

CURRENTS

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Boost in the Digital Collection

The digital collection is blooming! The library sees more usage, resulting in more attention to the online collection. In an interview with Jami Trenam, Associate Director – Collection Development at GRRL, we learned about the changes in reading, listening, and watching through the digital collection.

How do fundraised dollars support the digital collection?

Digital library use has grown dramatically over the past few years. Fundraising allowed us to double our digital budget to support the popularity of the eBook and eAudio collection without having to dramatically cut from the print budget. It's a surprise to many folks that it actually costs the library more to license digital books than it does to purchase printed material. Fundraising helps offset the higher costs. Fundraised dollars help us purchase more copies of titles with wait lists and still grow a collection that provides plenty of variety beyond bestselling authors.

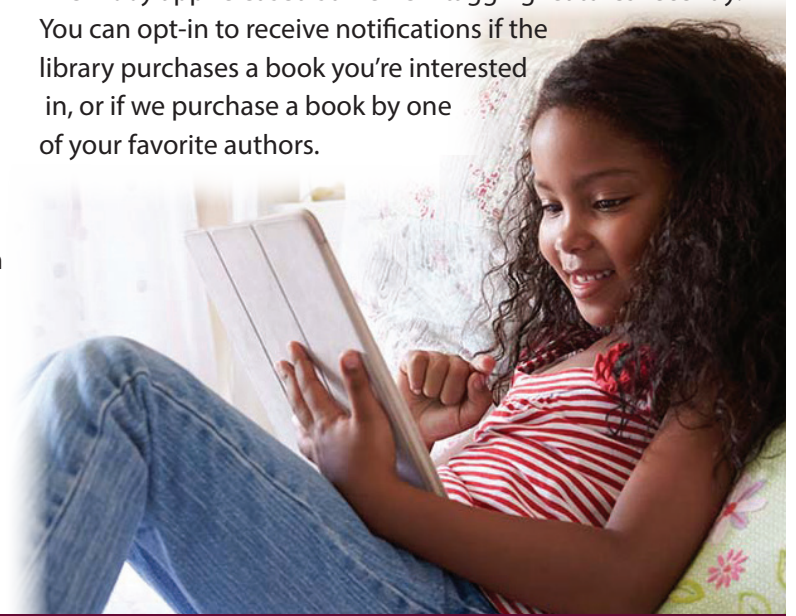
Why may the digital collection be the second circulating library?

In one word - convenience! The digital collection is available 24/7. Lots of people tried the digital library for the first time out of necessity during the pandemic and have kept using

it because it's so easy, especially folks who like audiobooks - that has been the biggest growth area within the digital library. If you have the Libby app, there is no need to remember to bring your book with you, or to fumble around with changing CDs.

Is there anything exciting coming up or releasing soon that donors should know about?

The Libby app released some new tagging features recently. You can opt-in to receive notifications if the library purchases a book you're interested in, or if we purchase a book by one of your favorite authors.



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.

Staff Donor Highlight: Wendi Wigham

The library has many wonderful advocates. Wendi Wigham, Library Aide in GRRL's Cold Spring and Richmond branches, is not only a library advocate as a staff member but also a generous donor. She shares with us her love for the library and expresses her reason for giving.

When did you get involved with the Great River Regional Library?

My family moved to Cold Spring in the fall of 2009. Shortly thereafter, my kids and I acquired GRRL library cards (my husband Chad has one now too). I joined the Cold Spring Friends of the Library a few years after that.

What services (or materials/books) do you use at the library?

I love using Libby for audiobooks! I also check out physical books at the Cold Spring branch.

Why do you support the library through giving?

I love that what I give to GRRL is able to benefit so many people. We are blessed to have a library system that supports multiple communities with a multitude of materials and services.



Wendi Wigham and her family.

What would you say to someone considering donating to the library?

What you give to the library benefits both you, your fellow community members, and many more people. Out of curiosity, I recently looked up the cost of the library items I had checked out (two hardcover large print books, one paperback, and one audiobook). Had I purchased those items, they would have cost approximately \$110, plus shelf space and digital storage space. If I give that money to the library—not only can I easily use those items, but so can people throughout the GRRL area. It's a win-win!

Calming Room made possible with Trust



The St. Cloud Public Library offers a new service for families – a Calming Room in the Children's Services area on the first floor thanks to the Charlotte West Anderson Trust.

Calming Rooms are trending in schools and public libraries around the country. They are spaces where kids can "reset" if they feel anxious or over-stimulated. The idea came to the library staff's attention through a suggestion from a library user. She was hesitant to bring her son with autism to the library, as she did not want to disrupt others when he would have an outburst. The opportunity for the family to go to a room to decompress gave them a sense of welcome and comfort in using their local library.

Just prior to the library user's suggestion, the St. Cloud Public Library received a generous donation through a bequest. Charlotte West Anderson, who named the library in her will, was a schoolteacher for many years and appreciated the children's area of the library. It was a fitting opportunity to use a portion of her gift to fund the calming room.

The Calming Room has light-canceling curtains, comfortable seating, softened lighting, and an ambient noise machine to reduce outside stimulation. There are also calming tools like a weighted stuffed animal (who looks like the beloved big red dog Clifford from the popular children's books), emotion prompts, and a black pop-up tent kids can use to decompress. Families can book the St. Cloud Public Library's Calming Room for up to 90 minutes. Bookings can be made at the Children's Service Desk in the library. An adult caregiver must accompany children in the Calming Room.

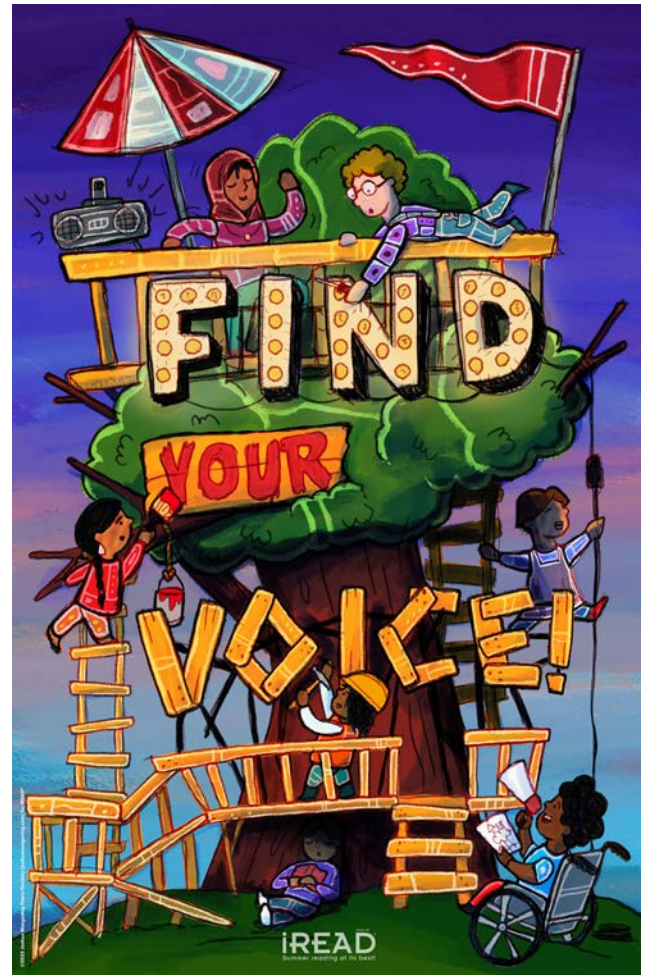
The library is excited to offer this room to ensure a welcoming space for all. As we seek to be an inclusive space for the community, we look forward to seeing this room in use and as a helpful resource for families.

Support the Library by Sponsoring

The theme for iREAD's 2023 Summer Reading Program (SRP) is Find Your Voice! We are sharing that our voices have power. Find Your Voice! will provide a context for exploring books, history, social justice, and STEAM fields as well as develop library programs and services that empower patrons of all ages to make their voices heard.

The Great River Regional Library (GRRL) is seeking businesses and organizations to sponsor the Summer Reading Program (SRP). Thanks to our sponsors, it 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 2022, across 32 branch locations, we had 12,373 babies, children, and teens 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 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

2023 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: 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.

Office use only: Rec'd _____ Init. _____ Amt. _____ Ck# _____



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

Locally Growin' Blossomed in March!



Each March, Great River Regional Library hosts a fundraiser called Locally Growin'. Our Locally Growin' campaign keeps donations 100 percent within the branch library of the donors' choosing. Each library selects a specific "wish" item and a campaign goal. Over \$28,000 was raised around the region in 2023 to support various goals. Thanks to our generous Locally Growin' donors, here are a few branch efforts to watch for in the coming year:

- Belgrade will add snowshoes to their collection for checkout,
- Eagle Bend will add Play2Learn kits and Lucky Day adult books to their library shelves,
- Foley will receive a visit from the Minnesota Zoo's Zoomobile,
- Richmond will add a new picture book bin to their library,
- Swanville will boost their children's programming and supplies.



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.

