the Wellington Heights Neighborhood have access to books right outside their front doors this summer, thanks to a partnership to install Little Free Libraries throughout the area.



For more information about how to become involved with Friends of the Library, send an email to: crfriends@gmail.com

Online or In Person, We Need You!

Opportunities abound for involvement with the Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. With the increased traffic at both the west side Ladd Library and the main library downtown, volunteers are needed more than ever. Here are some of the ways you can get involved...

Book Sales: In addition to the annual fall book sale, Friends of the Library hosts smaller sales throughout the year, including during the summer months in conjunction with the downtown farmers' markets. Volunteers are used to set-up, staff, and clean-up for each of these sales. No experience necessary. (This is also a good antidote for "I'm bored!" teenagers.)

Book Sorting: Thanks to the convenience of a drive-up book drop at both library locations, donations of used books to the library have increased as well, requiring more volunteer sorters. Sorting books is the first step in preparing for a book sale and the work takes place at two sorting centers: one in the lower level of the Cherry Building in the New Bo District and the other at the downtown library. Sorting is an attractive volunteer opportunity for those who like flexibility in scheduling. Training is provided by experienced sorters.

Outreach: Friends of the Library participates in community outreach programs that supply books to area nonprofits. Friends also schedule Clifford the Big Red Dog for appearances at library story hours, preschools and elementary schools. Maybe YOU would like to be Clifford!

Genius is as Genius Does

Scheduling book sale volunteers has gotten easier, thanks to a handy, online website called Sign-up Genius. Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library uses SignUp Genius for all book sales, including the annual fall sale. If you would like to be included in requests for book sale volunteers, send an email to: libby.slappay@gmail.com



Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Board of Directors

Seated, left to right: Sally Harms, Karen Kessler, Cindy Monroe, Libby Slappay
Standing, left to right: Debbie Schroeder, Lisa Morris, Nancy Kodros, Sue Reider
Not pictured: Dave Morris, Ruth Quisling, Julie Stephenson, Barb Rhame, Catherine Basile.



LAST SUMMER BOOK SALE

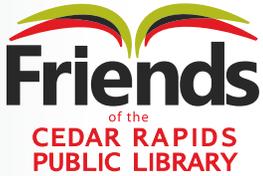
Farmers' Market
Saturday

August 2
7:30 am-noon

Visit us on the Plaza
Cedar Rapids
Public Library
450 5th Avenue SE

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

Fall
Book Sale
Oct. 24-26
2014
at the
Cherry Building
329 10th Avenue SE



Summer Reading 2014

Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library supports the spread of literacy all year round, but we have the most fun doing it during the summer. From the looks of the crowds at the library, we are not the only ones having fun with summer reading.

The appeal of the new downtown library and Ladd Library, coupled with great activities all summer long, have drawn record numbers in 2014. The Friends are long-time supporters of summer reading and we are looking forward to many more great summers to come.

Below are just a few photos of the 4,602 happy library fans who have attended summer reading programs for babies, kids and teens to date.



Library mascot Shakes the Monkey (his full name is William Shakespeare but his friends call him Shakes) working at the summer reading registration table downtown.



Lots of little library fans moved, sang and smiled with Tom Pease in Whipple Auditorium.



Kids grooved to the beat of Yahoo Drumming on the LivingLearning Roof.

By the Numbers

Summer Reading began on June 1 and ends on July 26 this year. Participation has been terrific and continues to grow. So far:

300 have signed up for *Little Scientists* for babies and toddlers

1,628 have signed up for *Fizz, Boom, Read* for children

380 have signed up for *Spark a Reaction* for teens

656 have signed up for *Ignite your Summer* for adults

2,964 sign ups as of 7/1

Thank you,
**Hills Bank
and Trust Company**

for standing with the Friends for so many years as a summer reading program sponsor!

Don't Forget the Adults
Ignite your summer!

More than 550 adults have attended adult programs like *All that Jazz* and *Out Loud!* with Sarah Vowell promoted through the adult-focused *Ignite your Summer* reading program.



Jacolyn Park is a great spot for offsite story times and these engaged listeners agreed.



The offsite story time crowd dove right into the robot magnet craft at Jacolyn Park.



Madcap Puppets presented (Mark) Twain's Twisted Tales with their giant puppets to a full audience in Whipple Auditorium.



Sarah Vowell delighted a packed house at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center on Friday, June 27.



An American jazz history lesson never sounded so good! School House Jazz played to a big crowd of little listeners in Whipple Auditorium.



Dennis McPartland and The Jazz Underground have put on All That Jazz for years as a summer library event, but this was the first year they have performed on the LivingLearning Roof.

Focus

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Delivering Books with Lunch

During a strategic planning process in 2014, investing in young minds immersed as one of three major strategic directions for the work of the Cedar Rapids Public Library over the next three years and beyond.

This summer, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library are making a great investment in young minds and stomachs! And they are relying on a red book wagon to do so.

Friends have donated a number of books that have been loaded on to their new red book wagon and taken to a variety of summer meal sites around the community. Children can choose a free book after they've enjoyed a nutritious meal. Funding from Friends has also made it possible for Ladd Library to serve as one of the summer meal sites for 2014. "One of our major goals is literary," said Friends volunteer Jan Frischkorn. "We are excited to have the opportunity with these lunches to get books into the hands of kids who are least likely to be able to purchase them."

Friends and the Library are proud to be supporting this great program—organized by United Way of East Central Iowa and a number of other nonprofit organizations—to keep kids' bodies and minds fueled with good food and good books all summer long.

