



CURRENTS

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GRRL receives significant grant to address diversity, career development

St. Cloud and central Minnesota continue to become exceptionally culturally diverse, and Great River Regional Library has received a very competitive grant to meet the needs and challenges of these changes.

- The “Breaking Down Barriers to Family Literacy” project will run throughout 2019, and include:
- Training staff to offer family and childcare provider training on early literacy and family literacy
 - Helping displaced workers by providing digital literacy instruction and access to career-seeking resources
 - Expanding the library’s presence to New Americans through pop-up libraries around the community
 - Providing all GRRL staff with cultural fluency training

The St. Cloud Public Library will also welcome a new bilingual Cultural Navigator, who will help run programs and activities throughout the grant period.

This is a big undertaking that wouldn’t be possible without the support of our community partners, including Central Minnesota Adult Basic Education, Partner for Student Success and Career Solutions.

The power of libraries: MyLea’s story

It’s not an exaggeration to say that libraries change lives.

Just ask MyLea Kaping.

The 19 year-old readily and happily admits – she wouldn’t be who she is today without the Pierz Library.

MyLea is a part-time employee of the Pierz Library through a program sponsored by the local Minnesota Workforce Center.

Well into her third year of the job, MyLea says she doesn’t know what she would do without the library.

When MyLea began working at the library in 10th grade, life was very different. She openly describes experiencing high, ongoing levels of anxiety that made many activities nearly impossible. She wanted a place to feel comfortable and fit in.



At first, she wasn’t sure the library – a bustling place of activity and interaction – was that place.

Now, after three years of running storytimes, creating Make and Take tables and bulletin boards, and helping patrons with anything and everything, MyLea’s life is completely different.

“I can go into stores on my own now without being nervous,” MyLea says with a grin.

The impact she’s made on her coworkers is a lasting one.

“She’s a blessing,” says Joan Stuckmayer, Library Assistant. “When she first came here, you could see she was out of her comfort zone. Now, people come up to her and she’s completely at ease with them.”

MyLea has a soft spot for working with the kids who come to the library. “They make me smile,” she says. She’s also a talented artist, something that shines in her work creating displays and other projects.

MyLea is proud of her work and the personal struggles she faces and defeats through the library. MyLea won’t be at the Pierz Library forever, but she intends to make library work an integral part of her future. Now a high school graduate, MyLea’s plan is to attend school to become a librarian herself. She’s going to keep working at the Pierz Library via the workforce center until she feels ready for higher education.

Joan is more than pleased with this decision.

“I’m really glad she ended up here,” Joan says. “She just has a great spirit. It’s been a great thing for her, and for us, too.”

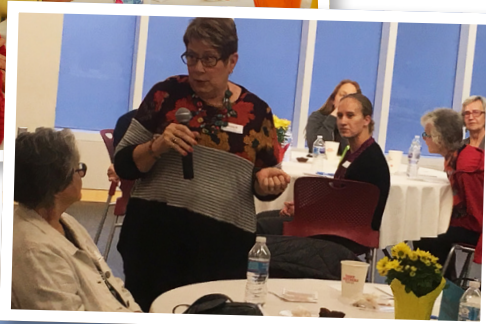
Friends Meet Friends once again for food and creative collaboration

Our second annual Friends Meet Friends event was a hit. Friends group members and GRRL staff gathered in September for hors d'oeuvres and a lively brainstorming and networking session. Discussion topics included planning a successful fundraiser, recruitment of new members and how to organize an engaging book sale.

Special kudos to Clearwater Friends member and talented

musician Angie Hoeft for her musical stylings throughout the event.

Friends of the Library groups are integral to the success of GRRL. They plan fundraisers like book sales, support initiatives like the Summer Reading Program, and spread the word about all the wonderful things libraries do every day. We're grateful for their hard work and support.



New Kimball Library construction moves forward

Since the summer of 2017, a coalition of the city of Kimball, Friends of the Kimball Library and GRRL staff have been organizing and campaigning around the construction of a new, state-of-the-art library building.

And, the outpouring of support and momentum quickly turned a dream into a reality.

As of the end of 2019, progress toward a new Kimball library includes:

- \$430,701 dollars in cash and pledges
- \$78,240 in-kind to cover project costs
- A local match of \$560,602 that also includes \$51,661 in city funds

The Kimball Library has also submitted an application to the Minnesota Department of Education requesting a library construction improvement grant one-to-one match of \$560,602. The improvement grant application outlines the City of Kimball's need for a new library, how a new library would benefit library users, staff and community, and how a new building would address access barriers and improve accessibility of library services.

To read the full story of the new Kimball Library, and see a simulated video of the future building, visit www.Kimball-library.org.



**WE
NEVER
THINK
HOW
GREAT
A GIFT
IT IS TO
THINK**



**Jim Shovelain...
We thank you!**

All good things must come to an end.

The Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees said goodbye to longtime member and strong library advocate Jim Shovelain.

After over 8 years of service, Shovelain, a Wright County citizen member, has termed off the board.

Shovelain says being a trustee has been a great opportunity to grow and understand how different people from various backgrounds can work so well together.

"Many of us on the board have been blessed with different talents and are able to share our gifts on the Board," Shovelain says. "Knowing the changes we have installed over the past 8 years has helped the staff in wanting to come to work each day and be part of a great team."

Shovelain says GRRL board meetings involved a 40 mile drive from his home, which gave him time to reflect and pray before meeting. He believes this helped him ready himself to be able to listen and contribute to the meetings.

Thank you, Jim, for your service to Great River Regional Library.

Annual Appeal 2018: Help boost brain power with a gift this season

A sharp, active mind is essential to happy, healthy living.

With generous donors like you, Great River Regional Library (GRRL) is able to provide resources to boost brain power for everyone – including those facing memory loss issues.

Our Brain Fitness Kits – interactive games encouraging critical thinking and strategy – have extraordinary success throughout our region.

Each Brain Fitness Kit tote includes four games, each based on numbers, matching, storytelling and memory retention. These kits have traveled to each of our 32 libraries and have been used by patrons of all ages.

In fact, they're so popular, we plan to add more to the collection.

Your support is essential.

This project is just one example of the many initiatives made possible through donor support. Each contribution helps us go above and beyond books to provide deep, meaningful service to thousands of people in the communities we serve.

Please consider making your contribution today.

2018 Annual Appeal Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes! I will support Great River Regional Library with a gift of:

Gift Amount: (checks made payable to GRRL) \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Please include my/our name in donor recognition as above or I/We would like to remain anonymous.

Mail gift to: Accounting Dept., Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301 - or donate online at griver.org/support-the-library

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.

CurrenDec- 2018 Annual Appeal - Office use only: Pstm _____ Amt. _____ Ck # _____ Init _____

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Delano Library renovation “in the vault” – thanks to dedicated teens

For a long time, “The Vault” has been a special place at the Delano Library for kids to read, hang out with friends, and find a place to belong.

Now, it has a brand-new look – thanks to the hard work of a group of library-loving teens.

The Delano Library finished revamping the famed “Vault” teen reading area earlier this year, with the majority of the planning and work performed by teenaged patrons.

Delano Librarian Theresa Jacobs says the library has a strong base of teenaged library users and volunteers. The goal was to give them the chance to design and create the space exactly as they wanted it.

Jacobs says the group of teens began the brainstorming process in March of 2018, and by the end of May, the work – from a coat of lime green paint on the walls to brand-new green shag carpeting and new, sharp-looking black and chrome swivel chairs – was finished.

The work was made possible by a \$600 budget donated by the Delano Friends of the Library.

Jacobs says this is only one example of the commitment her teen patrons have to the library. Many volunteers are National Honor Society members with packed extracurricular schedules.

“They’re busy kids,” Jacobs noted. “But they make the time.”

The vault is more than just a reading and study hangout area. It’s a crucial place for kids who may have tough or unstable home lives to spend time when they don’t know where else to go.

Jacobs expressed that these kids know the library will always be there for them; it’s a place where they can find adults who care about them, but also have high expectations.

Since the completion of the renovation, Jacobs says the Vault has received rave reviews.

“We wanted to give something back to our teens,” Jacobs added. “We were happy to involve them, too.”

The Delano Library thanks the Friends of the Library, without whom this wouldn’t have been possible.



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