

CURRENTS

Community-Driven Collections in St. Cloud

Many popular children's books cannot be found on the shelves because they are so popular and are always checked out. A planned gift has helped us fill that gap by adding 539 popular books to the collection.

Chris Mallo, Patron Services Coordinator, shares, "As part of our goals to see to the needs of the St. Cloud metropolitan community and increase juvenile circulation numbers, we [added] a local collection of books that are often asked for in St. Cloud but are rarely on the shelves. Although this collection [is] available by request for patrons throughout the system, books will stay local to St. Cloud to increase options for families who browse the shelves. This will better help meet the instant gratification needs of some of our younger patrons."

Some of these popular titles include *Bluey*, the *Dog Man* series, the *I Survived* series, and the *Magic Tree House* series.

This addition of popular books was made possible due to a generous planned legacy gift from Dan Christianson.

Including the library in your will or adding it as a beneficiary of your estate is a way to give back to your community through your local library. Your decision will have a lasting impact and continue to preserve and enhance the library in the future. Learn more about how you can make a lasting impact at your library by talking to library staff or visiting griver.org/planned-giving.



Staff Donor Highlight: Terri Deal-Hansen

Meet Terri, Great River Regional Library's Royalton Library Services Coordinator. She first became involved with GRRL through attending storytimes with her young child at the St. Cloud and Waite Park branches.

We would leave with our arms full of beautiful, exciting new stories to share at home, Terri shared. Since Terri joined GRRL as a staff member in 2016, she has contributed significantly to the library. She not only makes an impact on her Royalton community, but she also supports the library system as a donor.



When asked why she supports the library through giving, her response was this:

I support the library through giving because I believe in the value and strength of a free public space where all are welcome to gather, learn, and connect with one another. Books can inspire, change a perspective, promote personal growth, and educate us about our past.

Beyond being GRRL staff and a generous donor, Terri is also a library user. She primarily uses the physical collection and

occasionally listens to audiobooks on the Libby app. She shared that her husband appreciates the eBooks because he can read them on his iPad and adjust the font size.

Her latest book recommendations are *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans, *The One in a Million Boy* by Monica Wood, *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin, and *Sipsworth* by Simon Van Booy.

Considering donating to the library?

Terri shares, *I would encourage others to support the library through donations because libraries provide an inclusive, safe,*

and free space to gather. It's a joyful thing to see members of the community come to the library to read and play with their children, celebrate music, art, and author events, and use the space as a community hub to connect with others. It's important to support libraries so that they continue to thrive in our communities for future generations.

Thank you, Terri, for all you do for the library!

CARNEGIE LIBRARIES 250

Little Falls Carnegie Library and Sauk Centre Sinclair Lewis Library, branches of Great River Regional Library, received \$10,000 from Carnegie Corporation of New York, the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of Carnegie Libraries 250, a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1917. Approximately 750 of them continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations. Sauk Centre opened in 1903, and Little Falls opened in 1905; our libraries are two of 58 Carnegie Libraries in Minnesota built through this historic program.

"These gifts honor the history of Carnegie Libraries and the role they have played in communities nationwide for more than a century. What rich history we are able to be a part of," said Brandi Canter, Great River Regional Library Executive Director.

"Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as 'cradles of democracy' that 'strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,'" said Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford. "We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded."

Great River Regional Library received the gifts for the Little Falls and Sauk Centre branches in early 2026. The funds are to celebrate the 250th anniversary, further our mission, and benefit our community.

Patrons are invited to share their library photos, stories, and community celebrations in Little Falls and Sauk Centre, Minnesota, at carnegielibraries.org.



1300 W. St. Germain St.
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-650-2500

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST CLOUD, MN
PERMIT NO. 2382

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

Decodables to Support School System

With Minnesota's new READ Act, schools are working on having kids read at their level from kindergarten. Several GRRL branches are working to support this act and reinforce the reading objectives of our local school system by acquiring and having available the same decodable books that children are learning from in their classes.

Visit your local library to browse the collection, or search "decodable" in our online catalog at griver.org.



Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

Contact us at 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.

