

This is how The Friends
creates **stronger libraries** for
stronger communities.



Impact Spotlight:
Library Resources Devoted
to Making School a Success



What does The Friends' impact look like?

3,125 households made gifts to The Friends in 2015 which help children's programs

The Friends supports over **70** cultural programs each year.

Over **15,000** students visited Homework Centers last school year

120,930 kids attended Summer Spark and other children's programs in 2015

\$25,000 raised to support Maker Spaces and Createch Studios



School-age kids are just one group that benefits from The Friends' support. The Friends raises almost \$2 million a year to provide free resources and learning opportunities that enrich the lives of learners of every age and socioeconomic background. Visit www.thefriends.org to learn more.

Families learning together

Storytimes help young children build a foundation for future reading success. But these events are about more than stories. At a Karen language storytime, parents who never received a formal education learn alongside their kids as they sing the Karen alphabet, practice colors and numbers, and participate in activities in their native languages. While most of these kids will learn English with ease, learning the language of their parents allows the parents to take an active role in teaching their child, strengthening their bond and setting kids up for a stronger future.

“This means so much to me because my kids get to learn their native language. They love it because they have all become friends and they get to be together and play.”

– Po Pway, parent

Storytimes are available across the 13 Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) locations in 9 different languages including Amharic, Hmong, Karen, Mandarin Chinese, Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English. This language diversity helped SPPL recently become the first library system in the nation to receive the Top Innovator Award for Racial and Social Equity.



The Friends supports library storytimes in 9 different languages



The Friends has supported
Homework Centers for 15 years

Homework away from home

So many kids need extra help with their school work. With homework help centers at each of the 13 Saint Paul Public Library locations that are available seven days a week, kids can get the resources, supplies, and one-on-one tutoring that they need to help them succeed. Over 15,000 students visited the centers last school year.

For families that can't afford private tutoring or parents who don't feel equipped to help their kids with their homework, these centers have become integral to their daily routines.

“The amazing thing about this program is that it has all the resources a low-income student may need to do well in school...along with a safe learning environment for students to work. The tutors are the ones I owe my success to. The program got me to where I am now.”

– Mai Xee Vang, student

And the services go beyond young students. “People feel a sense of comfort and ownership over the program here. They tell their friends and families about the program, and bring in new learners almost every day to register and get tutoring. There are kids getting tutored right alongside their parents (or aunts or grandparents!) getting basic English help, so it is an intergenerational environment,” says Eric Whalen of the Saint Paul Public Library.



The Friends provides funding
so kids have access

Library resources at kids' fingertips


“Giving students access to all the Library's resources, digital or physical, with a virtual card not only increases their likelihood of using the Library more, but also fits this generation's way of exploring knowledge and seeking enjoyment.”

– Jane Eastwood, Library Director

This school year, the Saint Paul Public Library and Saint Paul Public Schools launched Library Go, a program to provide free, virtual public library cards for all students. In April 2015, President Obama announced the ConnectED Library Challenge, calling upon library directors to work with their mayors, school leaders, and school librarians to create or strengthen partnerships so that every child enrolled in school can receive a library card. Library Go is Saint Paul's unique initiative to achieve the goals set forth by the ConnectED Challenge.

“Think about the people in this community who are going to lead and keep our country and city strong - it's the kids who are going to those libraries right now. That's an investment worth making.”

– MayKao Hang, library user and
President and CEO of the
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

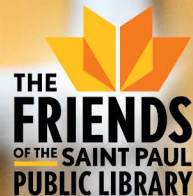


I want to personally thank all of you for the support you've shown to The Friends and to the Saint Paul Public Library, not only this year, but in years past. As I look back on my 25 years at The Friends on the eve of my retirement, I am so humbled by your generosity and so proud of what we've accomplished together. I know with your continued support the library will grow even stronger for future generations.

Thank you.

Peter D. Pearson

Friends President



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www.thefriends.org

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