

Staff Donor Highlight: Jane Armstrong

The staff at Great River Regional Library (GRRL), across the regional library system, makes a significant difference for central Minnesota daily. As library advocates, they truly embody GRRL's core values of exceptional service, forward-thinking, and community focus. Some staff members have taken their advocacy to the next step by financially supporting our Year-End Campaign.

One advocate and loyal donor we spoke with was Technical Services Clerk Jane Armstrong. We asked why she chooses to donate to the Year-End Campaign (previously known as the Annual Appeal) and hoped she would give her story. She graciously shared her experience as a staff member and why she donates each year.

Jane first became involved with GRRL by volunteering her time at the old St. Cloud Public Library and continued volunteering in the new library. In August 2016, she started working for GRRL. But working in a library is not new for Jane. Back in the seventies, she started her first job at the Fergus Falls Public Library in her home town. She went on to say, "I have worked in libraries in every area that I have lived in since. Libraries are home to me. I love all the help and resources that libraries provide to patrons. Also, I enjoy working with my co-workers in all the departments at the library. Every department makes a significant impact on how we provide good services. The library is like a family to me."



Jane knows that GRRL has so many resources already available and hopes that more library users become familiar with them so they can enjoy them too! Digital services such as Overdrive and Hoopla are great ways to get library materials from home. Library users can go online and put a book or other material on hold, stop in and pick it up, or request a title that is not in our collection. "And you can connect with a group of friends by checking out a book club kit and then discussing the book you read virtually."

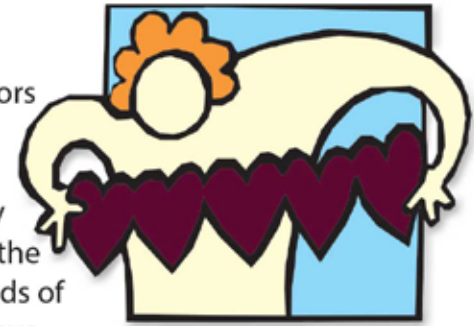
She donates to help support the library, so we can continue providing current services, but also looks forward to new services that may come in the future. Thank you, Jane, for all that you do for the library! Your generosity and enthusiasm for library services make a difference!

Donor Acknowledgement

GRRL would like to acknowledge our generous 2020 Summer Reading Program Sponsors at the Scholar-level (\$1,000+): Blattner Energy, Central MN Noon Optimist Club, and Mary Eilers. Thank you for making a difference in children's literacy this summer!

We would also like to acknowledge our 2020 Scholar-level donors: Mark and Ann Thelen, Bernice Berns, High Points Networks LLC, Melvin Zimmerman, and anonymous donors. These donors have made the regional operations of the library system continue to grow. We appreciate your generosity and support of the library system as a whole.

Significant contributors to our local branch libraries are the Friends of the Library groups. Throughout the past year, a few Friends of the Library groups gave at the Scholar-level, and we would like to acknowledge them too. Big thank you to our Friends from Annandale, Delano, St. Cloud, and St. Michael-Albertville-Hanover. The library branches flourish with the advocacy and generosity from their Friends of the Library group.



Your Help Kept Us Open: GRRL Face Masks

YOUR donation to the 2019 Year-End Campaign was so valuable – it gave library staff the ability to continue working and library cardholders the opportunity to continue to receive our services! A percentage of these donations went towards purchasing GRRL-branded masks when we needed them most. We gave each library staff member a face mask, and anyone who enters the library building is given one upon request.



Your donated dollars were able to purchase the GRRL-branded masks because of the way we divide general-gift funds. There are three categories: collection, programming, and communications. On the dollar, 55 percent goes towards the library's collection (books, movies, etc.), 25 percent goes towards programming (Read Down Your Fines), and 20 percent goes towards raising awareness about the library (GRRL-branded masks!).

Thank you, loyal donors, for your help to keep us open!

Story of Hope: Audiobooks



While working during a pandemic, our library staff has truly seen the importance of our libraries. Some days we do not realize how meaningful our collections and services are for library users. Staff are sharing their stories to spread cheer and shine a light on how libraries are impacting our communities. One of those stories is from a conversation a librarian had this year:

"Last week I was helping a patron over the phone as she was having trouble using her OverDrive app to listen to audiobooks. As we resolved her issue, she commented about how she loves to listen to audiobooks, especially since her husband passed away a few months ago. She said that hearing the voice on an audiobook helps her to feel less lonely. And during this pandemic, she has not been able to have people visit her, so she has really appreciated the audiobooks." – Connie L.

This story showcases how important it is for our libraries to have a broad collection that includes audio materials. With the help of donations, we have added more e-audiobooks to our digital collection, as they became more popular and are easily accessible to those who are homebound.

2020 Year-End Campaign



It is that time of year! And in the year 2020, your local library needs you! Our goal this year is to reach \$48,000...will you support your library?

Our library system covers six counties in central Minnesota and serves countless people with varying needs and interests. As communities evolve, the library adapts to fill the gaps because of supporters like you! Like this year, we added more digital items to

our collection, provided WiFi2go hotspots offering internet access to people without an internet connection, and purchased facemasks for our staff and library users.

Your financial support of Great River Regional Library's core values of community focus, forward-thinking and exceptional service is genuinely appreciated. Embracing diversity, promoting lifelong learning, and providing free and equal access to information is something we are proud to continue providing our communities. Please consider giving a gift to support your local library today by filling out the form below or visiting our website at <https://griver.org/donate/year-end-campaign>

Fund Development Committee Member and GRRL Scholar-level Donor, Mark Thelen, has challenged GRRL staff with a matching gift of \$1,000! The goal of this matching gift is to encourage staff to participate in the philanthropy of the library system and create a sense of togetherness as we strive to meet our campaign goal.

Each year, we ask for library supporters to provide a tax-deductible donation to the library's year-end fundraising campaign. Your support will keep information and resources available-free of charge for Central Minnesota.

Information you provide here is protected under Minnesota Data Practices statutes. Providing this information is strictly voluntary and will be used for GRRL financial accounting and to support GRRL fund development activities. It will be available only to authorized library personnel and contracted vendors. There is no consequence for not providing this information.

2020 Year End Campaign

We invite you to invest in the library's mission.

Enclosed is my gift of: _____ or \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50

- I/We would like to remain anonymous.
- I/We do NOT want a thank you letter mailed for this gift.
- My employer will match my gift to **Great River Regional Library**. (Include matching gift form.)
- Contact me/us about a planned gift to **Great River Regional Library**.

Please make checks payable to GRRL. Return this form with your gift in the enclosed envelope or donate online at griver.org/support-the-library.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

YEcurrents20 - Office use only: Pstm _____ Amt. _____ Ck # _____ Init _____

Name: _____

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State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

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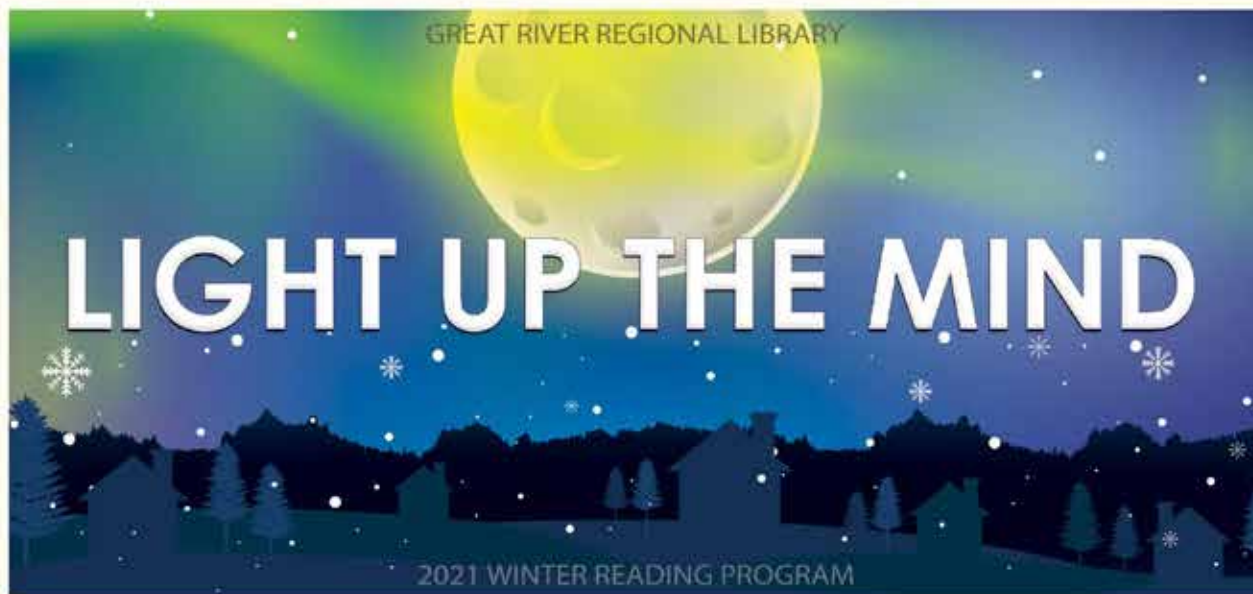


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at (320) 650-2549.

**2021
Winter
Reading
Program
Light Up
The Mind
Runs
Jan. 2nd
through
Feb. 27th**



There is no better time to start a reading habit than with the “Light Up The Mind” Winter Reading Program! At all 32 branch locations, the program begins January 2. Adults and teens in sixth grade and older are invited to participate. When you participate, you become eligible for fun prizes! To qualify, complete reading slips or log your books read online. You can register and log your winter reading online at griver.beanstack.org or on the Beanstack Tracker app. Beanstack gives you more ways to participate during the program with badges and challenges. For more information on how to get started visit your library or the website. We would like to thank the wonderful St. Cloud Friends of the Library for supporting the program by donating the prizes.

Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

Contact us at currents@grrl.lib.mn.us if you would like to receive this newsletter by email.

Your information is protected by Minnesota Data Practices statutes. Providing your email is voluntary and will be used to support GRRL fund development activities and is only available to authorized library personnel and contracted vendors.

