



CURRENTS

Volume 22 Issue 1, Spring 2022

Staff Donor Highlight: Jonathan Lahr

Meet Jonathan, Great River Regional Library's Web Developer. Since Jonathan joined GRRL as a staff member back in 2019, he has contributed so much to the library. Not only has he shown his skills in the Information Technology (IT) department, he has also supported the library as a generous donor.

When asked why he supports the library through giving, his response was this:

When I was young, my mom used to get books from the library and she would always encourage my brother and me to read. It led me to adopting a good reading habit and helped my academics. In college, the library gave me access to free educational resources that I wouldn't be able to get elsewhere. It wasn't until I was out of college did I realize the impact the library had on my life and career. Once I started working at the library, I got to see the wider impact it had on the people in the community. I wanted to be involved in giving back in the same way it gave to me.



Beyond being GRRL staff and a generous donor, Jonathan is also a user of the library. He accesses the digital library the most, checking out ebooks on the Libby app. **His latest book recommendations** are "The Song of Achilles" by Madeline Miller, "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens, and "The Lincoln Lawyer" by Michael Connelly.

Considering donating to the library?

Jonathan encourages you by sharing, *Giving to the library is giving back to not just one community, but several. There are kid's reading programs, educational resources and tools for students and parents, computer and internet access, and there are events for all ages taking place inside every Great River Regional library (and virtually) for people to interact, learn, and enjoy. What's great about giving to a library is you can walk into anyone one of them and see the impact. It's much more than books, it's about giving to the people.*

Thank you, Jonathan, for all you do for the library!

Consider a Meaningful Gift

Leave your legacy by giving back to your community through your local library. Your decision will make a lasting impact and continue preserving and enhancing the library. A planned gift is a charitable donation that financially benefits both the donor and the institution receiving the gift. Planned gifts include outright gifts, bequests, life insurance, retirement plans, and charitable trusts. Including

Great River Regional Library in your will is an easy way to give back. With the help of an attorney, you may include a bequest for the library within your will. Visit griver.org/planned-giving for more information and to see our Statement of Intent form.





What are Playaway Audiobooks?

March marks the library's Locally Growin' annual fundraiser. Local library staff determines a goal that meets their community's needs and interests. The community then has the opportunity to show their library support, and 100% of their donation stays local.

Playaway Audiobooks was a popular goal in 2022 for many of the Great River Regional Library branches.

Libraries in Albany, Cokato, Little Falls, Melrose, Paynesville, Swanville, and Waite Park saw this collection item to be an important addition for their patrons. These specific audiobooks are not circulated regionally within the collection, so you cannot find them in the library's catalog. However, they are a unique item for checkout at local branches where available.

What are Playaway Audiobooks? According to playaway.com, "Playaway is the pre-loaded audiobook that gives library patrons the portability and freedom to take audiobooks everywhere. No connectivity or downloads needed — ever." The handheld device has your audiobook already loaded, so all you have to do is press play.

John Hannon, Library Services Coordinator in Albany and Melrose, explained why Playaway Audiobooks are great to have in the collection:

For all patrons, they have the benefit of [Playaway Audiobooks] being a standalone player; no specific device is needed to use them. With the auxiliary cable that is included they can be plugged into any speaker, sound system or car with an auxiliary port. Or patrons can use their own headphones or earbuds. With fewer and fewer cars being built with CD players, Playaways will allow patrons who like to listen to audiobooks while driving the ability to do so without

paying extra for a different sound system. They also eliminate one of my biggest problems with audiobooks while driving, I get where I'm going and want to keep listening, but if I eject the disc I need to get back to the same spot. With books on CD I end up sitting in my garage listening to the end of the disc. With Playaways, I can just pause the book, unplug the auxiliary cable and go inside. When I plug it into a speaker, or attach my earbuds, I just hit play again and it resumes at the same point I left off.

Kateri Gruber, Library Services Coordinator in Belgrade and Paynesville, seeks to help a specific community group:

Besides general patron usage, we are hoping the adult Playaway items will be beneficial to our assisted living/nursing home groups that frequently pick up large print books for their clients.

Thank you to all of our Locally Growin' donors! **We are able to grow and try new collection items, such as Playaway Audiobooks, with your help!** Be on the lookout for Playaway Audiobooks at your local library soon.



Seeking Sponsors for Summer Reading Program

The theme for iREAD's 2022 Summer Reading Program is Read Beyond the Beaten Path. The broad motif of "summer camp at the library" can encompass a world of different summer experiences: from outdoor activities such as hiking, campfires, stories, and s'mores to nature programs, arts and crafts, music, and so much more!

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) is seeking businesses and organizations to sponsor the Summer Reading Program (SRP). Thanks to our sponsors, SRP is offered free of charge to all children. So what does being a GRRL SRP sponsor mean? Sponsorship provides children who participate the chance to earn fun reading incentives and prizes at their local library while having the resources to stay on track for school during the summertime. In 2021, nearly 11,000 babies, children, and teens signed up to participate! Our goal is to have every child gain access to books and receive a book bag of their own.

Do you have a business that supports literacy and community? Do you know an organization that endorses literacy? We encourage you to share this Summer Reading Program sponsorship opportunity with others!



Your sponsorship of \$500 entitles you to:

- Complimentary subscription to GRRL donor newsletter, Currents
- Thank you in Currents newsletter
- Annual recognition on GRRL website's "Our Supporters" page

Your sponsorship of \$750 or more will also be recognized with:

- All previous entitlements PLUS:
- "Thank you Sponsor" poster for display in all 32 GRRL branch libraries

Your sponsorship of \$1,000 or more will also be recognized with:

- All previous entitlements PLUS:
- Special acknowledgement on website's homepage in June
- Organization logo included on "Our Supporters" page on website
- Donor listing in GRRL Annual Report

2022 Donation To Support Summer Reading Program

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) \$500 \$750 \$1000 Other \$ _____

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

Mail gift to: Circulation 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.

CurrentsSRP22- Office use only: Rec'd _____ Init. _____ Ck# _____ Amt. _____ Appl. CurrentsSRP22sponsor



1300 W. St. Germain St.
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-650-2500

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST CLOUD, MN
PERMIT NO. 2382

To update mailing information please call
Communications and Development at
(320) 650-2549.

Campaign Set the Stage for “Fines Free”

In October and November 2021 Great River Regional Library announced to donors its plan to go “Fines Free” in 2022. The 2021 Year-End Campaign was the first release of the big news, and GRRL wanted to share with its donors first! Why? Library donors are the reason we can reduce the financial barrier of access to the library!

Thank you to all who participated in the 2021 Year-End Campaign – it was a huge success! Our goal for the campaign was \$75,000, and with your help, we reached \$87,724 from 765 donations.

Karen Pundsack, Executive Director of Great River Regional Library, shared, “We have seen so many people return to the library this year because we removed this barrier to access. One of our shared challenges across the region is transportation, and removing fines allows people the flexibility they need to return materials to the library when they are able to. I am grateful for the support of our dedicated donors who have helped make this change possible.” GRRL is excited to welcome more people into the library and reengage after being isolated with the pandemic.



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.

