



# CURRENTS

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## Join a community. Join Beanstack!

As a donor, you may be interested in knowing how your participation in the Year-End Campaign makes a difference. Each gift to this campaign goes towards our undesignated general fund split between three categories: collection, programming, and communications.

One of the most exciting programming tools we have been able to implement, thanks to you, our loyal donors, is Beanstack. According to beanstack.com, "The leading solution for motivating people to read, Beanstack is a platform unlike any other. From reading challenges to fundraisers, we are the #1 choice for thousands of libraries and schools around the world." This online platform (including the Beanstack app) provides many features for our patrons. Users can get reading suggestions from librarians, log their reading, and join the fun, diverse, and engaging reading challenges.

In the three years we have subscribed to Beanstack, we have had 7,220 readers log over 7.5 million minutes of reading and complete 28,287 reading-related activities! This past summer alone, 1,600 kids and teens registered for the Summer Reading Program and logged nearly 1 million minutes of reading. Subsequently, in the Summer Reading Program survey, a whopping 83% of users (typically parents) reported that their kids spent more time reading because of the program on Beanstack. In addition, over half of the users who responded to a recent survey of adults reported spending more time reading because of Beanstack.

Throughout 2022, Great River Regional Library (GRRRL) has held many reading challenges appealing to a range of ages and interests, including "IditaRead," "Hispanic Heritage Month," "Back to School," "Mindfulness," and "Financial Literacy."

Connie Laing, Patron Services Librarian at GRRRL, shares, "Beanstack has been a great library engagement tool for readers of all ages. We've had parents comment on how it encourages their kids to read more, but we have been pleasantly surprised at how many adults regularly log in Beanstack. Readers enjoy seeing how much they have read on their log, and earning the virtual badges adds a gamification aspect for fun. The Beanstack Tracker app makes it easy to use all of its features!"

Thank YOU for your contribution to this project! With you as a loyal donor, we can afford this service for our library users. We appreciate your support of your local library and literacy in the community.



# SRP Sponsor Highlight: Central Minnesota Noon Optimist

Central Minnesota Noon Optimist Club has strongly supported the Great River Regional Library (GRRL) for over 13 years. In the last two years, the Club was a top sponsor for the Summer Reading Program. GRRL appreciates their continued sponsorship and goal to support local children.

Sandy Nadeau, President of Central MN Noon Optimists, states, "Our mission is to support the youth of Central Minnesota. We do that by supporting organizations that provide programs and services to young people in Central Minnesota. We appreciate the services of Great River Regional Library, especially those that reach young people." The Club's mission aligns with the library's goal of the Summer Reading Program, as our goal is to encourage children and teens to read throughout the summer.

Sandy shares, "We are grateful to support the GRRL. It is an important asset to our community." Likewise, GRRL is grateful for Central Minnesota Noon Optimist Club's support. Our generous sponsors make it possible to host a successful reading program that engages our local children. Thank you!



**Central MN Noon  
OPTIMIST**

## 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](http://griver.org/planned-giving) for more information and our *Statement of Intent form*.



## Reading Fundraiser

New this year on the Beanstack app, GRRL is inviting readers to participate in the Reading Fundraiser Challenge. The challenge will include both virtual reading log and donor badges, linking reading to the 2022 Year-End Campaign.

Join in the space-themed fun at [griver.beanstack.org](http://griver.beanstack.org) or on the Beanstack app.



# Support GRRL's WiFi2GO and similar services with a gift to the 2022 Year-End Campaign

As a library supporter, you know that Great River Regional Library (GRRL) is not a system of dusty libraries and silencing hushes from librarians. On the contrary, our libraries are thriving, fun places for communities to come together. To serve our communities best, we are constantly weeding out damaged, unread materials and adding new books, DVDs, CDs, and other fun collection items.

Over the last year, GRRL has grown our WiFi2GO service. WiFi2GO is a collection of wifi hotspots that library cardholders can checkout to connect to the internet on wifi-enabled devices. We have widened the service to serve all 32 branch libraries. The need for these devices was apparent, and the effort to develop this service was a necessary focus for our diverse users and communities. We can continue this service because of you and other generous GRRL donors.

We thank you if you have already given towards our 2022 Year-End Campaign! If you haven't donated, we invite you to show your support. With your donation, we can create and enhance new collections to provide innovative library services. We appreciate your loyal support and hope you know how important your generosity is to Great River Regional Library.

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.*

## 2022 Year End Campaign

### Yes, I will support the library with a gift.

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

### Thank You for Your Generosity!

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(320) 650-2549.

## Thank You Sponsors

Great River Regional Library would like to acknowledge its generous 2022 Summer Reading Program Sponsors. Thank you for making a difference for the children in our community. Program participants received fun reading incentives, attended events at their local library, and had the resources to stay on track for school during the summertime, all thanks to your sponsorship! For our 2022 program, across 32 branch locations, we had 12,373 babies, children, and teens participate! Thank you for making their summer exciting and educational.

### \$1,000+ Sponsors:



### \$750 Sponsor:

**St. Cloud Industrial Products**

### \$500 Sponsors:

**St. Michael-Albertville Women of Today  
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## 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.