

The Next Chapter

Newsletter of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation

Public library is backbone of American democracy

By Christine Schnety, President

A high school student in Iowa City recently received recognition for her research about private giving and public funding of libraries. Jessica Zeng found a positive association between the two. The news media called to ask if this was true of our library: When the Cedar Rapids City Council reduced the library's public funding, did private contributions go down?

Luckily, no. Private contributions to the library have been fairly constant during the 40 years since the Foundation was established; donations do not seem to be tied to the ebb and flow of city budgets.

On the other hand, it's generally true that donors like to give to flourishing organizations—who doesn't like to invest in success? So Zeng's findings are not surprising.

But there is a bigger, more important story about Jessica Zeng. An immigrant, she learned English at her public library. This illustrates how important public libraries are in the American experience—indeed, how critical libraries are to democracy. At no other place can all of us—rich or poor, young or old, native or immigrant—get free access to information and technology. This is why we taxpayers have to do the heavy lifting when it comes to supporting the day-to-day operations of our public libraries.

The Foundation exists to enhance our library, supporting capital



In January, more than 400 residents attended a town hall meeting about the future of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Elected officials, library board members, and library patrons addressed the capacity crowd. (Photo courtesy of The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

improvements, new technologies, and additions to the collection. But, we can not and should not rely on private funds to provide this vital service—this quintessential American experience. It would be a huge blow to the backbone of democracy.

The role of the library's support organizations

The Foundation and the Friends of the Library are two separate charitable organizations that support the CRPL. Both were established in the early 1970s by local citizens who wanted to make the Cedar Rapids Public Library better than average.

The organizations generally support different types of projects, but the bottom line for each is to consistently and continually move our public library from good to better to excellent. Friends generally supports literacy programs; the Foundation focuses on capital

improvements. Sometimes they partner; sometimes they switch roles. But neither organization ever envisions a day when private funds are necessary to keep the library's doors open and its services free to all. Says Library Board of Trustees president and Foundation board member Tim Hill, "It would be a sad day in America if our public libraries were no longer public."



Alliant Energy representatives Shelly Turner and Brian Wakeham presented a \$2500 check to the Foundation in support of "Read the River," a multi-generation reading program in progress at the CRPL. Wakeham serves on the Foundation Board.

Foundation Board of Directors

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Board of Trustees*

Foundation Staff

Marie DeVries
739-0411
devriesm@crlibrary.org

Library Staff

Lori Barkema, *Director*
Tamara Glise, *Assistant
Director*

Library website

www.crlibrary.org
*For Foundation information
click "Support the Library"
then click "Foundation"*

OUR MISSION

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

The Foundation recognizes donations made January-December of 2007

1896 Club \$5,000+

Lois A. Fetterman Estate
Phyllis Fleming
Elizabeth Bailie Scherling
Estate

Publisher \$1,000- \$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Diane & Brian Bergstrom
Friends of the Cedar
Rapids Public Library
Richard Gorton
Betty Burke Hutchison

Author \$500-\$999

Anonymous (2)
Drs. Arthur & Marian
Barnes
Bradley & Riley PC
Tom & Mary Hansen
Ray & Judith Miller
Joan Thaler

Reader \$250-\$499

Richard & Patricia Acton
Susan & Loren Corrigan

Sara Fischer & Charles
Merrifield
Katie & Tim Hill
Dennis & Jean
McMenimen
Terry B. Payton
Jean A. Ragona Estate
Christine Schuety
Bill & Teddy Shuttleworth
Starbucks
Janelle & David N. Sturtz
Darrell & Julie Wahlstrom
Sharon Wetherell

Patron \$100-\$249

Alpha Delta Kappa
Chapter
Ruth M. Altermatt
Gerald & Alice Anderson
Anonymous (2)
Evelyn Badger
Lori Barkema
Sherri K. Bettmeng
Grant W. Bramel
Nancy C. Brown
Arnold & Libby
Bucksbaum

Toni Claussen
Josephine P. Cook
Marie & Steve DeVries
Jeanne Dotzauer
David & JoAnn Faribault
Melvin Galbraith
Judy Goldberg
Betty J. Good
Rebecca Groff
Margaret Haupt
Sarah L. & Todd A.
Henderson
Marion C. Jacobs
Les & Jeanne Kapler
Ed Kemp & Millie Joslin
John D. & Patricia J. Kerr
Rich & Marge Koolbeck
Judy & Dave Leavitt
Thea L. Leslie
Ann & Charles Lingo Sr.
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Michael & Susan
McDermott
Bob & Louise McMaster
Peggy & Jim Meek
Tamra L. Mitchell
Ron & Sue Neil
Dolores E. Nickels
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Jean Parry
Terry Pitts & Kathy Hall
Shirley & Merle Ries
Louise Roalson
Rockwell Collins
Bob Rush & Judith
Whetstine
Glenn & Clara Rushworth
Eudora E. Seyfer
Tuesday Study Club
U S Bancorp Foundation
Brian & Takako Wakeham
Frances C. Woods

Bookplate \$1-\$99

James & Ruth Affeldt
Bill & Ann Anderson
Anonymous (17)



In February, St. Matthew School students and staff presented a check to the Library Foundation for \$1,536.36. The funds were raised via a "Penny Challenge" held during Catholic School Week in January. On hand to participate were (l-r) Tim Hill, President of the Library Board of Trustees and Foundation Board member; Kara Callanan, St. Matthew school librarian; Leo Rehman, Delany Breitbach, and Colby Flynn, St. Matthew students; Joe Wolf, St. Matthew administrator, and Brian Fagan, Cedar Rapids City Council. Hill & Fagan attended St. Matthew School.

Daniel W. Bahnsen
 John J. Bauck
 Diane Bieber
 James H. Boddicker
 Sondra L. Bolsinger
 Patricia A. Bowen
 Dennis & Marsha Bradley
 Carol J. Brown
 Rick & Kelli Buresh
 Charles K. & Martha F.
 Cannon
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Carris
 Georgianna I. Coontz
 Vicke A. Davis
 Debtors Anonymous
 Devin C. Drew
 Raymond & Marjorie
 Dutchik
 Dolores B. Duy
 Bernie & Mary Dvorak
 John Ely Jr.
 Robert R. & Carol A.
 Ferguson
 C. Eugene & Dorothy
 Fifield
 E. J. Fisher
 Beverly B. Gales
 Cindy Garlock
 Marti Garrison
 Margaret F. Gillespie
 Neva & Keith Griem
 Wilma Grim
 Marjorie & Donald
 Grimm
 David & Beverly Hannon
 Cara & Lee Hataway
 Gina Hausknecht &
 Matthew Brown
 Helen M. Herren
 Hesperian Book Club
 Glenda & Dennis Hildman
 Wayne A. & Anna G.
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 Timothy Hotz
 Eugene R. Ilten
 Intergroup Association
 Lillian Jensen
 Lois E. Johns
 Amy G. Joseph
 Laura Keister

Harry & Miriam Kiliper
 Don & June King
 Ann Kinney
 Nancy G. & Rodney J.
 Kodros
 Stephanie Krause
 Bill Lawrence
 John E. & Dorothea A.
 Lee
 Joe & Cherri Lock
 William & Janice Loftus
 Mary Magner & Steve
 Carpenter
 Constance P. Malmer
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 Manson
 John & Frances Markham
 Jean E. Means
 Robert & Theza Miller
 Anita Minor
 Robert & Henrietta
 Mueller
 Chris & John North
 Joe & Corinne
 Ohligschlagler
 Helene Ottsen
 Rich & Marion Patterson
 Nancy Paul
 Jean L. Peterson
 Richard M. & Dee Pitner
 Dow & Susan Prouty
 Pam & Bob Ramoska
 Rebecca & Jeffrey
 Reinhart
 Sylvia & Byron Riley
 Rotary Club of Cedar
 Rapids
 Ryan Companies
 John & June Sackett
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 Sentman
 Wilma Shadle
 Jane & David Siegel
 Glen H. Smith Jr.
 Jean C. Spring
 Stephanie L. Sueppel
 Anne Graham Suggs
 Ron & Trudy Sundermann
 J. Alan Swegle
 Christine Tabak

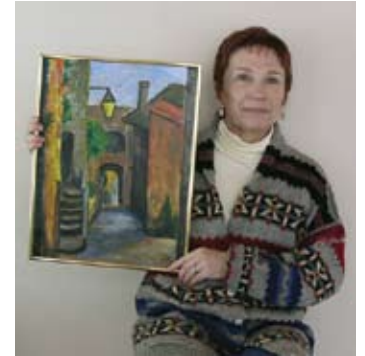
K. A. & Vani Thimmaiah
 Kathleen & Gene Todd
 Sean Ulmer & Edward
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 Mary Ann & Jim
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 Edward Winter
 Leah V. Winter
 Suzanne Zahn
 Maria Violeth Barrera
 Zuniga
 Pedro Zuniga
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Grants

Linn County Historical
 Commission
 Rockwell Collins

In-Kind

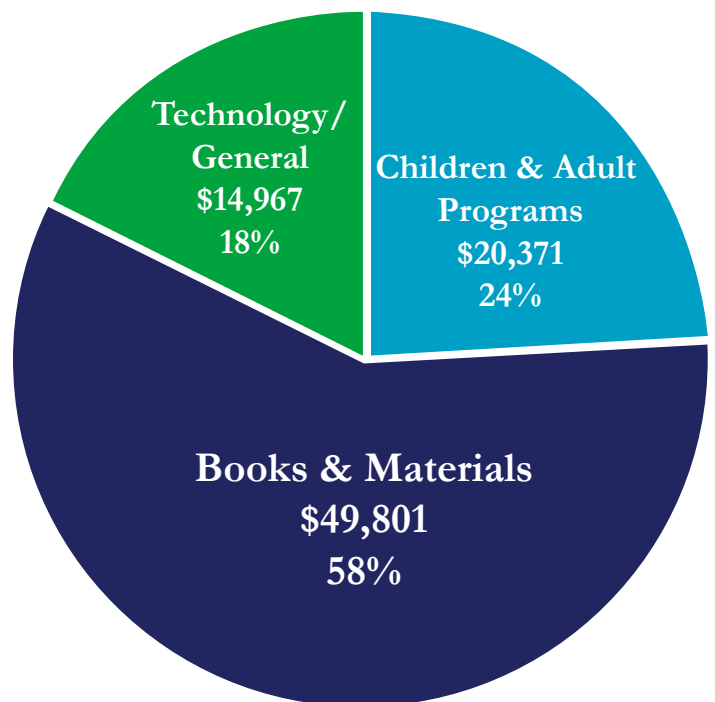
Guaranty Bank & Trust
 Co.



*And the winner is...
 Marti Garrison won a painting
 by local artist and former CRPL
 Foundation President Joan Tha-
 ler. All 2007 donors were eligible
 for the drawing.*

**The Greater Cedar
 Rapids Community
 Foundation**
 Viola Elsenbast Fund
 Edna A. Herbst Fund
 Nancy McHugh Fund
 Myron & Esther Wilson
 Fund

2007 Foundation Support of CRPL \$85,139



Between the Lines

children's books with ecological themes can

Online and automatic giving now available

Gifts can now be made online. Go to www.crlibrary.org, click on Support the Library, then click on Foundation. About half way down the page, you'll see instructions for online giving through PayPal.

Donors can also have gifts withdrawn automatically from their personal accounts. Contact the Foundation office for details, 739-0411 or devriesm@crlibrary.org

Read the River generation spanning reading project

Beat the winter blahs, spend time together, and improve reading skills! Stop at the second floor Children's Desk, and sign up for Read the River, a winter reading program.

A prepared book kit containing ten

be checked out and read together. Upon completion, participating children select a book & adults receive a book bag.

This generation-spanning program runs through April 30.

Read the River sponsors include Alliant Energy Foundation, Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, and Rockwell Collins as well as Friends of the Library and the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation.

Out Loud! author series to begin

A visiting author series, funded by the John P. and Lawrence J. Giacoletto Foundation and produced by the public libraries in Cedar Rapids, Marion, & Hiawatha, will connect a range of authors

to eager audiences. The series will be launched this spring. Watch for details in the local media and on library websites.

Library wins "Icky" Awards

A collaborative creative effort between the library and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art won two prestigious "Icky" awards for innovation and excellence in the arts. The "Ickys" are sponsored by the Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance (ICCA).

"Hidden Treasure: Original Children's Book Illustrations from the Cedar Rapids Public Library" highlighted select items from the library's collection of more than 800 illustrations. The exhibit ran at the museum from January-May 2007 and drew thousands of visitors locally and from across the country. The current value of the illustrations is being assessed.