



**“A library is infinity  
under a roof.”  
—Gail Carson Levine**

**November 2020**

## **Greetings from the Friends!**

Welcome to this inaugural edition of the newsletter for the Friends of the Anoka County Library. The group was officially formed in 2003 to raise funds and awareness of library services, programs, and materials, and it continues to provide support for a wide variety of library programs that enrich our community and add to our quality of life.



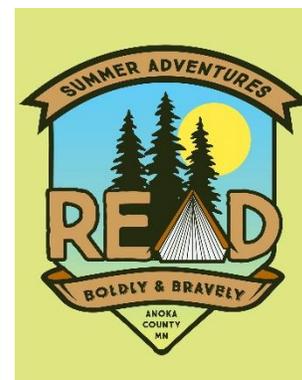
As with so many organizations, the Friends board of directors has had to rethink how to do things during this public health crisis. You can see in the photo above one of the ways that times have changed: our board meetings now happen virtually. But despite the current challenges, this fact remains the same: we're enormously proud to support the Anoka County Library system! If you agree, perhaps when you're done with this newsletter, you'll share it with a neighbor to help us spread the word about this vital community resource.

The Friends are an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

## **Program Spotlight**

One of the programs that the Friends' funding helps make possible is the library's Summer Reading Program. During the summer of 2020, more than 2,200 people of all ages participated in the program, logging over 1 million minutes of reading time! Here is just one of the many great comments shared by a program participant:

*“Thank you for providing services during this time during covid. We love the library & are grateful to continue to borrow awesome books. Finding the summer reading program made us all very happy! Thank you for putting it together in a way that was fun for all ages.”*



In future newsletters we'll highlight other library programs that the Friends help support, including Park Packs, Book Club in a Bag, the Tabletop Games collection, and the Cake Pans collection. In the meantime, we hope that you'll check them all out for yourself by visiting the library's website or one of our library branches in person.

## Thank You to Our Donors



In spring of 2020, the Friends were delighted to make a \$10,000 donation to Anoka County Library. Above, interim Library Director Patti Hetrick accepts the donation from Erin Straszewski, a library staffer who also serves as the liaison to the Friends board. If you're one of our valued Friends donors, thank you so much! You're a big part of why the Friends are able to support our library system in such a big way.

## Friends in the News

Board President Kathy Petron recently had a chance to talk about the Friends on North Metro TV. The takeaway message was simple: we want you! We're always looking for new board members, and we'd love to include your ideas and energy in our future initiatives. Here's the link to the segment so you can see for yourself if you might want to join our fun and dedicated team: <https://bit.ly/37AfGVg>



## Could You Be a Golden Ticket Giver?

As with many organizations, the Friends of Anoka County Library has had to shift our fundraising efforts during this pandemic period. We were especially sorry to miss the chance to enjoy time with so many of our supporters when we had to cancel our spring event. But that just means that we're more excited than ever to once again be participating in Give to the Max. November 19<sup>th</sup> is the 12<sup>th</sup> Give to the Max Day in Minnesota. In fact, you can start donating as early as November 1<sup>st</sup>! Beginning that day, your gift is eligible to be randomly drawn for an additional prize grant (including the popular "Golden Tickets") that would then be given to the Friends.

We hope you'll consider visiting [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) and making a donation between November 1-19. Or if you prefer, you can make a donation directly to us at any time by visiting our page on the Anoka County Library website (see the link below). That's also where you can find our Friends membership form. Thank you for your support!

## Connect with the Friends!

- ▶ Follow us on Facebook: <https://bit.ly/37LzeWT>
- ▶ Email us: [FriendsofAnokaCoLib@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofAnokaCoLib@gmail.com)
- ▶ Visit us online: <https://bit.ly/3olGT3J>
- ▶ Mailing address: Friends of ACL,  
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