

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries

**STRENGTHENING, SUPPORTING, AND ADVOCATING
FOR RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARY**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ann Trapnell



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

Since 1979, hundreds of Friends members, volunteers, and donors have provided more than \$3.5 million in support to RCL. The Friends have initiated, funded, enhanced, or expanded programs for all ages including the Summer Learning Program, Kindergarten Card Party, adult computer classes, teen book clubs, homework assistance, and training for job seekers. The Friends have also made substantial additions to RCL's collection of books and materials and conducted capital campaigns for library construction or remodeling.

Along with RCL, the Friends needed to pivot due to the pandemic. While it was discouraging to close our bookstores and cancel much-loved events, the Friends remained stalwart in our support of RCL by:

- Welcoming Northeast Bank as our Signature Sponsor! Northeast Bank donated \$10,000 to enhance and expand the Friends and RCL's outreach to low income and underserved communities.
- Expanding online book sales and launching curbside bag sales to offset revenue losses due to bookstore closures.
- Implementing a virtual author talk with renowned author and Friend's member, William Kent Krueger, in support of RCL .
- Introducing a virtual silent auction in lieu of our Annual Gala to continue supporting RCL collections.
- Putting the finishing touches on new planned giving materials and expanding our Legacy Circle Program.
- Thanking Library staff with summer and winter treats.

Thank you to all of the Friends members, sponsors and library supporters who helped us shift gears in 2020. We look forward to continuing our work with you to support RCL in 2021 and beyond!



RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARY: SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN TIME OF CRISIS

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged Ramsey County Library to adapt quickly to changing community needs. While Library buildings were closed to the public, RCL expanded services in new ways that prioritized the safety of staff and patrons. It's no wonder then to see Ramsey County Library recognized as a Star Library by the national Library Journal for a seventh consecutive year!

Here is just a sampling of how RCL pivoted to serve the community in this time of crisis:

- Implemented curbside, contactless pickup of Library materials as well as tax documents, social service applications, and online forms.
- Due dates for all items were extended and fines did not accrue.
- Provided document printing and drop boxes for County documents.
- Expanded several lending collections including high demand e-books, adult fiction, children's books, and STEM Kits.
- Offered virtual programs for adults, teens, and kids, many of which were recorded and made available on the RCL website to view at any time.
- Created *Read.Make.Do.* and *MakerTeen* take-home kits to help kids and teens learn, discover, and explore from home.

"While being largely homebound since March, my kids have participated in summer reading programs from home through the gift of a book each and they have engaged in at-home creative activities. The library's value to us is incalculable and while I don't often pause to reflect, I just wanted you to know how grateful we are for you all."

RCL Patron

"The kits have so impressed me! I have shared the information with many families that have teens because they are so neat and organized. I couldn't be more appreciative. Thanks for providing some much needed and well thought out activities for myself, my family, and the community."

RCL Patron

- Launched Family Storytime and Baby Storytime on Facebook Live!
- Ensured that 2,500 families were able to add a new book to their home library through the Summer Learning Program.
- Offered home delivery service for eligible suburban Ramsey County residents.





2020 FRIENDS IMPACT

In 2020, RCL received more than \$146,000 from the Friends. This funding 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. Highlights include:

Summer Learning Program

The Summer Learning Program increases students' reading abilities, their time with books, their enjoyment of reading, and parental involvement in children's reading. The Friends supported **distribution of more than 2,500 books to children** participating in the Summer Learning Program in 2020. In addition, the teen Summer Learning Program hosted book clubs 3 times per week along with a number of other fun and engaging events and **teens submitted 2,439 book reviews**.

Adult Programs:

In the first quarter of 2020, more than 5,300 adults attended programs supported by the Friends. In-person programs were discontinued in March due to the pandemic. However, virtual programs were launched in May. The Friends supported a variety of popular virtual programs including **the history series programs**, many of which were done in collaboration with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. These online programs included: History in the Making with Duchess Harris and Richard Painter, the continuation of the Mapping Prejudice series, History Book Club, and Tuesday with a Scholar.

Children's Programs:

The Friends helped to support program expenses and **book prizes** for attendees at the Kindergarten Card Celebration as well as the presence of the **guest author, LeUyen Pham**. RCL **processed approximately 1,500 applications and distributed more than 200 Library cards** at the event. The other cards were mailed to applicants.

Friends funding also supported **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**, providing supplies used in storytimes and other early literacy activities.

Once the pandemic shifted service delivery options, RCL used Friends funding to offer **"Read. Make. Do."** Kits for home use. These were popular offerings and **over 1,000 Kits were distributed in 2020**. Examples include: "Spinning Gears", "Night Sky" (in collaboration with the Bell Museum), "Chill Time Slime", and "Design a Quilt Square" (with Gibbs Farm).

Teen Programs:

Friends funding helped to provide teens with pizza, granola bars, and clementines to build relationships with librarians and focus their attention during programs, classes, book clubs, tours, and camps. **In-person attendance at teen programs was 726 in the first quarter of the year.**

After the pivot to remote programming, Friends funding supported **“MakerTeen Kits,”** a teen version of fun and educational kits to bring home. Teens picked up **more than 1,300 kits** through December. Popular offerings included: “Shrinky Dinks,” “DIY Bubble Tea,” “Marshmallow/Cookie Pops,” and “Needle Felt Figurines.” Teens also participated in online ‘tabletop’ games via a Friends **grant-supported platform offering 1,000 different board games** as well as other collaborative online events such as Dungeons & Dragons.

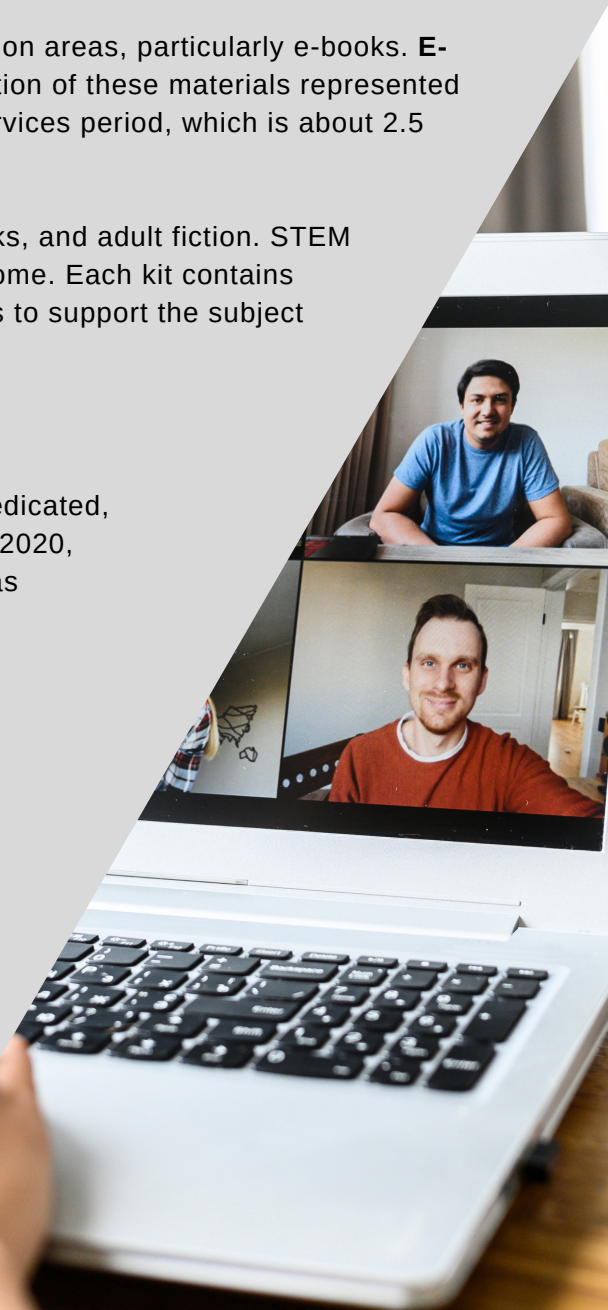
Lending Collection:

Friends funding enabled the Library to add to targeted lending collection areas, particularly e-books. **E-book collections were under significant pressure in 2020.** Circulation of these materials represented approximately 1/3 of all materials checked out during the modified services period, which is about 2.5 times the rate seen in prior years.

Other Friends funded collections included: STEM Kits, children’s books, and adult fiction. STEM kits allow families the opportunity to perform simple experiments at home. Each kit contains items to perform experiments augmented by two accompanying books to support the subject matter. STEM Kits are designed for families with children aged 3-7.

Volunteer Recognition:

Ramsey County Library benefits tremendously from the services of dedicated, trained volunteers who work in each of the seven library locations. In 2020, Library volunteers gave more than 5,000 hours of time. While RCL was not able to have in-person volunteer recognition events this year, Friends funding supported the purchase of plants as a thank you for volunteers and Petco gift cards for Paws to Read volunteers.



FUN WITH FRIENDS SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY

In February, the Welcome to the Roaring Twenties Friends Gala was held at RCL-Roseville, raising \$30,000 to expand the lending collection.

Thank you to our 2020 Gala Sponsors and volunteers! This event would not have been possible without their generous support.



Thank you to our generous Gala sponsors:

Signature Sponsor
Northeast Bank

Media Sponsor
Twin Cities Pioneer Press

Platinum Sponsors
Kate & Rob Huebsch

Gold Sponsors
Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club, Mulberrys Garment Care, Mary & Wayne Carter, Cathy Croghan & Kathy Robbins, Nancy & Jim Guerino, Frank & Jayne Harris, Pamela Harris, Ann & John Trapnell, Norman & Karen Vinnes

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COPAL, Community Resource Bank, Maguire Agency, Park Square Theatre, Premier Banks, Paul & Kathy Ciernia, Doug & Mary Smith, Valerie and Brian Wise, Kate Yang & Haifeng Xiao

Craft Beer and Wine Sponsors
Fair State Brewing Cooperative
Cotroneo's Wine & Spirits



Virtual Happy Hour with William Kent Krueger
In November, 76 households dialed in to enjoy a lively conversation between chart-topping novelist William Kent Krueger and Friends Board Member Frank Harris. Proceeds from this event exceeded \$2,500.



The Friends are proud sponsors of the RCL Kindergarten Card Celebration! The January celebration was held at RCL-Shoreview and included programs by guest author LeUyen Pham. Families enjoyed games and entertainment geared toward helping children learn about the library. Thank you Signature Sponsor Northeast Bank and Mounds Park Academy Gold Sponsor!

While the Reading Friends Literacy Program was cut short due to COVID-19, volunteers donated their time and skills from September 2019 through early March 2020. Thank you Reading Friends volunteers!



The pandemic may have temporarily closed the Friends used bookstores and cancelled our annual used book sale, but our intrepid volunteers led the creation of a socially distanced Curbside Bag Sale. Over 820 bags of books were picked up by happy customers, raising over more than \$3,350 to support RCL. In addition, volunteers opened the Virtual Used Bookstore (VUB) in October with pickup available at RCL - Shoreview.

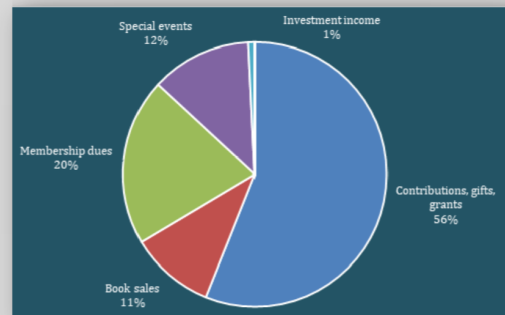


2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

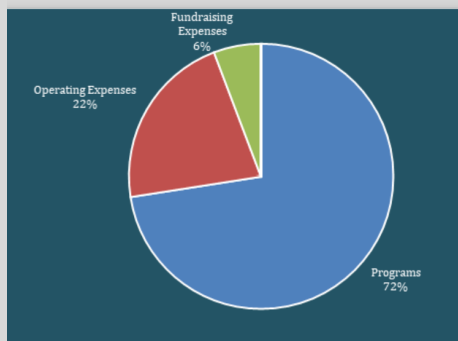
Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS codes. The EIN is 41-1597085. The annual 990 report is available upon request.

2020 Total Income \$244,056

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Contributions, gifts, grants | \$136,792 |
| Book sales | \$25,453 |
| Membership dues | \$49,768 |
| Special events | \$30,137 |
| Investment income | \$1,906 |



2020 Total Expenses \$294,413



Programs

- \$100,000 - Direct support including: learning programs for children, teens, and adults; library staff development, volunteer recognition, communications, children's learning interactives, and children's supplies and furnishings.
- \$30,000 - Enhancements to the adult and children's lending collections at all seven Ramsey County Library locations and online.
- \$83,583 - Other programs and services including Reading Friends, library awareness and promotional activities, processing donated books and materials for library collection and community distribution, and donor designated contributions for specific library locations and/or programming.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Operating Expenses | \$63,819 |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$17,011 |
| Programs | \$213,583 |

FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2020

2020 Assets

| | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$141,517 |
| Investments | \$1,013,111 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | \$1,154,628 |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, at cost | |
| Furniture and equipment | \$40,439 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | (\$40,439) |
| TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net | — |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,154,628 |

2020 Liabilities and Net Assets

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | |
| Sales tax payable | \$171 |
| NET ASSETS | |
| Without donor restrictions | |
| Board designated endowment | \$419,561 |
| Undesignated | \$138,598 |
| With donor restrictions | |
| Time and purpose restricted | \$226,298 |
| Perpetual in nature | \$370,000 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$1,154,457 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$1,154,628 |

DONATIONS TO THE FRIENDS

The Friends organization exists to support Ramsey County 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. 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, White Bear Lake, and online have been made possible by the generous donations from the following businesses, 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 here represent gifts received from January-December 2020. Additional donations for 2020 event sponsorships may have been received in 2019 and were listed in the 2019 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, FOUNDATIONS, & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

\$10,000+

Anonymous (1)
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

Walter and Leona Schmitt Family Foundation*

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mounds Park Academy
Roseville Area Community Foundation*

\$500 - \$999

Maguire Agency*
Premier Banks
Valla Family Foundation

\$250 - \$499

The Jon and Marie Ruzek Family Fund

\$100 - \$249

Gallery 96



CORPORATE MATCH PROGRAMS

3M Company Foundation Volunteer Match Program
Amazon Smile Foundation
Benevity
Medtronic

GIFTS IN KIND

\$10,000+

Twin Cities Pioneer Press

\$1,000+

Cotroneo's Wine and Spirits
Fair State Brewing Cooperative

Ken Galloway, Alicia McHugh, Kate & Rob Huebsch
Mulberrys Garment Care
William Kent Krueger with Frank & Jayne Harris
Minnesota Public Radio with Kerri Miller
Paddle North with Mary & Wayne Carter
Park Square Theatre

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A LEGACY *of* LITERACY



You can help ensure that a legacy of literacy benefits your community by leaving a charitable gift to the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries in your will or estate.

Most of us want to be remembered as someone who made a difference, both in life and after we are gone. Legacy Circle gifts to the Friends help to sustain vital financial support for Ramsey County Library now and into the future. We are grateful for the generous and thoughtful support of the following Legacy Circle members, each of whom has chosen to include the Friends in their will or estate.

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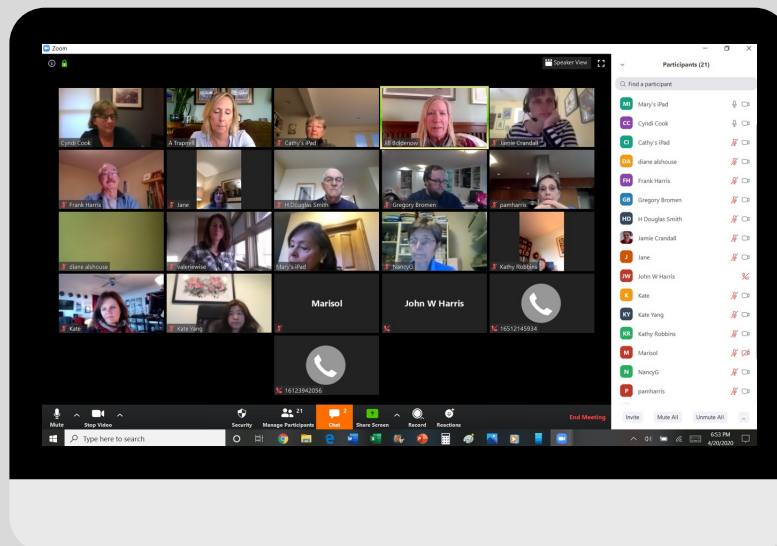
FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose success depends upon the dedication and expertise of a large group of community volunteers. Our part-time paid staff in 2020 included Cyndi Cook, Executive Director, Shayne Miller, Office Manager, and Caitlin Carroll, Event Coordinator. We are grateful to the many board and committee members who have strengthened our organization and supported our mission. The following people served on the Friends board and/or committees for all or part of 2020.

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We gratefully acknowledge the many hours of dedicated service by the dozens of volunteers who sorted, priced, shelved and researched the materials we offered for sale at our bookstores/bookcarts before the pandemic lockdown and at our Curbside Bag Sale and Virtual Used Bookstore.



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