

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Strengthening, supporting, and advocating for Ramsey County Library

 **FRIENDS**
— OF THE —
RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Our mission at Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is to strengthen, support and advocate for the Ramsey County Library system. Libraries are the great equalizer in our communities, and the Friends organization seeks to support Ramsey County Library's efforts to provide a welcoming space for all in order to CONNECT community, INSPIRE curiosity, and CULTIVATE learning.

For over forty years, hundreds of Friends members, volunteers, and donors have provided more than \$3.5 million in funding, materials, and enhancements to Ramsey County Library. The Friends have initiated, funded, enhanced, or expanded programs for all ages including the Summer Learning Program, Kindergarten Card Party Sign Up, adult computer classes, teen book clubs and special events, homework assistance, and training for job seekers.

We have also made substantial additions to the collection of Ramsey County Library books and materials and conducted capital campaigns for library construction or remodeling at the Library branches located in Maplewood, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Saint Paul, Roseville, Shoreview, and White Bear Lake.

Individuals, organizations, and businesses contribute to the Friends to ensure that the libraries remain places where anyone can find a great read, get help with technology and media, meet and talk with others who share their interests, and expand their knowledge and skills in just about any subject. The vision in our most recent strategic plan is to have a bigger and bolder impact with Ramsey County Library into the future. So, we don't plan to stop the hard work any time soon!

Formed in 1979, the Friends is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization with a governing board of directors, three part-time staff, hundreds of volunteers, and a membership of more than 750 households and businesses. We greatly appreciate the support of all of these people!

The Minnesota Charities Review Council has certified the Friends for meeting all standards covering public disclosure, governance, financial management, and fundraising. Donors can be assured that their gifts will be managed in the most effective way for the benefit of Ramsey County Library patrons.

Ann Trapnell, President



2019 IMPACT

In 2019, Ramsey County Library (RCL) received more than \$136,000 from the Friends. These grants supported vital learning programs for children, teens, and adults as well as library staff training, volunteer recognition, communications and outreach, enhanced collections, and children's interactives/furnishings. 2019 highlights include:



3,442,654
materials
circulated

1,412,654
visits to
the libraries



Additions to the Collection:

This grant enabled RCL to address high demand trends and replace outdated materials. RCL added e-books, e-audiobooks, titles by popular authors, titles in the children's collection, juvenile graphic novels, and additional STEM kits; purchased new travel books and titles for Book Club in a Bag sets; and was able to reduce large holds and wait times.

Summer Learning Program:

Overall, 3,785 preschool and school-age children and 1,684 teens registered to participate in the Summer Learning Program. This grant supported the Summer Learning Kickoff, with over 800 kids in attendance and distribution of 1,800 books to families participating in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and the Summer Learning Programs. In 2019, the teen program hosted 24 book clubs; three week-long Teen Tech Camps; and numerous other events throughout the summer. Teens submitted 5,497 book reviews and received prizes for their participation.



Digital Literacy:

In 2019, Friends funding helped RCL provide 560 digital literacy classes and open labs that served 2,469 people. In addition to programs at libraries, RCL provided technology classes to new immigrants at the Fairview Community Center in Roseville, to ex-offenders at the Volunteers of America corrections facility, and at Popup Library events.



Adult Programs:

In 2019, Friends grants enabled RCL to expand their history programs beyond those supported by the MN Legacy Amendment. Friends-funded history programs this year included a three-part series on Race, Class and Gender, the Great Decisions series, Tuesdays with a Scholar and many more. Friends funding also supported community well-being programming including the Becoming American film and discussion series on immigration in the U.S., monthly Roseville Alzheimer's & Dementia Community Action Team programs, and social justice programming such as the Do Good Roseville Hard Truths Book Club, the popular Ask series giving voice to underrepresented communities, and the Let's Talk About Death series. In addition, Friends funding enabled the Library to work with CTV North Suburbs to record many of these programs and provide them free of charge on the RCL website.



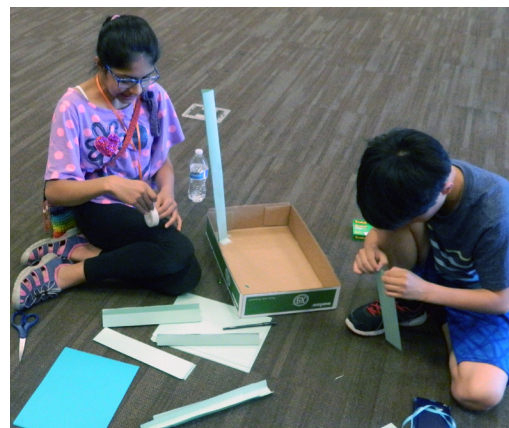
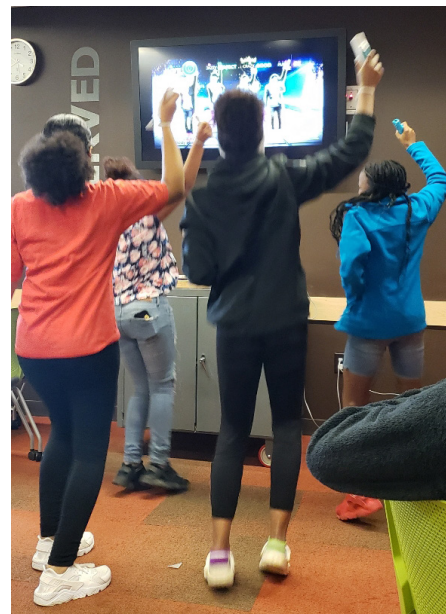
Children's Programs:

Friends funding supported key children's programs at RCL in 2019 including the Kindergarten Card party attended by 274 first time library card recipients and their families and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, an early literacy initiative. Friends grants also provided supplies used in story times and other early literacy activities such as Gingerbread House Making, Pre-school Paleontology events, Diverse Books Showcase, Fairy Garden supplies, Learning Tree Yoga, World Kindness Day, Winter Wonder Cards, and Petco gift cards provided to Paws to Read volunteers.



Teen Programs:

Friends funding helped enhance teen programs which served nearly 13,000 participants in 2019 through 856 programs, classes, book clubs, tours and camps. RCL also used Friends funds to host 328 teens at Library After Dark at RCL-Maplewood. This after-hours program helps establish the library as a safe space for teens in the community, as well as an environment to let teens be creative and loud in the library. In addition, the Friends supported weekly teen makerspaces at Maplewood, Shoreview and Roseville, and monthly teen makerspace at White Bear Lake. In 2019, 1,220 teens explored STEAM projects through hands-on learning at 173 makerspace events.



FUN WITH FRIENDS SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY!

2019 Kindergarten Library Card Sign-Up Party

As always, the Kindergarten Library Card Party was overflowing with hundreds of gleeful kindergarteners and their families. More than 1,500 library card applications were processed through this effort and 274 cards were handed out at the event held on January 26, 2019. Many thanks to our sponsors who not only provided financial support for this great event but also volunteered their time to help out and brought giveaways for participants!

Silver: Pet Evolution

Bronze: Northeast Bank



2019 Friends Gala—Hats Off to the Library!

January and February around the office are always frenetically busy with the many details that go into the Annual Friends Gala. The 2019 theme, Hats Off to the Library!—was a big hit and this event provided \$33,000 to Ramsey County Library for the adult and children's collections. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers and sponsors who made this event a great success!

Exclusive Media Sponsor: Twin Cities Pioneer Press

Platinum: Northeast Bank

Gold: Applewood Pointe, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN, Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club,

Metropolitan State University, Mary and Wayne Carter, Cathy Croghan and Kathy Robbins, Kate and Rob Huebsch, Dick and Mary Fowler, Frank and Jayne Harris, Pamela Harris

Silver: Community Resource Bank, Minnesota Public Radio, Premier Banks, John W. Harris, Rong Kate Yang

Beverage Sponsor: Fair State Brewing Coop

Wine Sponsor: Cotroneo's Wine and Spirits



40 Years of Library Advocacy

More than 75 guests attended the Friends 40th Anniversary Celebration held on April 22, 2019 at RCL-Shoreview. The informative and entertaining speakers – Norman Vinnes, Metta Fridley, Heidi Holland, and Nancy Guerino – provided a window into the challenges of 1979 that gave rise to the Friends organization. Since that time, the Friends have contributed more than \$3.5 Million to enhance Ramsey County Library programs, amenities, and collections.



Book It 5K Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Thank you to all the runners, walkers, strollers, volunteers, Library staff, and sponsors who came out on Saturday, May 18, 2019 to support the Summer Learning Program!

Gold: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN Retail Centers

Silver: Falcon Heights-Lauderdale Lions Club, Jaci Meyer Agency/State Farm, Maguire Agency, "Poky Little Puppies"

Bronze: Associated Dentists-Roseville and St. Paul, John W. Harris, Pamela Harris, "A Gentleman in Moscow", The McMahon Family, "Aral Vorkosigan & Cordelia Naismith Vorkosigan", "Nero Wolfe"

In-kind: Kowalski's, Great Harvest, Bliss Yoga



Bookstores and Book Sales

The Friends operate three used bookstores (Maplewood, Roseville and Shoreview) and two used book carts (Mounds View and White Bear Lake) and hold an annual Book Sale at RCL-Shoreview. Hundreds of community volunteers make this possible and together they raised more than \$65,000 in 2019 and donated more than 10,000 books to community groups. The Friends also hosted a huge used book sale in September at RCL-Shoreview raising over \$5,000 to support Ramsey County Library and signing up 16 new Friends members. Many thanks to the amazing bookstore and book sale volunteers!



2019 Author Talk and Luncheon

The Friends 40th Annual Author Talk and Luncheon was held at the North Oaks Golf Club in November. Proceeds neared \$1,000 and helped expand the RCL collection of large print, audio and digital materials. The event featured Sarah Stonich, award-winning author of internationally acclaimed books Vacationland, These Granite Islands and The Ice Chorus. Ms. Stonich won the 2019 Minnesota Book Award for Best Novel with her latest book, Laurentian Divide. We are grateful to our generous sponsors:



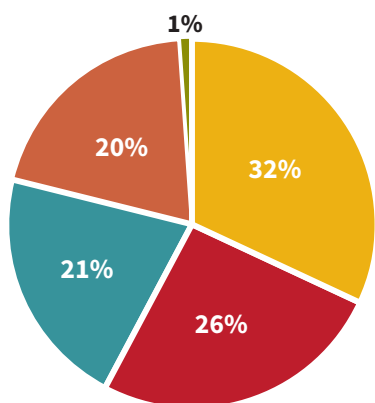
Silver: Mary and Wayne Carter; Robert Ostlund and Donald Ostlund

Reading Friends

The Reading Friends partnership with Community Programs with Youth (CPY) in New Brighton continued over the 2018-2019 school year with twelve dedicated volunteers. The Reading Friends book collection at CPY was refreshed from the September book sale at Shoreview and both the kids and reading volunteers were excited to have new material.

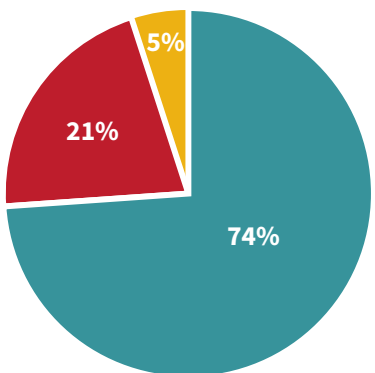
2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is a volunteer, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS codes. The EIN is 41-1597085. Detailed income and expense reports are available upon request.



2019 Total Income \$239,023

32%	Contributions, gifts, grants	\$ 83,837
26%	Book sales	\$ 67,994
21%	Membership dues	\$ 45,783
20%	Special events	\$ 47,576
1%	Investment income	\$ 2,219



2019 Total Expenses \$270,680

74%	Programs	\$199,655
• \$99,000 – Direct grant support for Ramsey County Library including: summer learning program, digital literacy programs, adult programs, children's programs, teen programs, racial equity programs, community well-being, Explore newsletter, volunteer program, and library employee development • \$33,000 – Adult and children's collections at seven Ramsey County Library locations: Maplewood, Mounds View, New Brighton, North St. Paul, Roseville, Shoreview, and White Bear Lake • \$67,655 – Other programs and services including Reading Friends, library advocacy and promotional activities, processing donated books and materials for the library collection, and donor designated grants for specific library locations and/or programming		
21%	Operating Expenses	\$ 56,122
5%	Fund Raising Expenses	\$ 14,903

FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2019

2019 Assets

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 158,219
Investments	\$ 902,926
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,061,145

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, at cost

Furniture and equipment	\$ 40,439
Less: accumulated depreciation	(\$ 40,439)
TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net	—

TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,061,145**

2019 Liabilities and Net Assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sales tax payable	\$ 761
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NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	
Board designated endowment	\$ 339,898
Undesignated	\$ 154,460
With donor restrictions	
Time and purpose restricted	\$ 196,026
Perpetual in nature	\$ 370,000

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$ 1,060,384**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS .. **\$1,061,145**

DONATIONS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARY

The Friends organization exists solely to support the library and its patrons in ways not covered by tax dollars. A donation to the Friends is a direct way to improve the collections, increase learning, and expand access. In times of financial constraints, the county can determine to reallocate library tax resources, whereas the Friends can always be that vital connection between community need and a donor's generosity.

Many of the programs, books, equipment and amenities at the Ramsey County Library locations in Maplewood, Mounds View, New Brighton, North St. Paul, Roseville, Shoreview, and White Bear Lake have been made possible by the generous donations given by the following businesses, corporate sponsors, community organizations, foundations, and individuals. Working with the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries, these community champions help to create an outstanding library experience for all.

Please note: the donors listed below represent gifts received from January-December 2019. Additional donations for 2019 events may have been received in 2018 and were listed in the 2018 Annual Report. Your gift is so important to the Friends and we strive to ensure the accuracy of our records. Please contact us at (651) 486-2213 if you have questions or corrections.

Thank You!

BUSINESSES, CORPORATE SPONSORS, FOUNDATIONS, & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

\$5,000+

Anonymous

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Advanced Dermatology Care

Blue Cross and Blue Shield
of Minnesota

Falcon Heights/Lauderdale
Lions Club

High Point Creative

Lyngblomsten Care Center

Metropolitan State University

Northeast Bank

Ramsey County Service Fund and
Charitable Campaign

Roseville Area Community Fund*

St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation

Walter and Leona Schmitt Family
Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Community Resource Bank

COPAL-Communities Organizing
the Power and Action of Latinos

Jaci Meyer Agency, State Farm
Insurance

Maguire Agency

Minnesota Public Radio

Park Square Theatre

Pet Evolution

Premier Banks

\$250 - \$499

Associated Dentists, Roseville and
St. Paul

\$1 - \$249

Ashaway Free Library Staff

Coughlan Companies

Gallery 96

PEO Sisterhood Chapter EG

CORPORATE MATCH PROGRAMS

3M Company Foundation
Match Program

Amazon Smile Foundation

Benevity

Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Matching Gift Program

Boston Scientific

GE Foundation

General Mills Foundation
Matching Gift Program

Medtronic

Network for Good

Securian Foundation Matching
Gift Program

State Farm Companies Matching
Gift Program

Truist

Veritas

Xcel Energy Foundation
Matching Program

GIFTS IN-KIND

\$10,000+

Pioneer Press

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Como Friends

Fair State Brewing Cooperative

Mary and Wayne Carter with
Joe's Sporting Goods

Park Square Theatre

University Club of St. Paul/
Commonwealth Properties

William Kent Kruger with Frank
and Jayne Harris

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

*Donor for 10 or more years

\$1 – \$99

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Mary Carter

Kate Huebsch

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Barbara Jean Delaney

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