



Friends
of the L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library

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

Volume 39, Issue 1

Winter 2026

Library Links

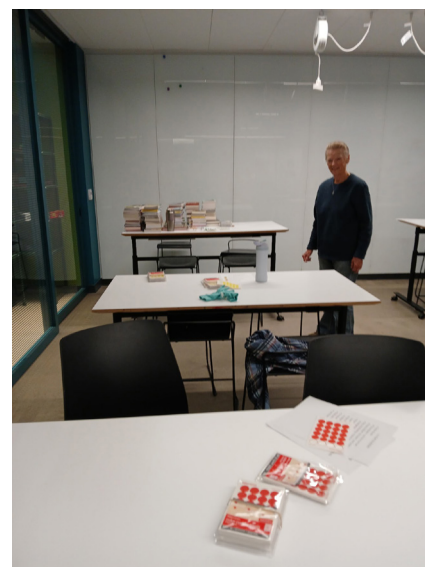
Give a Kid a Book - Another Successful Year!

Nancy Sowls - GAKAB Committee Chair

I have been involved with Give a Kid a Book for 15 years. I have loved every minute of it. It makes me feel so good to see the community come together to give books to kids. This year we gave out 3,379 books at the December Give a Kid a Book and 472 books at the Backpacks in the Park in August. The books we gave out included books in Hmong, Spanish, French, Swahili, Chinese, Lao, and Amharic.

Give a Kid a book is a teamwork effort. There are so many people to thank. Thanks to RCU and Books A Million for sponsoring this program. The employees at BAM help customers select books to give to the program. Then there are all the volunteers who help sort the books, put stickers on the books and pack up the books for 15 agencies. There are also volunteers who buy books to fill any gaps and the people who donate money so we can buy the books we need. Special thanks to M3 Insurance and RCU who collected books for us. Thanks also to the Clear Water Kiwanis who collect books for us and also make a donation. I also want to thank Tom Giffey who has helped deliver books to the Salvation Army. Tom has been doing this for all the years I have been involved with GAKAB.

Whether you volunteered time, gave books, or gave money you are helping to make this program a success. We are at the point where we will be able to support our agencies all year around. So give yourself a pat on the back for helping the kids of the Chippewa Valley.



Friends of the L.E. Phillips
Memorial Public Library
2025 - 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Deb Mathson

Vice President - Sara McIlquham

Past President - Esther Moen

Secretary - Mary Jo Mayer

Treasurer - Jeremy Gragert

At-Large member - Michael Kersting

At-Large member - Anna Zook

Library Board Liaison - Gary Pesicks

Library Liaison (non-voting) - Kim Hennings

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

*Administrative assistant
(non-voting)* - Astrid Hayden
friendsofthelibrary@eauclaire.lib.wi.us

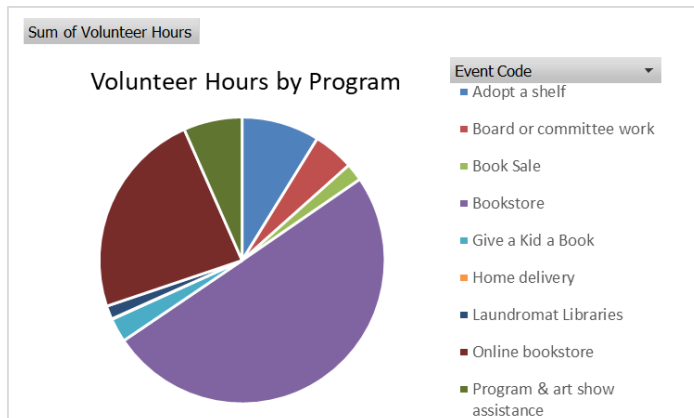
Year in Review

Looking back on 2025, 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 2025.

- 136 members volunteered for a total of 3,096.5 hours in 2025.
- That's an average of 22.75 hours per person!
- At a value of \$34.79 per hour, that is \$107,727.25 of value to the library and the Friends.

Hours breakdown:

Adopt a shelf	273.25
Board or committee work	142.5
Book Sale	61.75
Bookstore	1551.75
Give a Kid a Book	84
Home delivery	2
Laundromat Libraries	47
Online bookstore	729
Program & art show assistance	<u>205.25</u>
Grand Total	3096.5

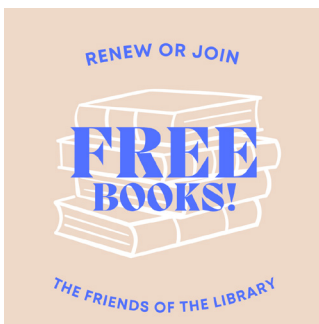


2026 Membership Drive is Underway

The Friends of the Library want to say THANK YOU to everyone who has renewed or joined the Friends in 2026. We have had a fantastic response to this year's membership drive.

The 2026 membership mailing was sent out in November of 2025, 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. If you would like to verify your membership status, please reach out to Astrid or Stacy by calling 715.831.5301 or emailing

friendsofthelibrary@eauclaire.lib.wi.us.



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 2026 from our Bookstore. Join at the Patron Level (\$100+) you will receive a coupon for 12 free books in 2026 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!



Help us recognize
excellence.

Nominate someone!

The library is seeking nominations for its **Distinguished Service Award**. This award is presented annually to a community member who has served the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and/or the Friends of the Library. Criteria include:

- Dedicated and sustained support for one or both of the above.
- Generosity of time and spirit.
- Inspiring others to serve.
- A particularly notable accomplishment in service to one or both organizations.

Nominate someone online at ecpubliclibrary.info/dsa or use a paper form.





400 Eau Claire St.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ E-mail _____



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

Annual Household Membership

- ☐ Supporting Friend.....\$15 - 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.)

Name on Card _____

Card No: _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit CRV code _____