



friends of the library


2023
Annual Report

Celebrate new
possibilities at
your Library!



Southwest Branch, 890 W. Gordon Pike

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  MCPLfriends

 @MCPL_Friends

Friends of the Library

The Monroe County Public Library Foundation, also known as Friends of the Library, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that enriches our community by building support to enhance the services and programs of Monroe County Public Library.

Since its establishment in 1965, the Foundation has served as an important philanthropic partner to the Library. Through fundraising, management of endowments and gifts, the Friends Bookstore, and members like you, the Foundation extends the Library's ability to provide lifelong learning and enrichment for all.

Our Mission

The Monroe County Public Library Foundation (Friends) supports the mission, vision, and values of the Library. The Friends advocates for the Library and supports library collections, services, programs, and staff development.

President: Patsy Rahn
Vice President: Harriet Castrataro
Secretary: Elspeth Hayden
Treasurer: Thomas Zoss
Board Members:
Emily Alford
Carolyn Calloway-Thomas
Kathie Durkel
Samantha Eads
Elspeth Hayden
Deloice Holliday
Laura Jones
Mary Kennedy
Neil Klein
Doug McKinney
Kevin Tomlinson
William T. Wehner
Mary Wiggins

Friends Employees

Bookstore Coordinator: Mike Burns **Office Manager:** Mary Jean Regoli
Bookstore Assistant: Julie Gray



VITAL English Conversation Group

Our Commitment

In 2023, 797 families and businesses made 920 contributions to the Friends through your Friends memberships, donations to the Annual Fund Drive, the New Branch Fund, special tributary donations, and for the Power of Words.

Your support allowed the library to provide:

- Programs, books, and prizes for the 2023 Camp Myth Summer Reading Program
- Book Club kits
- Funding for special guest Library programs for all ages
- Patron requests for collections
- Staff development opportunities
- Volunteer recognition Items
- Supplies for patrons, such as reading glasses and flash drives
- Enhanced publicity for Library programs
- VITAL services and training

Friends of the Library Bookstore By the Numbers

Discover rare and special books in the Friends online store:	77,881 items sold	3,425 Volunteer Hours	Hours: Tuesday 11 AM–7 PM Thursday... 11 AM–7 PM Friday..... 11 AM–5 PM Saturday.... 11 AM–5 PM Sunday..... 1–5 PM
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amazon.com/shops/MCPLFOL

Bookstore Sales

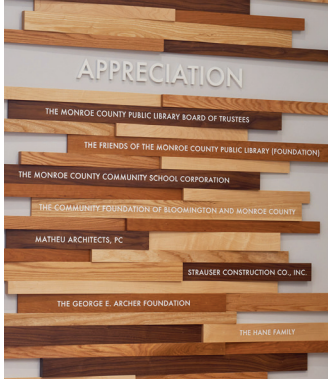
We achieved a new record with \$139,396 in total Friends Bookstore sales in 2023! We appreciate the quality donations of books and media that allow us to provide a high caliber Bookstore experience for our patrons. Our two Big Book Sales also broke previous records, raising \$19,230, a 13% increase over the previous record achieved in 2022. These sales are made possible by the dedication of our volunteers and the support of our community that loves literature.



Southwest Branch Grand Opening



Children's room
Donor wall
Amphitheater and labyrinth
Hyper Local Cooking Series



More than 6,000 people visited the new Southwest Branch during the five-hour grand opening on June 9. The branch was featured in the annual "Year in Architecture" issue published by Library Journal. The Foundation pledged extraordinary support for the new Southwest Branch in the sum of \$600,000 from existing assets and \$63,084 from individual donations. This included \$35,300 given in memory of Max Woodliff to fill the Children's Room with furniture, imaginative play spaces, youth-centered technology, games, and supplies.

The Foundation also worked to elicit major gifts for the new branch. Bryan and Jessica Hane made a pledge of \$215,000 to pay for the construction of the amphitheater and labyrinth stage. This beautiful performance space is named "The Hane Family Amphitheater by the Woods." The Foundation worked with the Library Director and the MCPL Board of Trustees to establish a naming policy for major donors.

The Sue Shelden Teaching Kitchen Endowment was created in 2023. This endowment, funded with \$26,280 given by Sue Shelden's friends in her memory, will provide perpetual funding to ensure programming and upkeep for the Teaching Kitchen at the Southwest Branch to promote food literacy, healthy eating, sustainability, innovative teaching, and culture.

"We are so appreciative and proud that so many people made this happen. I'm truly without words regarding the importance of this investment in Monroe County for all the people."

—Library patron after Southwest Branch opening

Friends Initiatives

Coffee with Friends

Coffee with Friends is an opportunity to hear from local and regional authors and to get your book signed, as well as to learn more about the writing process, and the research that goes into the development of a story. We welcomed five authors who gave in-person talks in 2023.

Author Susan Neville is the 2022 Indiana Authors award winner for fiction for her newest book, *The Town of Whispering Dolls*. Neville delighted the audience with stories from the book inspired by the history, culture, and people of Indiana.

Scott Russell Sanders shared his latest book, *Small Marvels: A Novel in Stories*. *Small Marvels* revels in the wonders of everyday life in fictional Limestone, Indiana from Sanders' insightful perspective.

True crime author Janis Thornton presented intriguing tales from her book, *No Place Like Murder: True Crime in the Midwest*, a modern retelling of 20 sensational true crimes that rocked Indiana from 1869 through 1950.

Partners and owners of Wild Birds Unlimited, Heather Ray and Ken Keffer, inspired us to explore and look a bit more closely at the beautiful nature scenes in our area. Ray is the author of *100 Things to Do in Bloomington Before You Die*. Keffer is the author of *Knowing the Trees: Discovering the Forest from Seed to Snag*.

Positive Change

We appreciate all of the Library supporters who voted for us to be included in the Bloomingsfoods Positive Change program, and who then donated when they shopped in November. It's amazing how a little change rounded up multiplies over the course of the month to build up to \$8,418, making a huge positive impact in our community for enhanced Library resources!

Annual Meeting

We celebrated the new Southwest Branch by hosting the Friends Annual Meeting there in June. Guests were able to see the new Teaching Kitchen in action, explore the light-filled, contemporary space, and enjoy a special *Books Alive!* program presented by the Monroe County Civic Theater.

Dine Out for the Library

Our monthly Dine Out program initiated in 2010 continues to grow. Friends of the Library enjoy dining out at local restaurants and meeting up with other Library supporters. Our strong partnerships increase business on traditionally slower days and raise significant funds for the Library. We had a record year in 2023 receiving \$6,851 from 12 restaurants.

Funding from the Friends supports the Library in their efforts to provide enriching programs, materials, and spaces for the community.



Eat What Now?!



Masquerade Ball



Halloween Eve

Teen Community at the Library

With the opening of the Southwest Branch in 2023, and its close proximity to Bachelor Middle School, the Teen Space at the new branch quickly became a popular destination. Teens engaged in programming at all three branches, including the Know Your Glow after-hours dance, Anime Day, 8-Hour Comic Book Day, a Masquerade Ball, a Juneteenth Celebration, cosplay and craft projects, roleplaying game (RPG) sessions, and more. The Library also distributed 200 back-to-school kits and 220 end-of-year kits to teens. 459 teens participated in the Camp Myth Summer Reading Program.

“The teen space is also a place where they have a wide range of friendships and interact with a wider range of people... Our kid also feels a very strong sense of ownership over the space...that it is truly THEIR space.”

—Parent of teen patron



Frog & Toad Chorus Wetland Walk

Serving Children and Families at the Library

Families enjoyed programs funded by the Friends, including a Wildcare, Inc. Meet-and-Greet, Giant Game Day, a Murder on Mount Olympus after-hours program, Tween Craft Club, and more! 2,518 children took game boards to participate in the Camp Myth Summer Reading Program.



Murder on Mount Olympus after-hours program

“From the bottom of my heart thank you so much for all the work you all put in for Camp Myth, and for including adults. I am almost 30 years old, and loved to read as a child, but fell out of it as an adult. This summer reading challenge encouraged me to get back into it.”

—Library patron

Serving Adults at the Library

The Ellettsville Garden continued to flourish, donating produce grown in the garden to Pantry 279. Outreach Services hosted book discussions and monthly craft programs at four assisted living facilities. The Library continued to offer lifelong learning opportunities, including a visit by author and artist Jeff Hagen for An Evening with Frank Lloyd Wright, and Games Done Local, a three-part series to learn about game design from local creators. In partnership with the Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility, the Library began hosting a Mobility Aids Lending Library. Adult participation in the Camp Myth Summer Reading Program funded by the Friends more than tripled from all previous participation!



Culture Through Crops: Central America

Library Impact



583,964

Annual visits

67,832
Public computer sessions

381,486
Wireless internet uses

369,017
Physical books
469,143
Physical items

51,917
Registered users

2,085,554
Items checked out

1,533
Programs offered

27,004
Program attendance

1,545,103
eResources
2,746,298
eBooks

Our Sincerest Gratitude

We thank our Board of Directors and volunteers for their service to the community through the Friends of the Library. We thank our members and donors who have been committed to the Monroe County Public Library for 58 years with their generous gifts of time and financial support which create unlimited possibilities for all of our patrons.

Monroe County Public Library Foundation

2023 Financial Summary

Income

Bookstore Sales	\$139,396
Annual Fund Drive	\$78,985
Other Donations.....	\$39,398
Investments	\$37,976
Memberships.....	\$35,943
New Branch Fund.....	\$26,671
Special Events	\$8,845
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$ 367,214

Expenses

Total Support for MCPL.....	\$105,114
Annual Grant to MCPL	\$100,000
Restricted gifts and Grants	\$3,850
Library Staff Recognition	\$1,164
VITAL Anabel Newman Award ..	\$100

Friends Office

Staff	\$71,062
Operations.....	\$3,880

Bookstore

Staff	\$68,583
Operations.....	\$7,230
Cost of Goods	\$4,110
Special Events	\$123
Investment Expense	\$9,622
Annual Fund Drive.....	\$4,655
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$274,379

Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities

New Branch Pledge.....	-\$661,348
Other Current Liabilities.....	\$1,846

Assets

Marian Armstrong Fund (Special Exhibits).....	\$182,081
Checking Account & Undeposited Funds	\$147,182
Archie M. Koon Fund (Indiana Room)	\$110,839
Carol R. Nicholas Fund (Strategic Initiatives)	\$93,105
Bavendar Estate Gift (restricted).....	\$88,176
General Endowment	\$85,660
Community Foundation.....	\$27,799
Non-Endowment Investments	\$16,726
Inventory for Sale (Bookstore gift items)	\$1,397

Restricted Endowments:

Diane Breeden-Lee (Children's Services)	\$56,844
Hilliard Lyons (Collections)....	\$48,188
Ruthmarion Becker (VITAL) ...	\$45,774
Judith Serebnick (Adult Services).....	\$33,729
Paula B. Anderson (Power of Words)	\$31,401
Sara Laughlin (Staff Development).....	\$29,499
Sue Sheldon (Teaching Kitchen)	\$27,583
Sarah C. Thrasher (VITAL)	\$12,025

TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,038,008**

Equity

Retained Earnings.....	\$1,454,793
Unrealized Gain	\$149,881
Net Income	\$92,836

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

.....\$1,038,008