



**Friends
of the L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library**

News from the Friends of the
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

Volume 38, Issue 1

Winter 2025

Library Links

Give a Kid a Book - 30 years of Distributing Books

Nancy Sowls - GAKAB Committee Chair

Give a Kid a Book had a great year. We gave out 390 books at Backpack in the Park. For our 30th anniversary, we gave out 368 books to the kids at Lakeside Elementary School. Then in our regular December book program we gave out 2,844 books to 13 agencies. In total, we gave 3602 books to the kids in the Chippewa Valley.

I usually writeup an article for the newsletter about Give a Kid a Book but I thought since this was our 30th anniversary of giving out books, I would ask some of the agencies how we are helping them.



TJ - Community Table

"We look forward to Give a Kid a Book every year as it allows us to give parents books for their kids over the Holiday break."

Heather Y. - Strong Arms Helping Families

"Thanks to Give a Kid a Book our organization has been able to give every child a book for Christmas starting at a young age. It has allowed us to encourage kids to read and parents to read to their children. Without Give a Kid a Book, I feel there would be a lot of children who don't have any books."

Jill I. - ECASD Prairie Ridge

"ECASD Early Learning at Prairie Ridge is incredibly thankful to the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library's Friends of the Library and their Give a Kid a Book project. Thanks to your generosity, every child at Prairie Ridge has been given a new, nice book to enjoy over the winter break. The books have gone home with the children enrolled in Head Start & 4K, children who are enrolled in Special Education and children who are receiving supports for English as their second language. The feedback from families has been wonderful, they are so appreciative, as are their children. I heard from a parent who shared their child excitedly said "I got a book from school to keep at home forever!" Thank you so much for making books and learning to read special for our youngest learners."

Various Employees -Western Dairyland Head Start

"Give a Kid a Book is a great way to ensure books are getting into the hands of our children. Give a Kid a Book promotes early literacy skills and provides a method of family bonding and relationship building."

"Give a Kid a Book is a unique program that ensures families have access to books in their home. This resource provides families with books they can keep when they may not have otherwise been able to afford them."

"Give a Kid a Book is purposeful in the types of books provided to children, ensuring they have access to books in their home language that are age appropriate."

continued on page 2

Friends of the L.E. Phillips
Memorial Public Library
2024 - 2025

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Esther Moen
Vice President - Deb Mathson
Past President - Dave Lehmkuhl
Secretary - Mary Jo Mayer
Treasurer - Jeremy Gragert
At-Large member - Michael Kersting
At-Large member - Patti Ausman
Library Board Liaison - Charlie Schell
Library Liaison (non-voting) - Kim Hennings

Program & Development Coordinator (non-voting) - Stacy Yearous
stacyy@eau Claire.lib.wi.us

Administrative assistant (non-voting) - Astrid Hayden
friendsofthelibrary@eau Claire.lib.wi.us

Give a Kid a Book - con't

Dani G. - ECASD Family Services

"The ECASD Family Services Department is so appreciative of Give a Kid a Book! We requested and received wonderful books that have black and brown individuals as the protagonists so that we can share these with our black and brown students and families. It is so important for our kids to see people that look like them in all the books that they read!"

Thanks to everyone involved in the Give a Kid a Book program. Your help and support has made this a successful program that helps the children in our community.



photo credit: "Soul Shine Photography"
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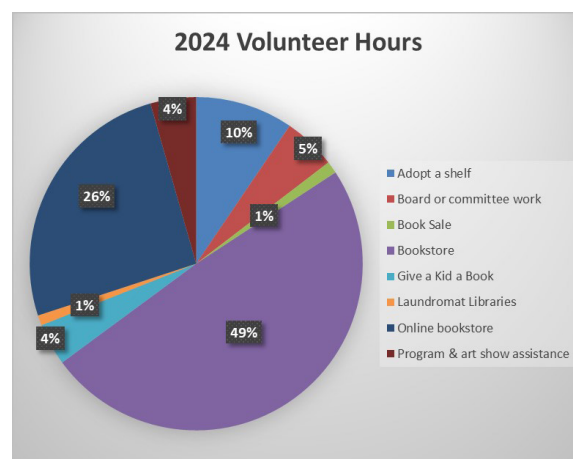
Year in Review

Looking back on 2024, the Friends of the Library team of very active volunteers were able to accomplish great things for our organization and the library. We are so thankful for all our volunteers, especially those who come in weekly to help support our mission of encouraging literacy, expression, and discovery in the Chippewa Valley through support to the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and the surrounding community. Here are some highlights from 2024.

- 124 people volunteered in 2024
- Total hours: 2,986.75
- Average of 24 hours per person
- Value of a volunteer's time was \$33.49 per hour in 2024. Volunteer time was valued at \$100,026!

Hours breakdown:

Adopt a shelf	283.25
Board or committee work	153
Book Sale	35
Bookstore	1467
Give a Kid a Book	122
Laundromat Libraries	29.5
Online bookstore	764.5
Program & art show assistance	132.5
Grand Total	2986.75



Year in Review (continued)

Signup.com Statistics

We use signup.com for scheduling our volunteers for the bookstore and various library programs.

- 12 Planned Activities
- 63 Volunteers
- 226 Volunteer spots filled

2024 Online Sales:

Our sales on AbeBooks, Alibris, eBay, and Amazon continued to be strong in 2024. These funds are a critical component to our organization:

- Amazon Sales: 252 items for \$1,383
- eBay Sales: 175 items for \$3,802
- Abe Books 248 items for \$5,927
- Alibris 36 items for \$891

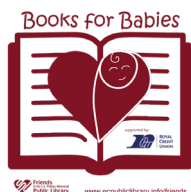
Laundromat Libraries

A team of 4 volunteers service 6 area laundromats each month with new books for the library's Laundromat Library program. In 2024 this program distributed 1,794 books of which 1,699 books were taken home by families to enjoy.



Books for Babies Statistics

We continue to partner with our local hospitals for our Early Literacy Program, Books for Babies. Despite the closure of Sacred Heart in February 2024, we were able to distribute 2,377 kits.



Seasonal Train Exhibit

2024 was the 3rd year the Friends Partnered with the Standard Gauge Module Association to host the Seasonal Train Exhibit. Over



8 days in December we welcomed over 900 visitors raising \$3,700.



Additions to Library Collection

This past year we worked with the library to add gently used current titles into the library's collection. Books published in 2024 that were donated to the Friends were presented to the library collection development team for consideration. The Friends donated to the library 31 books for a savings of \$900 to the library.

Community Business Partners

The Friends developed a new program in 2024, Community Business Partners. The goal of this program is to engage local businesses to partner with the Friends on its mission. In 2024 we welcomed 5 Community Business Partners; Otto Family Law, Banbury Place, Weirsgalla Company, McDonough Manufacturing, and U-Haul.

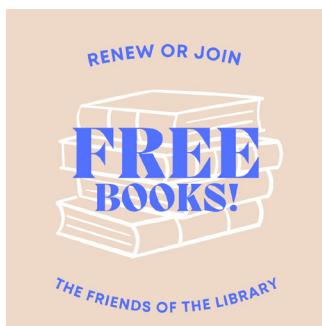
Community Business Partners



2025 Membership Drive is Underway

The Friends of the Library want to say THANK YOU to everyone who has renewed or joined the Friends in 2025. Our 2025 membership mailing was sent out in November of 2024, and we have had a wonderful response so far. If you haven't sent in your membership renewal yet or have misplaced the remittance envelope, don't worry, there is a form you can use on the back of this newsletter. We are continuing our membership perks program to our membership who renew or join at either the Sustaining Friend or Patron Level. If you join at the Sustaining Friend Level (\$50-\$99) you will receive a coupon for 6 free books in 2024 from our Bookstore. Join at the Patron Level (\$100+)

you will receive a coupon for 12 free books in 2024 from our Bookstore. Our membership dollars go a long way to fund the Friends mission of supporting literacy expression, and discovery in the Chippewa Valley through support to the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and the surrounding community. Thank you for everyone for being a Friend!





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Eau Claire, WI 54701

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I would like to receive the Friends of the Library Newsletter via **MAIL** or **Email** (please circle one)

Annual Household Membership

- ☐ Supporting Friend.....\$10 - 25
☐ Loyal Friend.....\$26 - 50
☐ Sustaining Friend.....\$51 - 99
☐ Patron.....\$100 +

Enclosed is an additional donation to go
towards the Friends of the Library Book Store.

\$ _____

Thank You!

*Please note that your donation may be tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. No substantial goods or services have been provided to you in exchange for your gift as stated under IRS guidelines.

Method of Payment

- ☐ I have enclosed a check payable to Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
☐ I have completed the secure online payment form at www.ecpubliclibrary.info/become-a-friend/
☐ Please charge my: VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover
☐ One time donation
☐ Pledging Household

(A Pledging Household requires a minimum pledge of \$10 a month. A credit card would be charged once a month on the same day.)

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