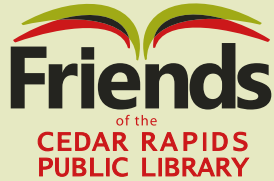


Spring 2020

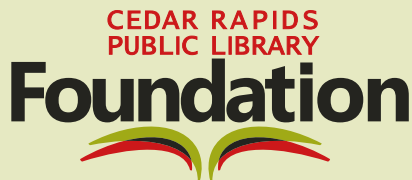
FOCUS

The newsletter for **Friends** and the **Foundation** of the Cedar Rapids Public Library



Mission

Friends supports the CRPL mission and vision and promotes literacy through community outreach.



Mission

The Foundation mobilizes community resources and relationships that empower our Library to deliver innovative programs and services.

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Become a True Friend

Celebrating Our 100,000th Book!



Library Programming Manager Kevin Delecki presenting Ehren Zalewski and his mother Meghan a certificate recognizing Ehren as the recipient of Cedar Rapids' 100,000th Imagination Library book.

CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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LADD LIBRARY • 3750 WILLIAMS BLVD SW • CEDAR RAPIDS • IOWA 52404

Letter from the Foundation



Charity Tyler

Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

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Trustee Representative

First and foremost, please know that our Library Foundation appreciates all of you, our donors and supporters. We are thinking of you during this trying time, and will continue to communicate as best we can. I hope this issue of Focus provides some insights on what our Library is doing to support our community and how we're pressing on to support our Library.

Most worthy of celebration is that Dolly Parton's Imagination Library continues to reach more than 5,400 Cedar Rapids children each month. In February, we recognized 20 month old Ehren Zalewski as the recipient of the 100,000th Imagination Library book mailed in Cedar Rapids. These milestones are not possible without your support! Thank you so much for investing in our children.

Additionally, in light of the uncertain duration of self-distancing/quarantine policies, we've decided to cancel or postpone all Foundation events through June 30. This was a difficult decision and was made while trying to balance both the health and well-being of our donors and our need to continue our fundraising efforts. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause and appreciate your patience with us during this time.

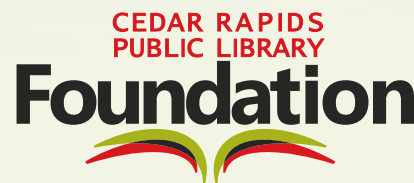
Our Foundation team is working hard to finish this year strong. We know our Library and community depend on our success, and we understand the responsibility we have to you, our donors. I will continue to share victories and celebrate with you in the coming months.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Foundation@crlibrary.org with any questions or comments. We would love to hear from you. For now, take care and be well.

With gratitude,



Charity D. Tyler
Executive Director



P.S. – A note from our Library Director Dara Schmidt:

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Library, and your patience and understanding during uncertain times. The Library is able to respond to community needs because of the flexibility your support provides. People like you make it possible for us to provide engagement and resources during challenging times. Take a look at page 4 to see how the Library is serving the community even while closed. Thank you again for your support! — Dara

Letter from Friends

Dear Friends,

As we embark on another decade of Friends of the Library, I'm reminded that the 50 year anniversary of our founding is less than a year away.

How can that be?

On October 28, 1971, a stalwart group of community members formalized the existence of the Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library when they signed the nonprofit's incorporation papers on that day. And much has happened in the ensuing decades.

In considering the dozens – no, hundreds – of volunteers who have generously given of their time, their brains, their good humor, and most definitely their muscles, to sorting and selling books on behalf of Friends, a modest thank you can hardly convey our true appreciation. But we must single out Debbie Schroeder and Jan Frischkorn, two long-time Friends volunteers who have decided to retire from their role as co-chairs of our sorting center. These two are the hardest working women in show business...er, make that book business!

In looking back through years of files, it's obvious Debbie and Jan have played every part in the Friends operation. Their collective wisdom has been a godsend to the newer and more "green" board members and volunteers. And, literally, for years, they have carried out their duties week after week, day after day. We owe them a book lover's version of an Oscar for their tireless performances.

So when you see either of them at the library or anywhere about town, tell them thanks and how much you appreciate them. We sure do!

With appreciation,



Libby Gotschall Slappey
President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library



Libby Gotschall Slappey

Friends Board Members

Libby Slappey,
President

Jan Frischkorn,
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Kate Walters,
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Lesli Nesmith,
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Nancy Kodros,
Book Sales

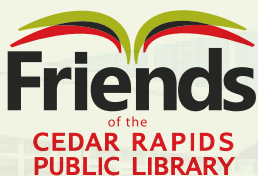
Barb Rhame,
Volunteers

Debbie Schroeder,
Online Sales

Melinda Tomsic,
Media/Marketing

Susan Van Woert,
Sorting Center

Myron Williams,
Media/Marketing



Focus on Foundation

Focus on Library



Our Cedar Rapids Public Library responds to the changing needs of our community, and things have certainly been changing over the last few weeks. Our Library is doing its best to meet community needs during social distancing.

Library staff are presenting **Virtual Programming** for children, teens, and adults. Currently via Facebook live and coming soon to YouTube. Library staff are offering educational, enriching entertainment for our community at home. From story times to crafts, meditation and book clubs, **Virtual Programs** offer engagement and connection.



Phone and email reference has continued, with information professionals answering questions and making library cards over the phone for new users to access e-resources. There's a lot going on right now, and the Library is a trusted resource for residents to get their questions answered.

E-Resources have been a service of the Cedar Rapids Public Library for years, but our usage has grown over 50% in just one week! Through various vendor platforms our Library has a wide variety of free digital resources available to entertain, educate, and enhance quality of life available to anyone with a library card – all without leaving the comfort of home!



Online resources include ebooks and magazines, audiobooks, streaming music, TV, and movies.

Cloud Library brings you a seamless eBook experience. Start your book on one device and then resume on another! The Metro Library Network brings you yet another resource for free ebooks through the 3M Cloud Library. Access ebooks anywhere using the 3M app on your mobile device or computer. Use this service anywhere!



Freegal offers Cedar Rapids citizens can download a limited number of free mp3 files from this free and legal service. (Available for Cedar Rapids residents)

Hoopla allows you to download and stream free videos, music, audiobooks, comics, and ebooks to your mobile device or computer. (Available for Cedar Rapids and Marion residents) FUNDED BY THE CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



With **Kanopy**, a streaming service, you're able to watch over 30,000 documentaries, classic and indie films. (Available for Cedar Rapids and Marion residents)

Lynda.com provides access to thousands of free online training videos and courses. Help with Photoshop, Excel, financial literacy, writing etc. (Available for Cedar Rapids residents)

Overdrive allows you to borrow eBook and Audiobooks from us here at the Cedar Rapids Public Library – anywhere, anytime. All you need is your library card number. Use this service anywhere.



Explore these and many other resources available with your library card at CRLibrary.org/resources.

Focus on Foundation

While COVID-19 prohibits gathering on the Downtown Library's LivingLearning Roof, we are creating plans to help you host your own Literary Vines beer or wine tasting from the comfort of your own home. I realize that we already hosted our Stay Home & Read fundraiser, so I hope you'll excuse us for this unplanned redundancy and consider supporting our faux tasting event.

Please keep your eyes on your mailbox in the coming weeks. Soon, you will receive our actual Literary Vines tasting menu complete with book pairings for your pleasure. We hope you will enjoy our creative spin on this event and support our Library Foundation by purchasing faux tickets or making a gift.

All funds raised benefit the Library Foundation and Foundation-funded programs, including Summer Dare, preschool outreach, Hoopla, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Huge thank you to our event Sponsors!

Patron Sponsors

Bankers Trust
ImOn Communications
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Author Sponsors

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BankIowa
King's Material
OPN Architects
Paulson Electric
Tyler Link & Barnes DDS



Wine provided by First Avenue Wine House. Beer provided by Benz Beverage Depot. Literature pairings provided by our Librarians.



Library Champion Thank You!

The Foundation's Library Champion program recognizes businesses and organizations who support our Library Foundation with a gift of \$500 or more. Thank you to all of our 2020 Library Champions!

The Accel Group	IBEW Local 405
AEGON Transamerica Foundation	ImOn Communications
Alliant Energy Foundation	ITC Midwest
Area Ambulance Service	Kings Material
Bankers Trust	Knutson Construction
BankIowa	Linn Area Credit Union
Benchmark, Inc.	Mercy Medical Center
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust	Midwest Foot & Ankle Center
Bradley & Riley, P.C.	Mystic Tat2
Cargill, Inc.	OPN Architects
Collins Aerospace Charitable Corporation	Paulson Electric
Collins Community Credit Union	Pearson
CRST International	Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 125
Dakota Red Corporation	Raining Rose, Inc.
F & M Bank	Sheet Metal Workers Local 263
The Gazette Company	Tricon Construction
General Mills	TrueNorth Companies
Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation	Tyler, Link, & Barnes
GreenState Credit Union	UFG Insurance
Hawkeye Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO	UnityPoint-St. Luke's Foundation
Hills Bank	US Bank
	Wells Fargo Bank

Add these to your “To Do List”

April: Become a True Friend by donating to Friends of the Library. (Just pop a check in the mail to: Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 5th Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. Checks of any size are appreciated!)

May: Donate to Friends the last great new fiction book that you read.

June: Cull your collection of cookbooks and donate one to the Friends. It will find new life at our next sale.

July: Shop the Farmers’ Market Sale on July 4th and 18th on the plaza of the Downtown Library.

August: Enlist two of your friends to become True Friends.

September: Visit our website to find out activities in which you can participate for National Friends of the Library Week, October 18 – 24.

October: Sign up to work the Annual Fall Book Sale to be held November 6, 7, and 8 at the Cherry Building.

November: Shop and work the Annual Fall Book Sale.

December: Don’t miss the Very Cherry Holiday Sale on December 5th at the Cherry Building. It’s quite fun AND festive!

**See how easy that was.
We look forward to hearing
from you.**

Going for Gold: Let’s Add 50 new True Friends for the Cedar Rapids Public Library

As you might have read in Libby’s letter, next year marks the 50th anniversary of Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Wouldn’t you love to be part of making that headline come true? If you’ve always considered yourself a Friend of the Library, but have never officially joined, how about today? It’s easy to do from home and you don’t need anything but a checkbook. Become a “True Friend” and help Friends of the CRPL support critical literacy programs of the library. As per Libby’s quote, “a stalwart group of community members” started the Friends, and an equally stalwart group can help to continue the mission of Friends today. You and 49 of your closest friends can help us reach our goal.

And if you’re already a True Friend, there are other ways to help. Proceeds from book sales at the Cherry Building during the winter & spring months translate into program support for our library, so either shop at our sales or volunteer. You would be surprised at the treasures on the shelves. During the summer, Farmers’ Market sales are great fun. Numerous volunteer options all contribute to the bottom line. Enlist a friend and put your name in the headline.

TRUE FRIENDS

Judie & Craig Anderson
Therese Archibald
Dwayne Augspurger
Pat & Judy Baird
Phyllis Barber
Dean & Janice Barnum
Lu & Bill Barron
Colleen & Plenny Bates
Joe Leone & Barbara Berns
Barbara Bloomhall
Sondra Bolsinger-Lamb
Stacy Boston
Jeanne & Matt Brandes
Nicky Bruns
Patricia K. Bryant
Dennis & Laura Bullock
Jeff & Annette Busbee
Mary Magner & Steve Carpenter
Kathryn Coulter
Alice & Chris Dahle
Elinor Day
Jerry & Fran Elsea
Kathy & Rex Eno
Natalie Esparza
Hilery Livengood & Ben
Fashimpaur
Grace Ferreter
Rachelle Frese
Greer Fry
Elwood & Cindy Garlock
Matthew & Katie Giorgio
Kristin & Gary Glockhoff
George & Chris Gochenouer
Kathy Good
Dick & Patty Gorton

Maureen Gronstal
Shannon & Eric Hanson
Cecelia & Chuck Harmeyer
Brad & Jade Hart
Kate Hawkins
Frank & Marge Helsell
Francis Henderson
Ed & Pat Hermann
Tim & Katie Hill
Gingie Hunstad
Jill Jamieson
Daryl & Leslie Julich
Les & Jeanne Kapler
Denise Klemp
Robert & Joan Kocher
Rod & Nancy Kodros
Laura & Whealen Koontz
William Ross Kreuger
Lori Lane
Michael L. Langheim
Sven & Carol Larson
Thea Leslie
Cedric & Marcia Lofdahl
Jane Looker
Dave & Lisa Morris
Margaret Nelson
Lesli Nesmith
John & Christine North
Sue Pearson
David A. & Mary Jo Rater
Janet & John Rater
Randy Rieck
Stefanie Rupert
Janis Russell
Dwight & Debbie Schroeder

Doug & Jane Schumacher
Jack & Joyce Sedlacek
Mary Sharp
Marilyn Sippy
Libby Slappey & Charles Crawley
Joanne Smith
Rusty & Lisa Soole
Peter & Ida Sorensen
Karen Soteco
Julie Stephenson
Joy Stoker-Hadow
Rosalie Strang
Joan Thaler
Melinda Tomsic
Calvin & Linda Van Niewaal
Linda Vrba
Julie Watts
Barbara Waychoff
Bob & Jan Webster
Barb Westercamp
Kit Weston
Matt & Martha Wilding
Myron & Connie Williams
Carol & David Wolf
Candace Wong
Warren Wood
Felicia Wyrick
Nancy York



Tales from Two Sales

Annual Fall Book Sale – November 1, 2, 3, 2019

It's hard to believe that more than four months have passed since the Fall Sale. It was a great sale and I believe that the theme of tales from this sale is "Thank You." More than 50 volunteers signed up for one or more shifts of two hours each. Tasks ranged from set-up, cashiering, restocking, operating the massive freight elevator (one of the favorite tasks), and carrying boxes full of books to teardown.

Once again this year, we had our special team from Top Shape Gym who provided added muscle power to the job of carrying out boxes of books purchased by our patrons. They were indeed in top shape and saved the backs of both volunteers and customers.

A new feature this year was a special selection of volumes: "Books as Décor." With multiple sets of books in our inventory, many beautifully bound, we made a slightly different sales pitch by offering these classics as a way to add both whimsy and style to any room. For this unique section, we partnered with the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio, located in the Cherry Building. Executive Director Ellen Kleckner had the vision of displaying beautiful ceramics and glass along with our classic book sets, so that customers could envision using books as decor that could add charm to their own homes. Resident artists Mitchell Hilzner and Emily Carpenter staged the displays.

Customers were indeed inspired. Some of our books became a permanent installation within a recording studio at Brucemore, acting as both acoustic and aesthetic enhancements.

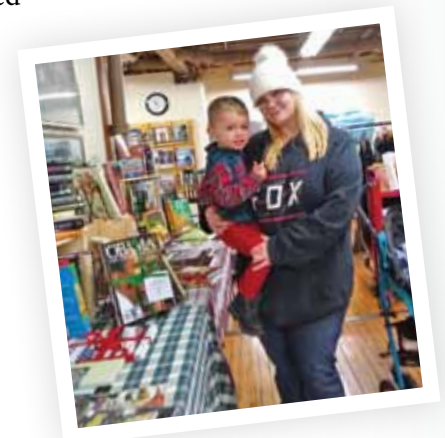
Very Cherry Holiday Sale – December 7, 2019

Both festive and fun, the annual Very Cherry Holiday Sale is a Friends and fan favorite. It was a wonderful day with families enjoying the outing and children dressed up for photos with Santa.

Friends couldn't do any of this without many helping hands who work behind the scenes year round to sort and shelve the thousands of donated books that come in and then prepare for, work at, and clean up after each and every sale. So, to our volunteers, thank you for your time, muscle, and thoughtful participation.

And we offer a special thanks to our neighbors in the Cherry Building and Lijun and David Chadima for sharing this beautiful space with us.

One last special thank you goes to Don Frischkorn who has probably moved more tons of books over the last few years than anyone else I could think of. We could not have done without Don's ability to visualize our layout and persistence in moving and organizing for our sales. Thank you, Don.



Focus

450 5th Ave. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Return Service Requested


Non-profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #381
Cedar Rapids,
Iowa 52401

Big Bag of Thanks!

Friends of the Library certainly appreciates the GreenState Credit Union whose partnership allows us to generate extra income through the sale of our colorful book bags. Likewise, Friends appreciates the team of volunteers who unpack and sort the bags for distribution at our Book Nooks and at Basement Books in the Cherry Building.

*Pictured right are (LtoR) Sue Latham,
Frances Woods, Greer Fry, and Donna Koch.*




Friends
of the
**CEDAR RAPIDS
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Please visit
www.crlibrary.org to see
details and a complete
list of programs.*