

# CURRENTS

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## Makerspace in Cold Spring

New to the Cold Spring Library is a makerspace! For the 2023 Locally Growin' campaign, the Cold Spring library branch set a goal to raise funds for a makerspace table set, which they now proudly offer to their patrons. A makerspace is an area where children can collaborate, create, explore, and share. It may have complicated things like 3D printers or simple things like a coloring station.

Jason Kirchoff, Library Services Coordinator in Cold Spring, shares, "The idea for the makerspace table came about because we didn't really have a space where school-aged kids could sit, relax, and create. We had an area for toddlers and we add an area for adults but nothing for school-aged kids. Our coloring sheets are really popular at the library. Kids take them home, color them, and then bring them back to the library so we can display them. At some point we thought, hey if we create a space they'll probably stay and color them right here at the library. Which is exactly what happened. So much so that we made space on one of our walls to display all the coloring sheets."

Right now, the space is primarily used as a coloring station where children can enjoy coloring and simple activities like word searches or connect-the-dot puzzles. Eventually, the Cold Spring Library would like to add STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) games, such as a Gravity Maze, Roller Coaster Challenge, or building sets to the makerspace. The library encourages users to share suggestions for what they want to see added to the space.

We want to give a special thank you to the Cold Spring Friends of the Library, the City of Cold Spring, and generous Locally Growin' donors for making the project come to life. By supporting the library, children and families in the community benefit from this new resource. Thank you!



Although the Locally Growin' fundraiser runs during March, your local library accepts donations throughout the year. You can give in-person during library open hours or online anytime at [griver.org/support-the-library](http://griver.org/support-the-library).



# Donor Highlight: Lindsay Neumann

Great River Regional Library has very generous supporters and advocates, and we want to express our gratitude. Lindsay Neumann, a Scholar-level, graciously shared with us her library story.

*When did you get involved with the Great River Regional Library?*

I have been going to the Great River Regional Library my whole life! When I was young my mom would plan a library day on the hottest days in the summer because we had no air conditioning. I would come home with a literal stack of books. One of my favorite childhood memories was when I fell asleep reading one night only to wake up and grab the next book the next morning!

*What services (or materials/books) do you use at the library?*

I would love to check out the arts & crafts books as a kid. Now I get to read the latest fiction books on my phone wherever I am.



*Which branch library do you use the most?*  
I used to go to the old building along the river in St. Cloud as a kid. Now that I live in Becker I visit that branch most often. I love that I can request any book and it is brought right to me!

*Why do you support the library through giving?*

We donate to the library because libraries are important to keep going. They allow people to explore new places and discover new topics without leaving home. They are excellent for getting kids to read and great centers of community.

Why wouldn't you want to donate to something that can do all that?!

*Thank you, Lindsay, for sharing your story about the library. We appreciate your support and advocacy. Your dedication to promoting access to knowledge and literacy has made a significant impact in our community. We value your generosity and kindness.*

## Visionary-Level Donors added to "Giving Club"

The Visionary-level donor is new to our "Giving Club," or donor acknowledgment. Our Visionary donors have given consecutively for five or more years. Our Fund Development Committee, composed of GRRL Board of Trustee members and GRRL donors, sought to recognize our appreciation for our loyal donors who continue to give year after year. Find more details about our Giving Club on our website at [griver.org/giving-club](http://griver.org/giving-club).

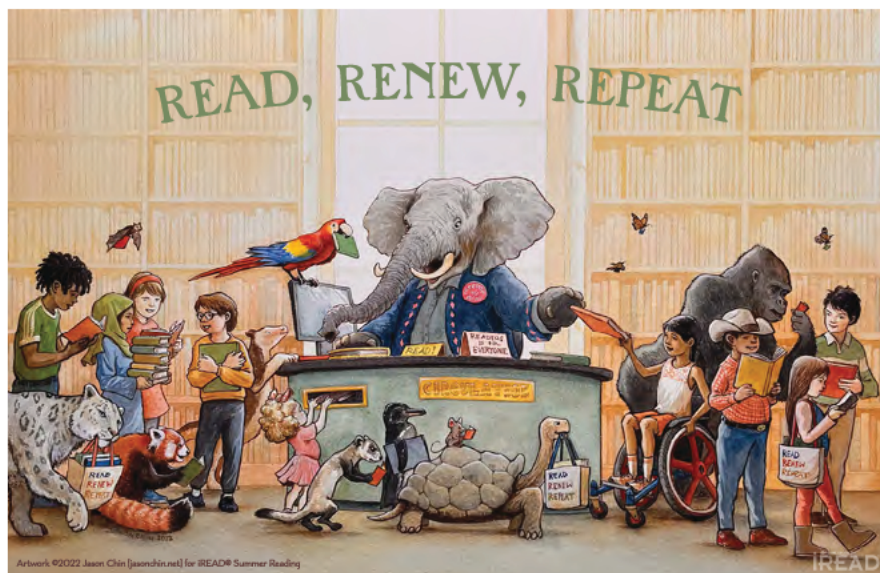
# Support the Library by Sponsoring

iREAD's 2024 Summer Reading Challenge theme is Read, Renew, Repeat! Which will feature the idea and practice of conservation. Conservation as a movement focuses on protecting species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystem services, and protecting biological diversity.

Great River Regional Library is seeking businesses and organizations to sponsor the Summer Reading Challenge. Thanks to our

sponsors, we can offer this program free of charge to children. What does being a Great River Regional Library Summer Reading Challenge sponsor mean? Sponsorship provides children who participate a chance to earn fun reading incentives and prizes at their local library while having the resources to stay on track for school during the summertime. In 2023, across 32 branch locations, we had 12,973 babies, children, and teens participate! Our goal is to have every child gain access to books and receive a book bag of their own.

Do you have a business that supports your community? Do you know an organization that endorses literacy? We encourage you to share this Summer Reading Challenge sponsorship opportunity with others!



## Sponsorship of \$500 entitles you to:

- Complimentary subscription to GRRRL donor newsletter, Currents
- Thank you in Currents newsletter
- Annual recognition on GRRRL website's "Our Supporters" page

## Sponsorship of \$750 or more will also be recognized with:

- All previous entitlements PLUS:
- "Thank you Sponsor" poster for display in all 32 GRRRL branch libraries

## Sponsorship of \$1,000 or more will also be recognized with:

- All previous entitlements PLUS:
- Special acknowledgement on website's homepage in June
- Organization logo included on "Our Supporters" page on website
- Donor listing in GRRRL Annual Report
- Thank you post on our Facebook and Instagram

## 2024 Donation To Support Summer Reading Challenge

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Yes! I will support Great River Regional Library with a gift of:

Gift Amount: (checks made payable to GRRRL)  \$500  \$750  \$1000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include my/our name in donor recognition as above or  I/We would like to remain anonymous.

Mail gift to: Accounting Dept., Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301 - or donate online at [griver.org/support-the-library](http://griver.org/support-the-library)

*Information you provide here is protected under Minnesota Data Practices Statutes. Providing this information is strictly voluntary and will be used for GRRRL financial accounting and to support GRRRL fund development activities. It will be available only to authorized library personnel and contracted vendors. Name, address and amount of gift is considered public information. The personal information collected must be released pursuant to a court order or request by MN state or legislative auditor.*

Office use only: Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Init. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_



To update mailing information please call  
Communications and Development at  
(320) 650-2549.

## Eagle Bend Celebration

On Saturday, April 13, Eagle Bend Public Library hosted an "Expansion Open House & Anniversary Celebration!" Many came to see the newly remodeled space, celebrate the library's progress over the years, and create a kite with the Great River Children's Museum.

Both the Eagle Bend Public Library and Eagle Bend Historical Society & Museum occupied the space prior. The large open room was divided down the middle. The left side was the museum, and the right side was the library. It felt like a tight and crowded space to browse either area. Now, the library occupies the whole room, creating a more welcoming, bright space to browse books, read the newspaper, and create crafts.

*Big congratulations to Eagle Bend on a successful event and for completing the expansion project!*



## 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.