



Friends of the Willmar Public Library – 2020 Annual Report

Since establishment in 1994, the purposes of the Friends of the Willmar Public Library have consistently been: To enhance the Library Collection, To sponsor Library Events, To promote Library Resources, To support Library programming for children, teens and adults, and To conduct fundraising events to benefit Willmar Public Library

2020 Financial Support from Friends to Willmar Public Library (WPL)

through direct gifts and by investments which yield grants to WPL

Funds provided directly to the Library in 2020:

\$3,125.00	Annual Grant from the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund (FWPL Fund), a Field of Interest Fund, established by Friends, owned & administered by the Willmar Area Community Foundation, with advice from Friends on grants to WPL
\$1,403.00	Net proceeds from Friends 2019 Wisdom & Wine Silent Auction & Duck Raffle
\$300.00	COVID Grant received from the Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF)
\$2,598.00	Proceeds from a Fall Mail-in Donations Fundraiser for Friends of WPL, to replace “lost” traditional fundraisers (<i>*provided to WPL at the very end of the year</i>)
\$171.75	Proceeds from an “adapted for COVID-19” Book Sale (<i>*at end of the year</i>)
\$7,597.75	TOTAL

Funds directed to the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund in 2020 for future grants to WPL:

\$1,122.00	Proceeds from Give to the Max added to the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund (FWPL Fund) [<i>In addition, anonymous \$500 match donated directly into FWPL Fund, serving as match for proceeds Friends could raise.</i>]
\$1,000.00	Donation from the Friends of WPL Admin. account added to the FWPL Fund
\$2,122.00	TOTAL
\$9,719.75	GRAND TOTAL <i>directly gifted to WPL or invested toward future grants to WPL</i>

Thank you to our members for their extremely generous support during the year. Due to the COVID pandemic we were unable to hold any of our traditional fundraisers. Our members and the public stepped up with fabulous support for library during these difficult times.

Planning is challenging. The Wisdom & Wine committee is working on possible options for a June 10, 2021 event. Nothing has been decided. Keep checking - we will keep you posted!

Thank you to the library staff for working with and through the challenges the of the pandemic. Efforts required rethinking access and identifying and developing ‘workable’ WPL programs to serve the community. Enjoy the WPL report on the community impact, and examples of the use of funds received from or through Friends of the Willmar Public Library.

The new Friends of WPL logo reflects the close tie with Willmar Public Library.

Members: *The Friends of the Willmar Public Library is a volunteer, membership organization with annual memberships starting at \$10. 2020 Membership: 105 paid Friends memberships*

Friends of WPL Board:

Sharyl Helgeson, President

Jeni Ritz, Vice-President

Bill Paterson, At Large

Anne Polta, Secretary

Suzanne Nelsen, Acting Treasurer & Past President

Vicki Melbye, At Large

Friends Webpage: <https://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-willmar-public-library/>

Friends of the Willmar Public Library
2020 Annual Financial Report – January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Administrative Account Bremer Bank – Balance 1/1/2020 \$5,660.80 – Balance 12/31/2020 \$6,840.74

2020 INCOME - \$6,459.08 (Total)	2020 EXPENSES - \$5,279.14 (Total)
\$1919.00 - Membership Dues	\$1,121.90 – Administrative/Logo
\$ 20.11 – Interest + Bank Refund	\$196.66 - Newsletter
\$ 27.78 - Amazon Smile	\$246.75 - Book Sale (\$75 cash change)
\$ 525.44 - Gifts + Grants	\$100.00 - Raffle License
\$ 2,598.00 - Fall Fundraiser	\$500.00 – Grants/Memorials (\$300 MALF)
\$ 246.75 - Book Sale (\$75 change returned)	\$2,113.83 - GTTM to fund (Matching directly to fund) (\$991.83 - 2019 +\$1122 -2020 Donations)
\$ 1,122.00 - Give to the Max	\$1,000.00 - Friends WPL Fund
\$ 6,459.08 – Total Income	\$5,279.14 – Total Expenses

(Note: Proceeds from Fall Fundraiser – check distributed, but not processed yet by bank by 12/31/2020.)

Wisdom and Wine Account Bremer Bank – Balance 1/1/2020 \$9,161.01 – 12/31/2020 \$8,034.45

2020 INCOME - \$2,245.00	2020 EXPENSES - \$3,371.56
\$1,050.00 – Dinner Tickets	\$1,050.00 – Dinner tickets refunded
\$1,195.00 – Donations + sponsors	\$750.00 - Services
\$2,245.00 – Total	\$1,403.00 – Donations to WPL from Fundraiser (Proceeds from 2019 Silent Auction and Duck Raffle)
	\$3,371.56 - Total

Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund Willmar Area Community Foundation, a Field of Interest Fund advised by the Friends of the Willmar Public Library - Balance 12/31/2020 \$94,479.33

\$3,125.00 - 2020 Annual Grant to the Willmar Public Library

Friends of the Kandiyohi County/Willmar Public Library, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. Donations are tax exempt as allowed by law. EIN: 41-1762640

2020 Willmar Public Library Annual Report

Friends of the Willmar Public Library

The Willmar Public Library receives an annual grant from the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund, established by the Friends of the Willmar Public Library and administered by the Willmar Area Community Foundation. In 2020, Friends Funds were used by the Willmar Public to enhance the library collection through the purchase of large print books and to promote and support library programs and activities.

In 2020, the Willmar Public Library used \$1,050.00 for the purchase of forty-four large print titles. The annual purchase of large print books relates to a grant started years ago through what was known as the Ook Book Fund, created by a donation specifying that funds be used for books for people with low vision. This fund is now part of the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund, which incorporated the goal of expanding availability of low vision materials.

Large print books purchased this year were selected in June of 2020 after the library reopened due to a closure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since their arrival in the library the 44 books have circulated a total of 94 times. During normal library operations large print books are often used to provide residents of Willmar area assisted living centers with reading materials. Due to the restrictions placed by these facilities at this time the library is unable to continue outreach activities at these centers which would have had a negative impact on the use of this collection.

In 2020, \$150.00 of funds were designated to purchase a book club kit to be used by area book clubs. The kit for the book *Good night, Mr. Wodehouse* includes 10 copies of the book in a bag for book clubs to check out with a library card.

The Willmar Public Library utilizes much of our Friends of the Library donation funds to help support library programming throughout the year. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic library operations have been significantly disrupted and planned programs and activities took on a different appearance or were cancelled out right.



From January through March 2020 Friends funds were used to support in person library programs. The new program "Cure your Cabin Fever" was a series of programs geared to all ages and families. Friend's funds supported 11 total programs in this series (including an escape room, scavenger hunt, and cooking competition).

Beginning in mid-March, the library was forced to close to the public and all library programs and services were transitioned to virtual delivery. The library began to offer virtual programs including contests and activities that utilized Friends of the Library funding to provide incentives. After the library began to reopen in May,

programming continued to be online and additional Make and Take Crafts were developed and offered through curbside service.



Friends of the library funds were used in support of various library programs such as providing incentives for a diorama contest, pumpkin decorating contest, and prizes for Summer Reading.

Friend's funds were utilized in support of the Summer Reading program for the adults, teens, and children this year. In October, the program TeenTober occurs (which is a month dedicated to celebrating teen services and teens at the library). Due to COVID, the teen librarian had to get creative with what was offered. Normally, she would throw a big Halloween lock-in party but instead she offered an online murder mystery party. The teen who correctly guessed the killer received a \$25 gift certificate. It was a great way to celebrate Halloween safely and was a lot of fun.

In normal years, Friends of the Library money would be used by the Children's department for a 1000 Books before Kindergarten Graduation party. Since this was not possible this year and participation in the 1000 Book before Kindergarten program was greatly reduced, we redirected these funds to purchase a new activity easel that will be used for storytime and other library programs in the future.

Towards the end of 2020, the Friends provided additional funds from a mail in fundraiser that was held in the fall. The Friends provided an additional \$2,598.00 the last week of December. These funds remain unspent as of this report. The plan for this money includes purchasing additional media (DVD's, CD's, etc.) for the library collection. Also, these funds will be used as we continue to reopen library programs and services by promoting library usage and program participation. We plan to utilize some of these funds specifically for the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic this year has been very challenging for the library. Many of the library programs normally funded by Friends of the Library had to be cancelled or reimagined. Library staff has done an excellent job of transitioning programs to online or take home format with the help of the Friends of the Library grant funds. We have seen increasing interest in our new program offerings by the community. As we move forward and return to regular programming the continued support of the Friends group is greatly appreciated.

Andrew Bregar, Head Librarian
Syrena Maranell, Adult Services Librarian & Friends Liaison
Samantha Lilienthal, Teen Librarian
Alyssa Lennander, Children's Librarian