



Friends of the Willmar Public Library – 2021 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

WILLMAR PUBLIC LIBRARY

2021 Financial Support from Friends to Willmar Public Library (WPL) through direct gifts **and** by investments which will yield future grants to WPL

Funds provided directly to the Library in 2021:

\$3,634.65	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
\$1,000.00	Donation from the Friends of WPL Administrative Account
\$2,423.00	Proceeds from 2021 Fall Mail-in Donations Fundraiser for Friends of WPL, to replace “lost” traditional fundraisers (<i>*to WPL at the very end of 2021</i>)
\$2,598.00	<i>*Proceeds from 2020 Fall Mail-in Donations Fundraiser for Friends of WPL, to replace “lost” traditional fundraisers (*provided to WPL @ end of 2020, but - not cleared by bank by 12/31/2020. Also noted in 2020 Annual Report.)</i>
\$50.00	Proceeds from an “adapted for COVID-19” Book Sale (<i>*at end of the year</i>)
\$9,705.65	*TOTAL

Funds directed to the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund in 2021 for future grants to WPL:

\$905.14	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>]
\$905.14	TOTAL
\$10,610.79	*GRAND TOTAL directly gifted to WPL or invested toward future grants to WPL

Thank you again to our members for their extremely generous support during the year. Due to the continuing COVID pandemic we were again unable to hold any traditional fundraisers.

Thank you to the library staff for continuing to work through the challenges of the pandemic. Serving the community requires rethinking access and developing ‘workable’ WPL programs.

Planning is challenging. **Wisdom & Wine’s** free virtual author event on June 10th entertained and ‘saved the date’; we’re hoping for an in-person June 9, 2022 event. Keep checking back!

National Friends of Libraries Week (October 17-23) was celebrated with a “Meet & Greet”.

Members: The Friends of the Willmar Public Library is a volunteer, membership organization with annual memberships starting at \$10. In 2022 memberships will align with the calendar year.

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

Mission: The Friends of the Willmar Public Library work to enhance library services and programs and to promote literacy and library resources in our community through funding, advocacy, and volunteerism.

Friends of the Willmar Public Library

2021 Annual Financial Report – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Administrative Account Bremer Bank – Balance 1/1/2021 \$6,840.74 – Balance 12/31/2021 \$3,697.02

2021 INCOME - \$6,502.34 (Total)	2021 EXPENSES - \$9,646.56 (Total)
\$ 1045.00 - Membership Dues	\$1,402.43 – Administrative/Computer
\$ 45.20 – Amazon Smile	\$ 172.99 - Newsletter
\$ 590.00 – Gifts & Donations	\$2,598.00 – 2020 Fall Fundraiser
\$ 2,423.00 – Fall fundraiser	\$2,423.00 – 2021 Fall Fundraiser
\$ 139.50 – Book Sale (\$100 change returned)	\$1,000.00 – Gift to WPL
\$ 905.14 – Give to the Max	\$ 150.00 – Book Sale (\$100 change)
\$ 1005.00 – Memorials (to Friends, to W&W)	\$ 905.14 – GTTM to Fund
\$ 350.00 – Wisdom and Wine (designated W&W gifts)	<i>(\$500 GTTM Matching directly to Fund)</i>
	\$ 995.00 – Wisdom and Wine transfer
\$ 6,502.34 – Total Income	\$9,646.56 – Total Expenses

(Note: Proceeds from 2020 Fall Fundraiser – check distributed in 2020, but not cleared by bank by 12/31/20.)

Wisdom and Wine Account Bremer Bank – Balance 1/1/2021 \$8,034.45 – 12/31/2021 \$9,729.70

2021 Income - \$2,165.00	2021 Expenses - \$469.75
\$1,520.00 – Donations & Sponsors	\$156.00 – Marketing
\$ 645.00 – Memorials	\$ 25.75 – Bank Expenses
\$2,165.00 – Total	\$288.00 – Virtual Wisdom & Wine
	\$469.75 - Total

Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund (FWPL) - Willmar Area Community Foundation, a Field of Interest Fund advised by the Friends of the Willmar Public Library – Balance 12/31/2021 - \$101,454.50

\$3,634.65 – **2021 Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund - Annual Grant** to Willmar Public Library

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

Willmar Public Library

Friends of the Willmar Public Library

The Willmar Public Library receives annual support through funding provided by the Friends of the Willmar Public Library. Part of this funding is provided via an annual grant at the beginning of the year and various fundraisers throughout the year.

Traditionally some of the Friends grant funds have been used each year to purchase large print books for the collection. In 2021, the Willmar Public Library used \$1,700 of grant funds to purchase a subscription service through Thorndike/ Cengage that provides popular Fiction and Non-Fiction Large Print titles on a monthly basis over the year. This subscription included 48 titles for the year.

In March 2021 a book club kit for the Willmar Reads Program book *Hidden Recipes: A Holocaust Memoir* was purchased using Friends funds. The kit includes 8 books and is available for checkout by area book clubs. Additional single copies of the book were also purchased to circulate during the event. The total cost of these books was \$200.00.

The Willmar Public Library utilizes Friends of the Library grant and donation funds to help support library programming throughout the year. During most of 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, library programs and activities continued to be primarily online or take-home kits. Towards the end of the year, in person programs began to return. Friends funds have been used this year for a variety of craft take-home kits, summer reading activities, contest prizes and more.

Friends funds were used to support library programs through a variety of prizes and incentives geared toward the adult and senior residents of Willmar. Funds were used to provide incentives for four areas of library programming: Adult Summer Reading, Adult Winter Reading, Take and Make fall craft programs, and various contests throughout the year.

For Summer reading, funds were used to provide many prizes this year. Adults were asked to track reading and earn prizes as they turned in completed forms. A grand prize was drawn at the end of the summer.

For Winter Reading, adults were asked to read 5 books to earn one two prizes (coffee mug or tote bag). Two entries were allowed and a grand prize was drawn at the end of the program. Friends funds have been used to purchase mugs and tote bags for the coming year and to fund the grand prize of the current year.

Friends funds were also used to provide prizes for a variety of contests that the library held throughout the year. A total of nine contests were held. Contests ranged from story and recipe contests to decorating pumpkins and gingerbread houses. Prizes ranged from \$10 to \$45 in cash. A total of \$350 was spent on these prizes.

This year Friends funds were spent on three things in the teen programming area: Gift cards for contests, the Teen Summer Reading Program, and the Harry Potter Book Box.

Friends money was used to purchase small Amazon and iTunes gift cards that could be used for contest prizes. The contests throughout this past year included: Movie Trivia, Teen Craft-Off, Eye Candy Contest, Book Spine Poetry, and the Nailed It! Challenge. All of these contests were program that patrons could do from home. It was a great way to provide programming to patrons while staying safe.

For the Summer Reading Program, Friends funds were used to provide grand prizes and some of the smaller prizes' teens can win for turning in their reading logs. This year, 31 teens finished the summer reading program and turned in a combined total of 131 reading logs! As you can imagine, this is a huge improvement from last year in which only 9 teens participated. All leftover small prizes will be used for next year's Summer Reading program. Prizes are the biggest draw to get teens reading for the Summer Reading Program.

The third thing Friends funds were used in support of teen programs was the Harry Potter Book Box. The library has been doing "Book Boxes," since March and they've been very successful with patrons of all ages. Book boxes are a box of mystery items that patrons get to open as they read through the book that pairs with the box. We have done boxes for the Hobbit, the Hunger Games, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Twilight, The Princess Bride, A Wrinkle in Time, Maze Runner, Alice in Wonderland, and finally Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. With Friend's funding the library was able to make 48 Harry Potter book boxes which went out around the second week of October. All of the boxes were gone by the second week of November.

For 2021, Friends funds were used primarily for gift cards for virtual events and the Children's Summer Reading Program. In February and March, gift cards were purchased to use in virtual or passive programs: a Disney trivia contest and a winter writing contest.

For the Summer Reading Program (SRP), \$220.00 was used to purchase children's books from the Scholastic Book Club that were provided to every participant. SRP was completely different than previous years, and each child who signed up got a free book of their choice to take home. For 2021, 322 individual children signed up! This number is greater than 2020, where approximately 66 children signed up. It also approaches pre-COVID numbers, when 2019's sign-ups were over 340. Giving children a book, they can take home as soon as they sign up, instead of using books as a prize incentive, encourages them to start reading at the beginning of summer.

Funding provided by the Friends of the Library allows the library to provide enriching activities for the community. Without these funds the library could not provide the level of service the community should expect. The library is still in the process of returning to normal programming activities as the community recovers from Covid-19. Continued Friends support is greatly appreciated.

Andrew Bregar- Head Librarian
Alyssa Lennander- Children's Librarian
Samantha Lilienthal-Teen Librarian