



You **invest** in The Friends.
Libraries and communities grow **stronger**.


2016 by the numbers




\$500,000 – The amount the City of Saint Paul included in their budget for renovations to Rondo Library as a result of The Friends’ Advocacy




\$1.2 million – The amount The Friends raised from individual supporters, corporate partners, and grants




43 – The number of adult cultural programs that brought people into libraries



35 – The number of library systems we served nationally through our consulting group Library Strategies



100,000 – The number of reading outreach materials distributed to libraries through our role as the Minnesota Center for the Book



242 – The number of Minnesota-authored books submitted for a Minnesota Book Award

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**THE FRIENDS**
OF THE SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC LIBRARY
1080 Montreal Ave., Suite 2
Saint Paul, MN 55116-2311
www.thefriends.org

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 grow stronger.

Thank you for your belief and your support.

thefriends.org



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



Impact
Spotlight:
Zhen Tu's
Story



You **invest** in literacy and English classes.
New Americans **thrive**.



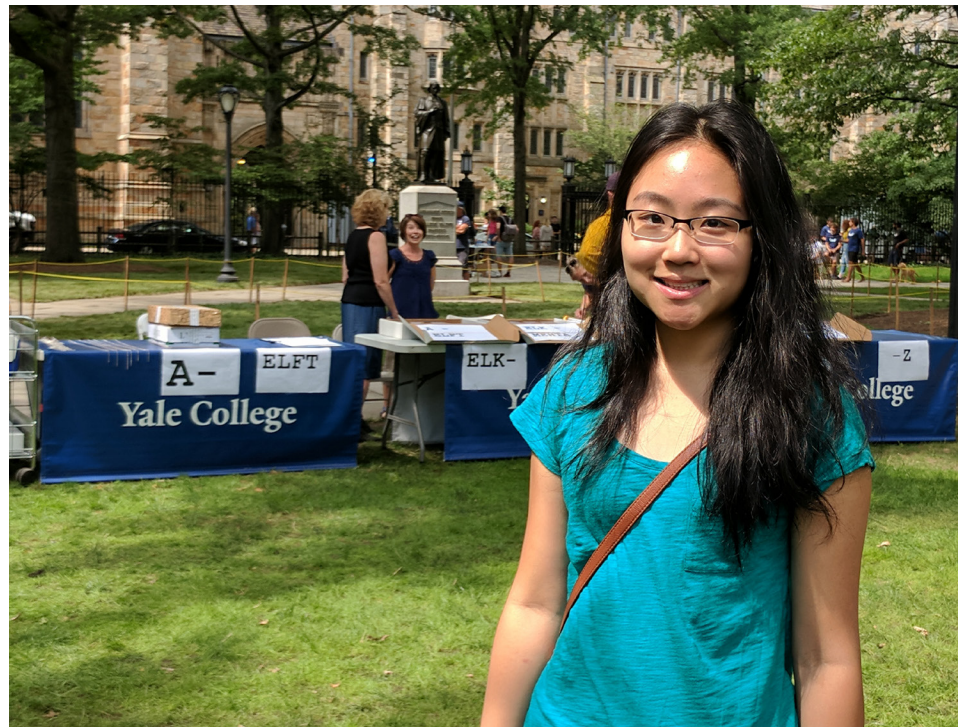
Zhen Tu's mother first brought Zhen to the library when she was a young girl, just after the family moved to the United States from China. Zhen's mother told her that "the library is one of the best places to meet new friends and feel at home." During their frequent visits, Zhen learned English reading library books with her mom.

This early exposure to books instilled in Zhen a deep love of reading, and she continued to visit the library regularly as she grew older. As a high school student, she decided to share this love of reading with others and became a tutor at Rondo Community Outreach Library.

It turned out to be more than just reading that connected Zhen to the people she taught. "My students would ask me about when I moved to America, and their eyes would light up as I shared my stories of learning English at the library." This young tutor who had learned English at the library herself was now paying it forward, teaching others to do the same.

In early 2017, as a senior in high school, Zhen began applying to colleges. Her experiences with the library meant so much to her that she wrote her college essay on how it shaped who she is today. "The library has been crucial to both my character development and my academic growth," she wrote.

“*The library has been crucial to both my character development and my academic growth.*”
- Zhen Tu



Her time at the library – and her essay – paid off. This immigrant, English language learner, tutor, and hard-working teenager is now a proud first year student at Yale University. The Library was an essential part of that journey.

Your generous support makes success stories like Zhen's possible.

Watch a video featuring Zhen's full story at thefriends.org/zhen.

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.



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PROGRAMS

11/14	CLUB BOOK: EDWARD KELSEY MOORE Presenting <i>The Supremes Sing the Happy Heartache Blues</i> Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 Dale Street North, Saint Paul 7:00 p.m.
11/15	WOMEN'S HISTORY LECTURE SERIES Pauli Murray and Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Blazing the Trail to Legal Equality Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul 7:00 p.m.
12/5	BOOKS & BARS: <i>THE ANNIE YEAR</i> BY STEPHANIE WILBUR ASH (AUTHOR ATTENDING) Moderator Jeff Kamin presents his unique take on a public book club. Amsterdam Bar & Hall, 6 West Sixth Street, Saint Paul Social Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m. Discussion: 6:15 p.m.
12/7	HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES "Forbidden: Undocumented and Queer in Rural America" Saint Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Avenue, Saint Paul 6:00 p.m.
12/13	SILENT FILM WITH LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT Enjoy two classic Buster Keaton shorts with music by Dreamland Faces Hayden Heights Library, 1456 White Bear Avenue, Saint Paul 7:00 p.m.

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