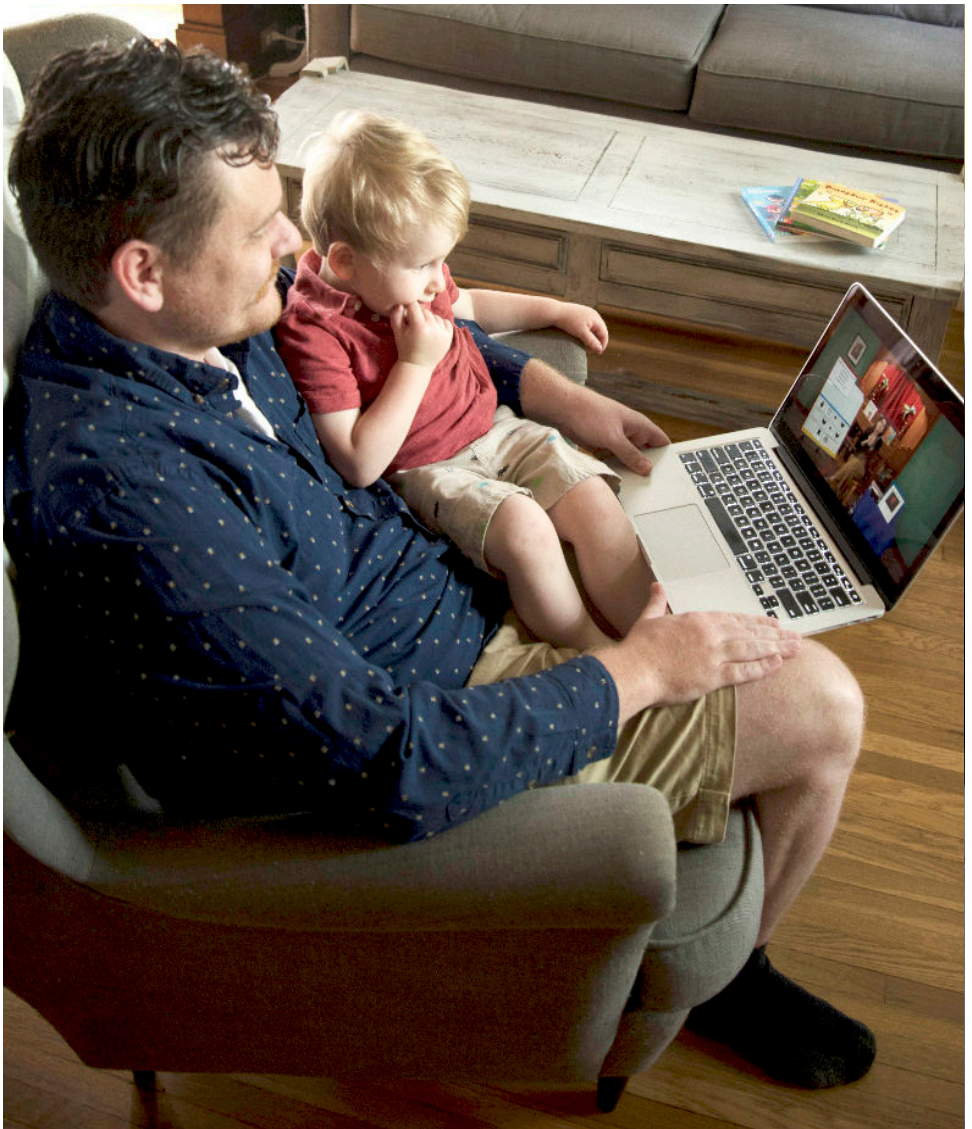


We **Believe** in Our Community.
We **Invest** in Our Library.

Your support makes a difference - now and in the future.



We Invest in the Library. Our Community Stays Connected.

The need for library services is greater than ever. In the midst of a pandemic and a time of social upheaval, residents – including neighbors facing social and economic challenges – are turning to the library for reliable facts and credible resources, educational guidance and tools, employment and workforce information, resources on race, social connection, and to escape through stories.



“Dear Friends, I don’t know what I’d be doing now without the Wi-Fi hotspot from the library. This is a lifesaver for me who otherwise used the library for internet. I wanted you to know that this service of the library MATTERS to me, and I thank you for any role you had in making it possible. I am using it to translate Italian into English, do genealogical research, stay in touch via Zoom...and especially, not feel so isolated as an older Saint Paul resident living alone.”

– Friends Supporter

The library is here for Saint Paul. The mission of Saint Paul Public Library – to welcome all people to connect, learn, discover, and grow – has long been reflected in the daily work of the library, and is now the foundation for the radical reinvention of the library’s service delivery model in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thanks to supporters like you, the library has been able to do what it does best: respond to community needs through innovation.

- The library has connected over 500 parents and educators with distance learning resources through Library Go webinars and support.
- Cultural Liaisons have helped families for whom English is not their first language navigate the new digital world and connect to resources and each other.
- Librarians have supported the citywide emergency response by advising on the Bridge Fund and staffing the language resource line.
- Librarians created a list of resources on race to help residents have brave conversations.
- Patrons have borrowed over 6,500 books and materials through contactless pickup.
- People have connected to critical resources through computer access at a safe distance in select library branches.
- All 13 library locations have activated Wi-Fi signals from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. to provide residents access to free internet near the buildings.
- Virtual storytimes and early educational programs have been viewed over 51,000 times, providing joy and comfort to children and adults and even helping young viewers acknowledge George Floyd in a meaningful way.

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT

Bookmobile Brings the Internet



HealthPartners
Park Nicollet

verizon✓

This summer, thanks to a grant from Verizon Foundation, Saint Paul Public Library is introducing a new strategy to bridge the digital divide, bringing critical internet access to communities through one of the library's oldest mobile resources – the Bookmobile. Here's how:

- The **SPPL Bookmobile has become a large, traveling hotspot**, providing free Wi-Fi access to residents within a close proximity to the vehicle.
- **Additional stops have been added to the weekly Bookmobile route**, specifically in neighborhoods with high concentrations of households with no or uncertain broadband access.
- A hallmark of the library is to provide guidance alongside access to resources, so the **staff of the Bookmobile are offering digital literacy services** to residents in multiple languages.
- The Bookmobile is offering **additional mobile hotspots for checkout and distributing free books and STEM learning kits** to youth who cannot benefit from virtual learning due to lack of internet.

The Bookmobile has been connecting residents to resources for years, thanks to long-time sponsor HealthPartners. This summer strategy is the next step toward the **library's goals to support digital inclusion, education, and social connection across our city.**

The Friends Convenes Statewide Conversation on Racism.

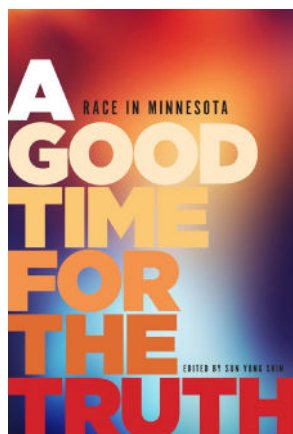
This spring, The Friends as the Minnesota Center for the Book created **One Book | One Minnesota**, a statewide book club that invites Minnesotans to read a common title and come together virtually to reflect and discuss. With *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo as the first title, our goal was to respond to the isolation and resource gaps created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The spring program benefited over 2,400 people from 47 countries who registered for our free virtual author discussion and over 19,000 who accessed the e-book at no cost.

The second chapter of this program features a book that will help us confront institutional and systemic racism. Reading this book in community offers some Minnesotans the opportunity to see their experiences broadly shared and others a chance to educate themselves – and to discover ways to act on their convictions. We are fortunate that Minnesota is home to many talented writers whose work can inform and guide us on this journey. We invite you, your family, and friends to participate with us this summer.



ONE BOOK
ONE MINNESOTA

Second Chapter – Summer 2020



A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota, edited by Sun Yung Shin (Minnesota Historical Society Press)

- Virtual author discussion in August
- Free unlimited downloads of the e-book
- Reading guides and program resources

Learn more about the program at thefriends.org/onebook.



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Friends like you make our community stronger.

Your investment in The Friends helps libraries strengthen and inspire their communities - especially in challenging times.

Thank you for your continued belief and support.
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