



Celebrating Pat Christianson's 75th Birthday

Dan and Kim Christianson honor and celebrate Pat Christianson, Dan's late wife and Kim's late mother, on what would have been her milestone 75th birthday this December.



Dan and Pat Christianson

Pat Christianson was employed by Great River Regional Library for 35 years, serving as a Librarian until 1984, at which time she became Deputy Director until her retirement in 2002. She also served as Acting Director on two occasions. Her daughter Kim has many fond memories in the library. Kim shared it felt like she grew up there. The staff felt like family. Kim recalled one of her fondest memories was in the old library and checking on the book drop with her mom. "In the old library, the book drop was undersized where books flew down into a black box and would fill up over the weekends. It was an errand to empty the book drop together!" The book drop, located in the basement of the St. Cloud Library at 405 West St. Germain, would get quite full. So they went together to make sure that books weren't damaged and there was enough room for more books to be dropped into the large bin in the basement. Pat demonstrated her care for the library and was always there for the staff and the books.

One of Pat's most memorable contributions during her

service was what GRRL staff refer to as, "The Crash." On June 25, 1998, the library system had a computer hard drive crash resulting in the loss of data. The Great River Regional Library Report, an internal library newsletter at the time, that dates July 1998,

says, "Deputy Director Pat Christianson devised procedures so that while we waited for the data we could continue to do business." She led the effort to record transactions and rebuild the library patron system. Many staff and records note how tragic the crash was and how extensive it was to restore. Kudos to Pat for her vigor and leadership during that time!

Staff also recall not only Pat's dedication to the library but her husband Dan's commitment as well. As Pat worked with the St. Cloud Friends of the Library for their annual book sale, she included Dan and Kim to help behind the scenes. They helped with the 3-day book sale to make it the grand event it is today. In many events and occasions at the library, it was common to see Pat's family along with her and the staff.

After Pat's retirement, she continued showing her support for libraries. She was active in a number of organizations, including the St. Cloud Reading Room Society (President), St. Cloud Friends of Library (Board

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Member), and St. Cloud Public Library (Board Member). Her passion and leadership brought the library system into the new century and her contributions will not be forgotten.

Today, Pat Christianson is forever remembered in the St. Cloud Public Library. Among the children's area and alongside the big, bright windows on the main level, Pat's Place is a designated area for children to learn and play. When the library was built in 2008, the space was created to honor Pat's love for public service and early literacy.

Dan and Kim donate to the library in honor of Pat, as Kim expresses, "Our desire is to honor her and her interests. The library was her passion and part of who she was." Kim's employer also gave as a part of their matching company program, so she left an even larger impact for her legacy.

You may also give a tribute gift to memorialize or honor a loved one in your life. Visit our website for more details:
griver.org/support-the-library/honor-and-memorial-gifts

Ukuleles in Royalton

Locally Growin' is Great River Regional Library's fundraising campaign during the month of March. Our Locally Growin' campaign keeps donations 100 percent within the branch library of the donor's choosing. Each library's goal is unique and focuses on its community interests and needs. In 2021, across 32 branch locations, we raised \$23,894.65 from 631 gifts! Thank you for helping make this such a successful campaign!

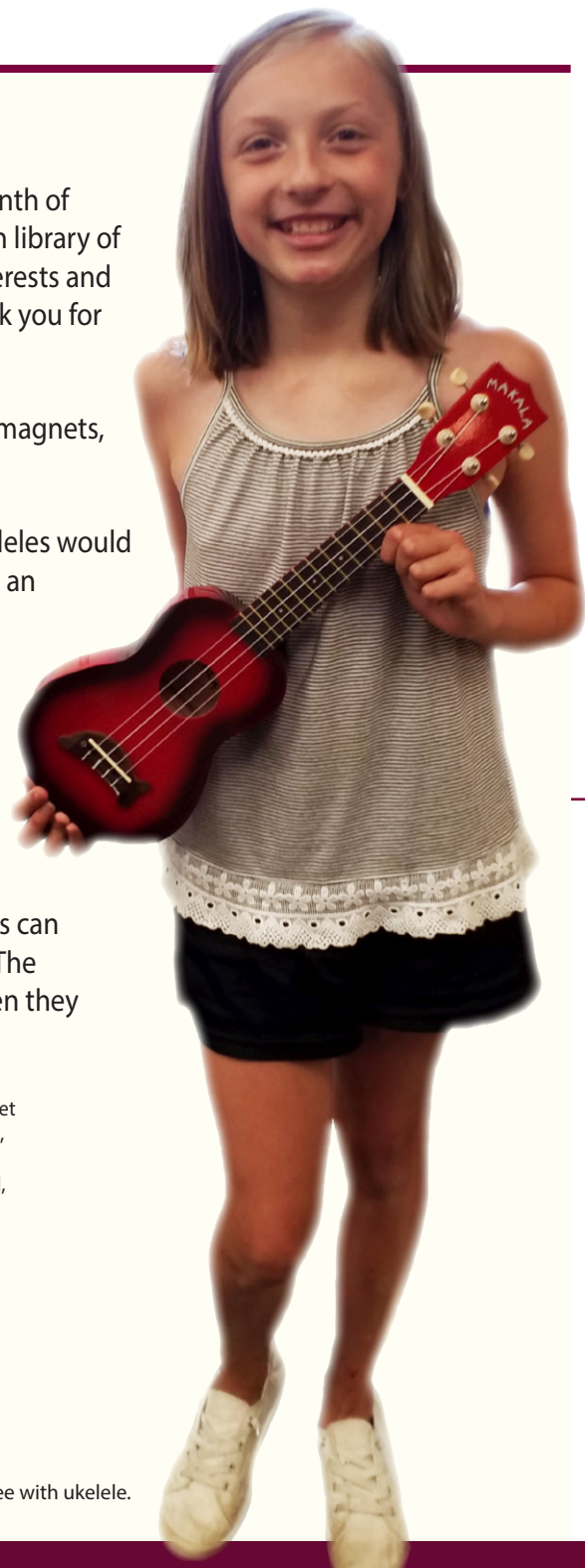
Many branches had a goal to fundraise for children's reading prizes and library hour magnets, but a goal that really stood out from the rest was Royalton's ukulele kits.

Terri Deal-Hansen, Library Services Coordinator in Royalton, says that, "I thought ukuleles would be something fun and unexpected that patrons could check out from the library. It's an opportunity to try something new before making a purchase--and they are just fun! They spark joy." The Royalton branch has 5 ukulele kits available for checkout, and they have been popular – especially by children and teenagers. Royalton came together through the Locally Growin' fundraising campaign to work towards a common goal that benefits the community. Now library cardholders have the opportunity to learn a new instrument free from their local library!

What does Terri want Currents readers to know? "They are super fun and easy to learn how to play. They check out just like a book, with a 3 week loan period. Patrons can do a search for 'ukulele kit' online at griver.org or just call the library to request one. The ukuleles are available at all 32 branches, and then come back 'home' to Royalton when they are not checked out.



They come in 5 sweet colors -- bright blue, apple green, lavender, cherry red, and baby blue."



Bailee with ukelele.

Support GRRL's Fines Free efforts with the Year-End Campaign

Great River Regional Library is excited to share the big news with you! We are going FINES FREE in 2022! What does that mean? No more late fees on overdue materials!

Currently, a library cardholder's account is blocked when there is a \$6 balance. This fee may not seem like much to you, but it is another bill to worry about paying for many families in Central Minnesota. Imagine your elderly neighbor Betty being unable to check out her next audiobook or your friend Doug unable to access research materials for his school project. Imagine the daycare children who walk to the library unable to pick out a picture book after storytime. Making the change to go fines free will unlock potential for our communities.



If late fines never prevented you from using your library, please consider paying it forward.

With the help of generous donors like you, we can remove the financial barrier of fines to allow everyone to explore, learn, and connect in their community. The library is excited to welcome people back to their local library, who may not have returned before due to the cost of fines.

If you have already given towards our 2021 Year-End Campaign, we thank you! If you have not yet given, we invite you to take part of GRRL's fines free efforts by paying it forward with a gift. Fill out and return the form below to show your support.

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.

2021 Year End Campaign



Yes, I will support the library's fines free efforts.

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 or donate online at griver.org/support-the-library.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

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Thank You Sponsors

Great River Regional Library would like to acknowledge its generous 2021 Summer Reading Program Sponsors. Thank you for making a difference for the children in our community. With your sponsorship, program participants were able to receive fun reading incentives, attend events at their local library, and have the resources to stay on track for school during the summertime. For our 2021 program, across 32 branch locations, we had 10,823 babies, children, and teens participate! Thank you for making their summer exciting and educational.

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