

# FRIENDS 2024: Impact Report





# Stories of Impact ▶



## ▶ We Expand Library Collections



- Library Collections
- Children's Programming
- Teen Programming
- Adult Programming

In 2024, your generosity provided **\$130,000** in direct funding to Ramsey County Library as well as funds to support Friends programs that strengthen the Library.

Together, we impact our community by expanding Library collections, enriching lives, building home libraries, and more.

“ The library is a sanctuary of knowledge and discovery to me. Even when I could not afford much, I still had access to the library for books and movies. – Aspen J.

Ramsey County Library materials circulated over **3 million** times in 2024! With your partnership, the Friends invested **\$30,000** to help replace worn-out materials, fulfill patron requests, and keep collections current and responsive to community needs.

## Friends 2024: Thank You For Your Continued Generosity

The mission of the Ramsey County Library Friends is to strengthen, support, and advocate for the Ramsey County Library system in order to enrich the lives of library users, promote literacy and education, and foster community. Since 1979, the Friends organization has lived out this mission by providing over six million dollars in funding for Ramsey County Library programs, books, materials, and spaces for all ages.

The Friends organization also builds community among its members, donors, and sponsors by offering volunteer-staffed bookstores and book carts within the libraries and by hosting two huge annual used book sales, author talks, Library updates, and other events and special programs.

Our funding of critical Library programs and resources and our ability to build community is only possible because of our generous sponsors and donors, our partnership with Library staff, the Friends governing Board of Directors, Friends Executive Director Melissa Nykanen and the Friends staff, a membership base of almost 800 households, and over a hundred dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all for your continued support – and a special thank you to Northeast Bank, our Signature Sponsor.

Please enjoy these stories of impact, all made possible by your support! See you at the Library...

Jewelie Grape  
2025 Board President



Donate Today!



## ► We Enrich Lives

“ The library means knowledge, freedom, and imagination. What I love most is the children’s area with story times and activities. The library opens up the children’s minds and curiosity to so many topics that children learn from. – Lisa S.

Libraries are more than just books! Over **62,500** people attended **2,500** programs that were offered for all ages and at all seven Library branches! Your gifts funded programs as varied as online password management to snakes and reptiles to printmaking.



## ► We Build Home Libraries

“ I like volunteering at the Friends’ bookstores and sales because it’s fun and rewarding. I work with people who value the library, books find new homes, and the library receives more funding. It’s a win-win! – Cindy Q.

With six permanent used bookstores and book carts, two huge semi-annual sales, numerous pop-up sales, and an extensive donation program, Friends volunteers are busy all year stocking the home libraries of Ramsey County residents and beyond.



## 2024: By The Numbers



**105** Friends Volunteers



**363** Boxes of Books Donated to Local Organizations



**713** Friends Donors

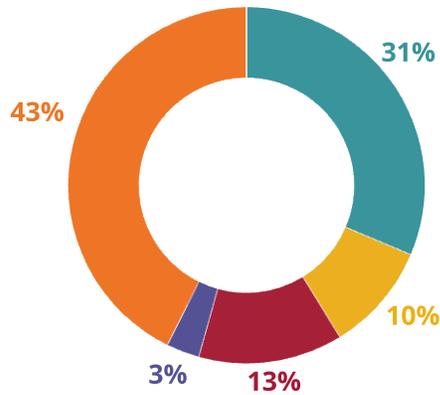


**62,500** Attendees at Library Programs



**3,100,000** Library Items Circulated

# Friends 2024: Financial Summary



## 2024 Income & Expenses

### Revenue

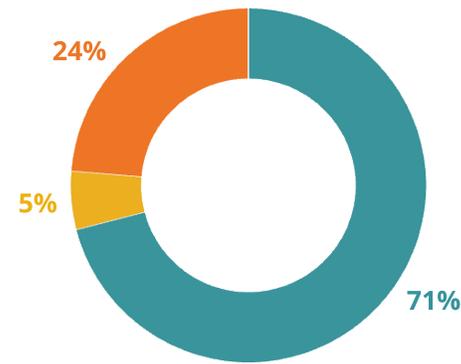
Contributions, Gifts, and Grants	\$199,560
Book Sales	\$62,776
Membership Dues	\$83,310
Special Events	\$19,067
Investment Income	\$271,696

**Total Revenue** **\$636,409**

### Expenses

Programs	\$224,660
Fundraising	\$16,856
Administrative	\$75,064

**Total Expenses** **\$316,581**



## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024

### 2024 Assets

#### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,434,956
Prepaid expenses and other	\$2,388
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,437,344</b>

#### Property & Equipment

Furniture and equipment	\$45,972
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$43,697
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	<b>\$2,275</b>

#### Other Assets

Investments	\$2,766,871
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**Total Assets** **\$4,206,490**

### 2024 Liabilities & Net Assets

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$529
Credit Cards	\$1,014
Sales Tax Payable	\$1,025
Accrued Payroll	\$12,463
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$15,031</b>

#### Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions:	
Board designated endowment	\$559,887
Undesignated	\$717,774
With Donor Restrictions:	
Time and purpose restricted	\$2,543,798
Perpetual in nature	\$370,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$4,191,459</b>

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** **\$4,206,490**

## 2024 Board of Directors

Valerie Wise  
*President*

Jewelie Grape  
*Vice President*

Nancy Guerino+  
*Vice President*

Mary Laine  
*Vice President*

Grant Munson  
*Treasurer*

Cathy Croghan  
*Secretary*

Diane Alshouse\*  
Lynn Belgea  
Courtney Billing  
Gregory Bromen\*  
Marcia Cheney  
Sharon Johnson  
Jane McMahan\*  
Kirsten Poecher  
Jan Rapheal  
Shawn Rounds

Melissa Nykanen  
*RCLF Executive Director,  
Ex-Officio*

Mary Flynn Worley\*  
*RCLF Executive Director,  
Ex-Officio*

Pang Yang  
*RCL Director, Ex-Officio*

\*Rolled off in 2024  
+Rolled off in 2025

Please see our website,  
[rclfriends.org](http://rclfriends.org), for a current list  
of Board members and officers.

## Friends Staff

Caitlin Carroll  
*Events & Communications  
Manager*

Melissa Nykanen  
*Executive Director*

Danielle Wyatt  
*Donor Relations Specialist*