

AN UPDATE FROM GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC

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2020 A Year of Challenges, Change & Continued Service

2020 Foundation Quick Facts & News:

- The Foundation began its 62nd year providing funding and support to the Library
- We celebrated the completion of the 2018 Library Renovation Campaign. The Foundation provided over \$1 million in funding for the project
- We adjusted to operational changes due to covid-19 which included Foundation Staff working remotely
- The Foundation Raised \$1,856 during Go Big Give to support Library programs
- There are 200 Library Volunteers & Friends providing weekly support to the Library. We thank them for their hours of dedication!
- Welcomed Leigh Lillibridge as Executive Director in October to continue to lead the Foundation in progress and growth
- Library Director, Steve Fosselman retired after nearly 30 years of service. Celine Swan is serving as Interim Library Director

Learning to Pivot

The Foundation and Library had to learn to pivot to meet the needs of our community this year. The Library adapted their means of serving patrons in an attempt to keep them safe from Covid-19. Measures included handing out masks and hand sanitizer. Books were quarantined and sanitized so that basic services could continue. Many activities continued and were provided virtually and in take home formats.

The Foundation applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Covid-19 Community Compassion Fund to assist the Library with purchases of masks for patrons and other Covid-19 related supplies. Library use was still quite impressive; from June through October 2020 over 17,500 individual patrons visited the library in person. The Library Summer Reading program went virtual. Children were able to visit museums, attend concerts, and watch performances by virtual field trips. Families were also provided drive-through prepackaged learning activities to take home. Many patrons told Library staff that access to books and audio and video collections were a lifeline to them during the pandemic, making the isolation and quarantine less difficult to bear.

**We extend a huge thank you to our patrons and donors!
Your support means more now than ever!**

Because we care about our patrons...



We clean and sanitize regularly



Staff wear masks and we ask that our patrons do as well while in the library



We quarantine and disinfect returned items



Offer Drive-thru services



Reduce number of people in the building by enforcing a 1 hour time limit



Our Future is Bright

One of the many benefits of a library is the ability to go back in time through books and archives. Research of this nature helps us understand that this pandemic is a moment in time, a cue we can take from our ancestors. We can draw from their strength and their examples. This experience will forever change us and make us appreciate the smallest of gestures, gifts, and selfless acts even more. Seeing these kind gestures at work within the Library and the Foundation each day make our hope for the future very bright!

The Foundation is a source of support for the Library as we navigate the future and continue to pivot to meet community needs. This was made possible by the generosity of many past and current donors and friends. We thank you for supporting the work of both organizations during these uncertain times. We value every gift whether monetary or a gift of time or talent. Each and every gift matters! We look forward to life as normal as soon as possible and hope to see you at the Library!



The mission of the Grand Island Public Library Foundation is to enrich the Library's services and to provide enhanced opportunities to discover and use information for an improved quality of life.



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FALL GIVING CAMPAIGN

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Tanya Hansen
Library Board Representative

Ed Meedel
Library Board Representative

December 2020

Dear Friend of the Library,

On behalf of the Grand Island Public Library Foundation and the Library, thank you for your support during our Capital Campaign to better our Library patrons experiences. Without the support of the community and many generous donors like you, the renovation project would not have been possible. The construction was finalized in early 2019, so our community enjoyed nearly a year of activities before Covid-19 made its presence known. We are pleased so many children, teens, and adults of all backgrounds got to use the upgraded facility to its fullest prior to the pandemic. We believe once Covid-19 is behind us, normal gatherings for activities at the Library will be back with a BOOM!

Library and Foundation staff have worked hard to continue services and programs during the pandemic as many of those services were considered essential for the emotional well-being of many patrons. Normal book and materials lending continued with a need to pivot to allow for sanitizing and for safe entry into the building. **Perhaps you made a visit for that favorite book or resource?** Library personnel worked hard to learn new ways to deliver beloved programs, classes and activities by online or take home methods. We are proud of their ability to adapt quickly to meet community needs.

Rafael, pictured here, designed and safely delivered a thank you to Library staff to let them know how much he enjoyed and appreciated participating in virtual and take-home activities this year. He is just one of the many children whose learning and skills continued to develop with the help of the Grand Island Public Library. Keeping these activities accessible to all children and their families is our Foundation's priority. Thank you for all you do to support our efforts. We appreciate every gift, no matter the size, including your gift of time.

We urge you to consider making a gift to the Foundation this year. We send our best wishes for a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

Respectfully,

Alan Lepler
Board President
Grand Island Public Library Foundation

P.S. Your financial support of the Foundation helped provide the prizes for the happy kiddos below and many more!

