



## Thank You!

To our donors, Friends groups and other supporters, thank you! With your help this year –

- We created Memory Box Kits - special collections of books and more to spark discussions, positive emotions and memories.
- We eliminated fines on children and young adult materials to benefit our young patrons and keep the library within their reach, always.
- We added more telescopes to the library's "Try It Yourself" kit collection.
- We provided reading program incentives and prizes.
- We enhanced our programming efforts and the library's collection.

The library experience is enriched for everyone who visits because of your help. You make a difference!

## Scholar Donor Highlight: Mark Thelen

Mark and Ann Thelen have always had a love of reading, especially Ann, but one day in 1966, Mark learned there was something more to libraries: the librarians. Frustrated and trying to complete a first graduate school assignment, the librarian at the University of Minnesota's Walter Library gave him a key suggestion, "How about a recent issue of the Czechoslovakian Economic Review?" Mark thought, "Hey now, a breakthrough!" admiring not just the aptness of the librarian's idea, but also her apparent enjoyment to be of help. Soon after, to his delight, he received the grade he wanted!

This experience Mark had with a courteous librarian made a significant impact that he would fondly remember for years and is just one example of how the couple became determined to "pay it forward" to our local librarians whose careers are so strongly-focused on helping the public.

Mark and Ann, admire all the work of Great River Regional Library and can't help but notice the amount and diversity of patrons, and especially, the children who come skipping to the doors of the library happy kids; happy future.



Mark Thelen

Mark and Ann make regular visits to the library where they checkout both old and new books. As loyal donors, Mark and Ann know that contributing financially makes a difference in the library and the communities we serve. Mark adds, "Yup, our relationship with St. Cloud Library is definitely a two-way street; we get as much or more as we give."

There are many ways donors for stay connected by giving to Great River Regional Library. Find out more about GRRL's Giving Club at <https://griver.org/giving-club>



## Wifi2Go in Pierz

Patrons in the Pierz area can checkout the internet!

GRRL launched a pilot project in Pierz to circulate five mobile hotspots - small, palm-sized units that can be used to connect up to 10 devices to the internet. Library Services Coordinator Grace Heschke reports the program has been a smash hit: since mid-May the hotspots have flown off the shelf, generating 112 checkouts, an average of 22 uses per unit. The Wifi2Go program expands access to lifelong learning opportunities through digital resources such as our ebook/eaudio collections. The hotspots are available in the Pierz Library on a first-come, first served basis and can be checked out for up to one week at a time.

## Power of Planned Giving

Great River Regional Library would like to acknowledge Ray Bayer for the legacy he has left with the library system. Ray included Great River Regional Library in his will to honor his wife.

It was his wife that was a regular user of the Pierz Public Library and read in her free time. Ray, on the other hand, promoted life-long learning and the importance of access. Before becoming the local dentist in Pierz, Ray was a professor of chemistry and shared his love of learning.

The Bayers' interests and values align with the library system, so it was a great opportunity to make a lasting impact and continue to preserve and enhance the library.



To honor Ray, we piloted a new initiative called "Wifi2Go" at the Pierz Public Library, which added wifi hotspots to the Pierz collection to be checked out by the community. If you would like learn how to leave a lasting impact visit <https://griver.org/planned-giving>

## Friends Meet Friends event

On the evening of Thursday, September 26, 2019, Friends of the Library members gathered for the annual Friends Meet Friends event. This event invites Friends to socialize, network, and learn from other groups within the Great River Regional Library system. Friends who attended represented Waite Park, Delano, St. Cloud, Monticello, Kimball, Cold Spring, Annandale, Big Lake, Clearwater, Rockford, and Little Falls.

The evening started with socializing and food catered by Creative Catering. Great River Regional Library's Associate Director of Collection Development, Jami Trenam, who is also the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) legislative chair, spoke about the importance of advocacy. She shared many ways to stay up-to-date with news regarding library advocacy, as well as inviting those interested to attend the upcoming Library Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 31, 2020. Email [jamit@grrl.lib.mn.us](mailto:jamit@grrl.lib.mn.us) to sign up.



The evening ended with round table discussions about successes and book sale ideas. Some successful ideas of fundraising, included: participate in your local farmer's market (selling books), collaborate with your local grocery or butcher store to sell brats, put on a cake walk or ice cream social, and create one consistent event year over year (such as the Pumpkin Palooza in Kimball).

If you are interested in participating with your local Friends, visit or call your local library to find out their next meeting date.

# See what's growin' at the libraries



In its third year, the 2019 Locally Growin' fundraising campaign brought in nearly \$25,000! Each branch chose a new goal for the year. Many libraries met and even surpassed their original goals thanks to our wonderful patrons and the local businesses that offered matching gifts.

Waite Park soared passed their \$2,000 goal and brought in \$2,718! Their wish list included a USB charging station, a new train table and puppets for their children's area, and a new outdoor sign and tents. Buffalo blew their original goal out of the water as well, bringing in \$2,179.75! Their wish list was to provide local author visits and special children's books and puppets for their youth area.

Becker received \$726.50 nearly

doubling their original goal! With those funds they were able to purchase bean bag chairs that have been a hit with their patrons. Along with the chairs, prizes and a Magic Bob program were on their wish list. Howard Lake also nearly doubled their goal of \$250 for LakeShare Learning games and books for children.

Many other libraries had special program requests like magic shows, popular craft classes, and musical performances. Other items included: books, kits, updated furniture and furnishings, participation prizes for the summer reading program, puppet sets, art and story time supplies and more.

This is an important campaign for our branches since they keep 100% of the donations received to put toward their goal and local library. We look forward to what 2020 brings and how we continue to grow in our communities!



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.*

## 2019 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](http://griver.org/support-the-library).

**Thank You for Your Generosity!**

YEcurrents19 - Office use only: Pstm \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Init \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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 Fund Development  
at (320) 650-2549.

## 2020 Winter Reading Program Snow Better Time To Read Begins Jan. 2nd



There is no better time to start a reading habit than with the “Snow Better Time to Read” 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. New in 2020: you can register and log your winter reading online at [griver.beanstack.org](http://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 with Beanstack 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](mailto: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.

