



You **Believe** in Your Community.
You **Invest** in Your Library.

Here are some of the ways your support is making a difference right now.





You **invest** in reading programs.
Kids **build a foundation** for success.



Eight-year-old Salman loves reading. Right now he's immersed in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney and the Geronimo Stilton series (one of his favorites!). He reads at the library, at school, and every night before bed. But Salman wasn't always so confident about reading.

"He used to be very shy, and he didn't like to read out loud," says Michelle, Salman's tutor in the Reading Together program. Every Monday for the past two years, Salman has met with Michelle, an adult volunteer, at the Dayton's Bluff Library to practice his reading skills. The pair takes turns reading to each other with books that they choose together.

Michelle has seen a transformation during their time together in this system-wide program. "Now he's reading very well, and he's opened up. He talks much more, and I get to see his great sense of humor."

The one-on-one guidance has been an important part of Salman's growth. He and Michelle have built a relationship and now enjoy an easy comfort level after working together for so long.

Salman says he loves the program. "I used to read short books," he says. "Now I can read big books." He says he gets better at reading, "and it's fun!"

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Salman's hard work has paid off. At the end of the school year, Salman learned that, for the first time, he had not only met, but exceeded the required reading levels for his grade.

His mother, Faduma, attributes this success to the Library and the Reading Together program.

She is thrilled with the skills all her kids are learning at the Library. She brings her children four days a week for the Reading Together program, Homework Help, and for quiet time to themselves to read and learn.

Faduma is inspired by all the possibilities the Library offers and has become an advocate to anyone she meets. "You can get your kids help with reading and writing. You can get help with math. You can learn English. If someone is looking for something, I tell them: go to the library!"

Your generous support makes the Reading Together program and success stories like these possible.

To learn more or to become a volunteer, visit [**sppl.org/reading-together**](https://sppl.org/reading-together).



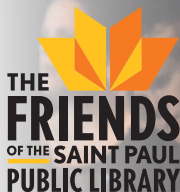
READING TOGETHER

The Reading Together program serves 260+ youth

- weekly meetings with the same tutor throughout the school year
- grades 1-5 who read below grade level
- at any Saint Paul Public Library location

You **invest** in cultural programming. New audiences **discover** our libraries.

The Friends connects people to libraries through a range of cultural programming. For 25 years, we have offered programs that entertain, enrich, and nourish curious minds.



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PROGRAMS

9/5	BOOKS & BARS <i>Saga</i> , Volumes 1 & 2 by Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples Amsterdam Bar & Hall Social Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m. Discussion: 6:15 p.m.
9/19	EATING, READING, & LIVING WELL Panel: "The Future of Food in a Changing Climate" Rice Street Library 7:00 p.m.
9/25	EATING, READING, & LIVING WELL Film Screening: "Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story" Metropolitan State University Library, Ecolab Room 7:00 p.m.
9/27	EATING, READING, & LIVING WELL Presentation: "Local Choices, Global Impact: Understanding Your Role in the Food System" Merriam Park Library 7:00 p.m.
10/3	BOOKS & BARS <i>The Other Einstein</i> by Marie Benedict (author will be in attendance) Amsterdam Bar & Hall Social Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m. Discussion: 6:15 p.m.
10/9	CLUB BOOK Vidar Sundstøl, author of <i>The Devil's Wedding Ring</i> Highland Park Community Center Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
10/19	HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES "The Blood is at the Doorstep" Arlington Hills Community Center 6:00 p.m.
10/25	BEHIND THE CURTAIN WITH PARK SQUARE THEATRE <i>William Shakespeare's Hamlet</i> Hamline Midway Library 7:00 p.m.

For full programming details, visit thefriends.org/calendar.

You **invest** in Minnesota writers.
Readers and writers from all over
Minnesota **connect** through stories.



Thanks to your continued support, we are gearing up for our 30th anniversary season of the Minnesota Book Awards. To kick off this monumental year and connect even more Minnesotans with local literature, The Friends is facilitating an arts tour that's taking Minnesota Book Awards winners and finalists to libraries throughout Greater Minnesota.

Read more about this dynamic program and how it landed The Friends a national role in supporting libraries: thefriends.org/30years

Minnesota Book Awards by the numbers

331 - books have been recognized since 1988

5 - highest number of awards won by an individual author or illustrator, held by Louise Erdrich and William Kent Krueger

9 - number of Minnesota Book Awards authors that have been winners or finalists for the National Book Award

22 - largest number of categories ever recognized in a season

960 - highest number of attendees at the annual ceremony

Stay tuned for more information and ways to be part of this landmark season. thefriends.org/mnba



1080 Montreal Ave., Suite 2
Saint Paul, MN 55116-2311

www.thefriends.org

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You make your community stronger.

Libraries strengthen communities by connecting individuals with resources that enrich and improve lives. As an independent, nonprofit organization, The Friends invests in libraries so that they, and the communities they serve, thrive.

More than ever, we need to ensure that the right tools are available for all individuals to connect to resources that will help them adapt to, go further in, and contribute to our changing society. Your investment in The Friends makes these resources available to everyone. This is how lives change, and this is how communities get stronger.

Thank you for your belief and your support.

thefriends.org