



# HIGH 5 YOUR LIBRARY!

The month of March delivered another successful GRRL High \$5 fundraising campaign.

This annual campaign gives library users the opportunity to thank library workers and support the work of Great River Regional Library with a High \$5.

All month long, GRRL staff collected these donations from library users and, thanks to their generosity, the campaign drew in over \$10,500.

Half of all money collected during High \$5 stays right at the branch at which it was donated, ready to be put to use in support of materials and programs desired most. The other half goes directly to the Floating Collection and promotion of services.

A huge thank you to our donors for supporting Great River Regional Library, in March and all year long.

## Changing world, changing libraries; National Library Week 2017

This year's National Library Week, April 9-15, took a close look at the ways libraries have adapted over time to meet the shifting needs of individuals and communities, as well as how the histories and legacies of community libraries are preserved and celebrated.

Around the region, members of the GRRL staff and patrons took the time to create displays that highlight the rich histories of each branch and shine a light on exactly how libraries are moving into the future.

Jan Atkinson, Library Services Coordinator in Melrose, says the addition of technology fundamentally changed the ways in which libraries assist patrons.

"Since moving into this building, we have automated our system, offered internet service and Wi-Fi," Jan says. "The latest service is self-checkout."

Technology isn't the only thing transitioning; the changing cultural fabric of Minnesota's communities has had an influence. "We now offer Spanish language materials for the Hispanic population," Jan says. "They love our DVD collection."

Wanda Erickson, Library Services Coordinator from Upsala says, for all the ways that libraries have changed, there are some things that are simply timeless, as shown in this testimonial from a longtime Upsala Public Library patron.

"The rural library I had access to as a kid was a lifeline for me, a way to see what the world was like outside my little pocket of existence. I can't imagine how stunted I would have grown up to become without it in my life. I know that today most of us have access to the Internet at our fingertips, but that doesn't negate the value that libraries, particularly ones in rural areas, have to fostering a vibrant, intelligent community."

Wanda writes, "He is one of ours, an Upsala boy who was a 'library kid,' who grew up coming to the library and relishing every minute. I am so very proud of him and all the 'library kids' this branch has fostered over the past 30 years!"

So, the purposes of libraries are as varied and unique as the people who depend on them, year after year. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all our patrons who took the time to share their stories during this year's National Library Week, and who make the library part of their lives.



# Library Impact Report

Over a million patron visits. Three million books, DVDs and other items checked out. More than 200,000 materials gathered online. This is just the beginning. Suffice it to say, GRRRL was bustling with activity in 2016.

Here's a look at the numbers.

**1,363,752**

Library Visits



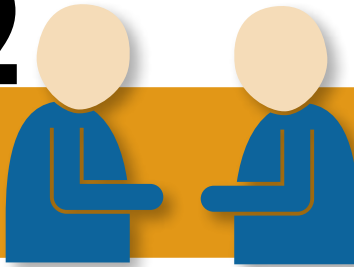
**93,649**

Wireless Connections



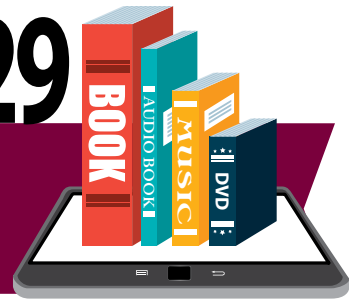
**227,222**

Information Transactions



**3,043,629**

Items Checked Out



**200,345**

Digital Checkouts



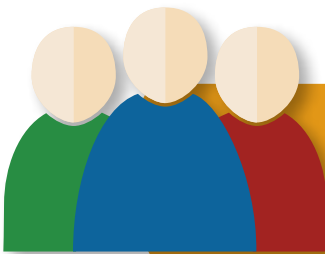
**2,099**

Meeting Room Uses



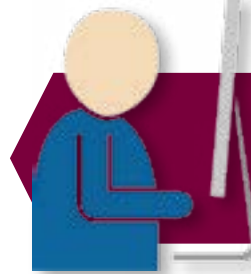
**79,212**

Patrons Attended  
3,468 Programs

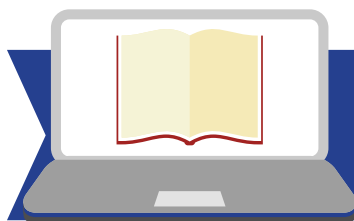


**148,473**

Computer Uses



**502,514**  
Checkout Sessions



# Summer Reading Program

The summer slide – the tendency for students to lose their academic footing during the break – is a real phenomenon.

What's worse – it has a tendency to affect children from lower income families, and leave them even further behind their peers come fall.

Great River Regional Library's Summer Reading Program – June 12 through August 12 – is a powerful and cost-free way to keep students sharp in the run-up to September. Each year GRRL hosts 10,000 plus kids.

The theme of this year's program, Reading By Design, takes an interdisciplinary approach to literacy; it celebrates not only the ingenuity of authors, but also artists, builders, inventors, architects and other creators who strive to strengthen the world we live in.

So, in keeping with this theme, we've got a diverse offering of programs for ages 0-18. From LEGOs and wire sculpture design to hands-on exhibits on wildlife and building electrical circuits, the goal of this year's Summer Reading Program is to show how much fun learning is...all year long.

Visit [griver.org](http://griver.org) or stop by your local Great River library to learn more about how to get involved.

## READING BY DESIGN



## Read Down Fines

Great River Library will be offering another opportunity to "Read Down Your Fines" this summer.



This event is geared toward kids ages 16 and younger who are unable to borrow library materials due to outstanding fines. This program helps them restore their borrowing privileges simply by reading at the library.

Here's how it works: for every 15 minutes a kid spends reading a book or magazine at their local library, they reduce their fines by \$1. The average reader shaves \$5 off their fines during the event.

The next Read Down Your Fines event will take place Monday, June 26 through Saturday, July 1 all throughout GRRL.

Read Down Your Fines can only be applied to fines for late return of library materials. It doesn't cover fees related to damaged or lost items.

The Summer Reading Program helps children maintain their reading skills. Your support and tax-deductible donation will help to make the program an essential part of summer. Visit [griver.org/support-library](http://griver.org/support-library) to make an online donation.

## 2017 Donation To Support Summer Reading Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My/our donation, payable to GRRL:      \$250    \$100    \$50    \$25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include name in donor recognition as above.      This gift is anonymous.

This gift is: In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Send an acknowledgement letter of this tribute gift to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only:  
Pstm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Amt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ck # \_\_\_\_\_  
Init. \_\_\_\_\_

To update mailing information please call  
Public Relations at (320) 650-2539.

## Update your Summer Wardrobe

How your support for library services by wearing clothing from the library store this summer.

All the the clothing and other items in the library store are high quality and priced competitively. Most items are available in a range of attractive colors.

Children's items include polos, hoodies, bibs, and caps.

Many of our other items such as a large variety of accessories make suitable gifts for use all year long.

If you're still uncertain, remember the Great River Store \$10 gift certificates.

Let people know you're a library supporter. Buy at the library store!

Visit [griver.org](http://griver.org) to view the selection of customized library products available at the new library store. Click on *SUPPORT US* and *GRRL ONLINE STORE* to see this great new selection!

### Port Authority® - Pique Knit Sport Shirt

A customer favorite year after year. The soft pique knit is shrink resistant and easy to care for.

100% ring spun combed cotton heavy-weight pique (preshrunk). Garment washed for softness. Double-needle stitching throughout. Flat knit collar and cuffs. Horn-tone buttons. Locker patch. Side vents. Price: \$34.99



### Ladies Side Blocked Micropique Sport-Wick® Sport Shirt

This sport shirt is made from a flat tricot micropique for smooth, snag-resistant wear. Plus, Sport-Wick technology ensures moisture-wicking performance.

100% polyester tricot. Snag resistant. Moisture-wicking. Double-needle stitching throughout. Tag-free label. Taped neck. White contrast detail at neck and back collar. Self-fabric Johnny collar. 3-button placket with dyed-to-match rubber buttons. White splice panels on sides. Set-in, open hem sleeves. Price: \$43.99



### Mousepad

Classy white background with the Great River Regional Library logo screen printed. Standard 5mm. Price: \$11.99



## Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

This Currents newsletter is available to library supporters requesting it via email. To reduce costs, save trees and, of course, protect our environment, we encourage as many supporters as possible to consider taking full advantage of this by switching to the electronic .pdf version. Please contact Julie Henne at [currents@grrl.lib.mn.us](mailto:currents@grrl.lib.mn.us) if you would like to receive the newsletter by email or have any questions or comments. As always, the newsletter is produced just for our library supporters. We thank you warmly for your support, and if you have any suggestions we would love to hear from you.



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- Fine-tune language skills, study civics and prepare for the U.S. Citizenship exam.

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