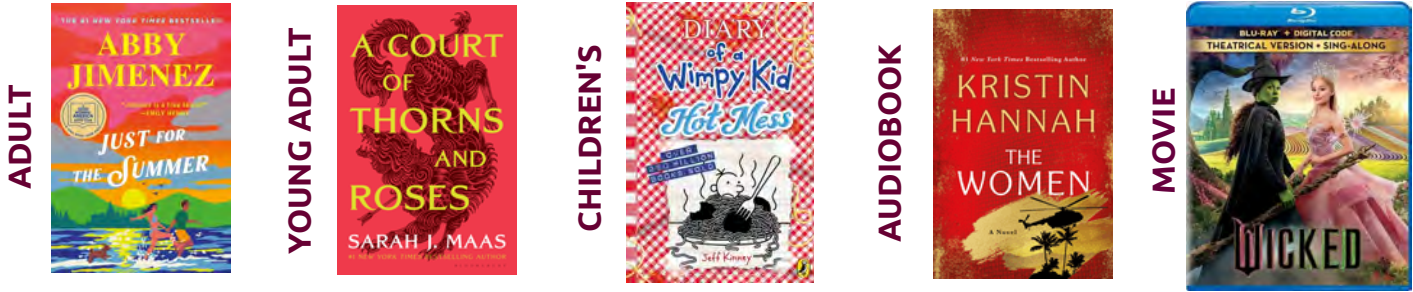


MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS

These are the most frequently checked out titles by category in 2025.



PROGRAMS



Pictured: Storytime in Howard Lake

The Summer Reading and Winter Reading Challenges were available to library users both in their local library and online through the Beanstack app.

14,041

record-breaking children & teens participated in Summer Reading Challenge

2,923

teens & adults participated in Winter Reading Challenge

Many of the additional programs and events region-wide were storytime and book clubs. Also, we offered programs that were made possible with the Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



SHARING THE LOVE OF READING



Pictured: Children at the Monticello Public Library

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Teen Sticker Design Contest Winner

In July and August 2025, teens were invited to showcase their creativity by submitting their own unique library-centered designs for printing on vinyl stickers. The first-ever Teen Sticker Design Contest received 94 submissions. The finalists were selected based on creativity, design, how well they fit a library theme, and whether they could transfer well to a vinyl sticker. The winner, Jasmin, age 13, whose home library is the St. Cloud Public Library, created an impressive bookworm design that received much praise. Stickers of the winning design, along with two runner-ups, were available to patrons at all 32 GRRL libraries while supplies lasted during the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) annual TeenTober celebration in October.



Brandi Canter named Executive Director

In October 2025, Brandi Canter was selected as the new Executive Director of Great River Regional Library. We welcomed her with an Espresso with the Executive Director meet-and-greet event in November, which gave community members, staff, and library donors the opportunity to meet Brandi. "The board is excited to welcome Brandi and see her leadership in the upcoming 2026-2030 Strategic Plan," said Jayne Dietz, president of the GRRL Board of Trustees. "We have seen firsthand how she is deeply committed to GRRL's mission and to the communities we serve."

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| County & City Agreements..... | \$7,440,999 |
| Patron Receipts..... | \$129,480 |
| Grants & State Aid..... | \$1,934,953 |
| Interest & Other Receivables..... | \$422,603 |
| Gifts & Donations..... | \$247,228 |
| Cash Reserves..... | \$622,722 |

Total Revenue.....\$10,798,008

Expenses

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Salaries & Benefits..... | \$7,902,528 |
| Library Materials..... | \$976,000 |
| Operating & Other Expenses | \$1,026,244 |
| Grant & Fund Balance Spending..... | \$347,079 |
| Capital Investments..... | \$42,479 |
| Patron Programming & Communications..... | \$99,505 |

Total Expenses.....\$10,393,835



2025 Scholar-level (\$1,000+) donors:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Andrew Larkin | Mark Thelen |
| Barb Carlson | Mary Eilers |
| Central MN Noon Optimist Club | Monte DeMatteis |
| Deborah McCarl and Marilyn Skurdahl | Moose Lodge #1400 |
| Debra Japp | Norma Moeing |
| Denis & Susanna Hynes | Patrick McDowall |
| Doris Matter | Rockford Lions Club |
| Evenson Decker, P.A. | Royalton American Legion |
| Garage Door Store | Schlenner Wenner & Co. |
| Hanover Lions | St. Cloud Area Sertoma Club |
| High Points Networks, LLC | St. Cloud Reading Room Society |
| Joanne & Chris Kudrna | Sytek |
| Lindsay & Mike Neumann | Vickie Bosl |
| Lions Club of Motley | Plus, several anonymous donors |
| Luke & Vas Wojtanowicz | and Friends of the Library groups |

BY THE NUMBERS

The year 2025 was successful, as we saw another year of record-breaking Summer Reading Challenge participation and digital collection usage. Here is an overview:



2025 Board of Trustees

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Ed Popp* | Benton County |
| Robert Kasper* | Morrison County |
| Laura Kangas | Sherburne County |
| Gregg Felber* | Sherburne County |
| Jayne Dietz | Sherburne County |
| Alan Amdahl | Stearns County |
| Zurya Anjum | Stearns County |
| Tarryl Clark* | Stearns County |
| Lynn Grewing | Stearns County |
| Tim Denny* | Todd County |
| Melissa Fee | Wright County |
| Teresa Dahl | Wright County |
| Tina Diedrick* | Wright County |
| Holly Lammers | Wright County |
| Jacey Wallace | Wright County |

*County Commissioners