




friends
of the
library

2021
Annual Report
Creating unlimited
possibilities at your
public library



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  MCPLfriends

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Friends of the Library

The Monroe County Public Library Friends Foundation 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 memberships, fundraising, management of endowments, and the Friends Bookstore, the Foundation provides a wide range of opportunities for 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.

2021 Monroe County Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

President: Emily Bedwell

Lori Dekydtspotter

Vice-President: Patsy Rahn

Dana Duffy

Secretary: Elspeth Hayden

Deloice Holliday

Treasurer: Thomas Zoss

Ina Jung

Board Members:

Carol Pierce

Emily Alford

Mary Pagliero Popp

David Ameen

Andrew Rhoda

John Baumert

Sarah Mae Ruggles

Harriet Castrataro

Patricia Steele

Friends Employees

Bookstore Coordinator: Mike Burns

Office Manager: Mary Jean Regoli





Resilience in Challenging Times

Many challenges remained in serving the community in 2021 with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Library began the year with limited hours but continued service through curbside pick-up, virtual programs, and Bookmobile stops.

On February 22, the Library and the Friends Bookstore reopened to the public with capacity limits. The Library slowly and safely added back services and expanded hours during the year. Through the support of Friends like you, the Library was able to meet the diverse needs of the community, whether in-person or from home.

In 2021, 649 families and businesses made 791 contributions to the Friends through your Friends memberships, and donations to the Annual Fund Drive, New Branch Fund, and the Power of Words.

“We have appreciated the library so much, and especially so during the pandemic. I’m homeschooling my children and the library has been an absolute lifesaver for my family.”

-Library patron

Your support allowed the library to provide:

- Equipment for the Learn and Play Space
- Programs, books, and prizes for the Summer Reading Games
- Take and Make Kits and Book Club Kits
- A Library Innovation grant for Library staff to launch new services, including the popular Role-Playing Game Kits added in 2021
- Funding for special guest library programs
- Patron requests for collections
- Staff development opportunities
- Volunteer Recognition Items

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



Teen Community at the Library

The Library's engaged community of teenagers stayed connected in a virtual hangout space through Discord where they could talk and play games with one another. The Library welcomed teens back in person with successful events such as Library Loot. Teen-centric needle felting and origami Take and Make Kits proved popular along with a custom 3D printed Role Playing Game Kit, *Under the Warlock's Castle*.



Serving Children and Families at the Library

Due to the pandemic, families faced a number of challenges in educating their school-aged children in 2021. The Library provided support through MLK Day themed Take and Make kits, themed Storytime Kits, and educational kits distributed in collaboration with the IU School of Education's Family Engineering program. Children enjoyed more engaging programming including regular storytimes on Zoom and in local parks, and Harry Potter and Minecraft themed parties.

Summer Reading

- 1,277 children, 458 adults, and 204 teens registered for the summer reading program.
- 114 children and 44 teens collected their prize book.

Accessibility and Inclusion at the Library

In 2021, the Library collaborated with outside community organizations—the Autism Society of Indiana, IU Asian Culture Center, and Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility—to work towards a more accessible and inclusive library environment. These partnerships aided in hosting events and panel discussions focused on accessibility and inclusion, including a virtual Lunar New Year program, two "QueerTalk" programs, the annual Breaking Down the Barriers event, a Library celebration of PrideFest, and a pronoun button making program.

Serving the Adult Community at the Library

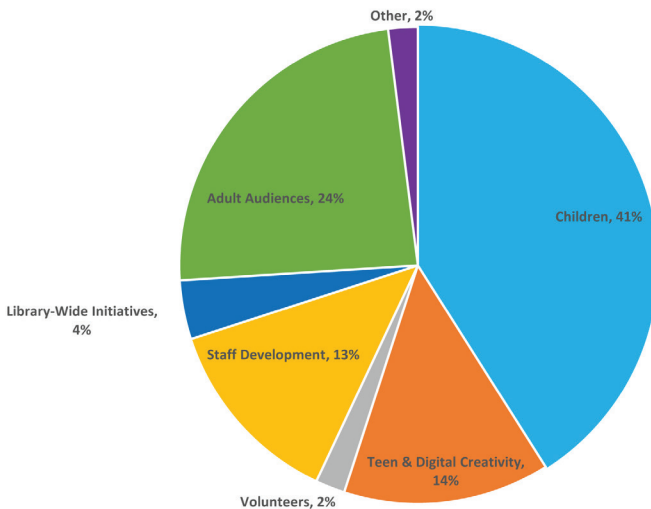
The Friends provides funding for adult-oriented programs including Yoga programs, Books On Tap, Take and Make kits like tea blending, the Monroe County Field Notes local history project, and other programs like the successful “Chopped” social media challenge. In 2021, VITAL expanded their services to meet the needs of Afghan refugees and those with dyslexia in the community.

The Friends hosted programs like our popular Coffee with Friends, mostly via Zoom, but ending the year in person:

- Nate Powell on his graphic novel *Save It For Later*
- James Madison & Carolyn Calloway-Thomas discussed Madison’s book *The Ku Klux Klan in the Heartland*
- Brian Leung on his most recent book, *Ivy vs. Dagg: With a Cast of Thousands* as well as his forthcoming novel, *All I Should Not Tell*
- Dawn Knight, *Race and Football in America*, the story of George Taliaferro
- The Friends Annual Meeting, Zooming to the Future with a new library branch



Library Use of Friends Funds in 2021



Friends of the Library Bookstore

The Bookstore by the Numbers:

Items Sold: 65,350

Volunteer Hours: 2,559

Discover rare and special books in the Friends Online Store

amazon.com/shops/MCPLFOL

Hours:

Tuesday..... 11 AM–7 PM

Thursday.... 11 AM–7 PM

Friday..... 11 AM–5 PM

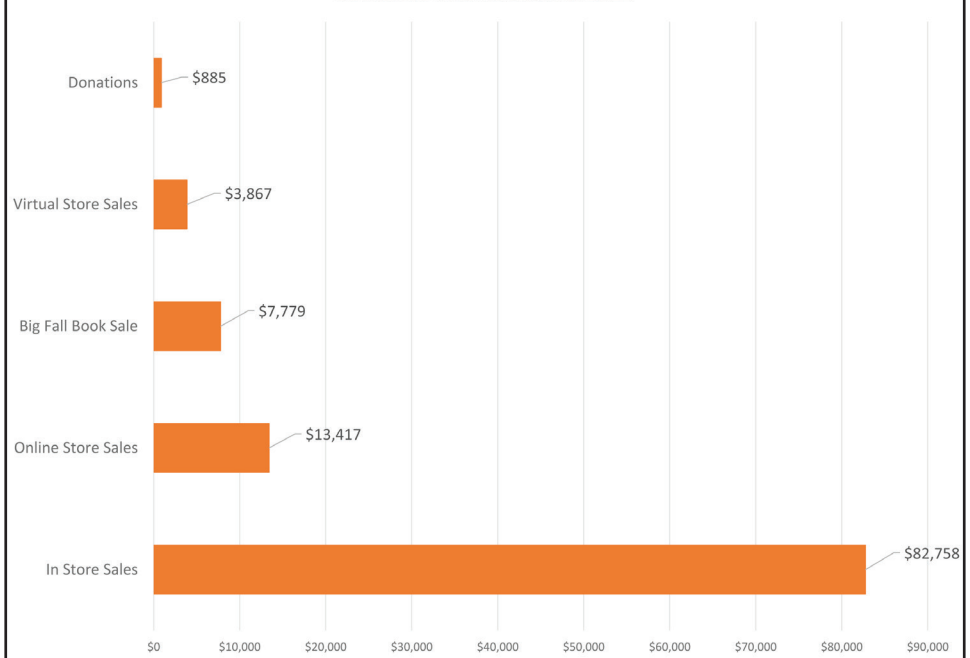
Saturday..... 11 AM–5 PM

Sunday..... 1–5 PM

Big Book Sales

After a 2-year hiatus, the Friends Big Fall Book Sale returned in 2021. Thanks to the efforts of Friends volunteers and a community that loves books, we had a record-breaking sale in September 2021, raising \$7,778, a 42% increase from our previous highest total!

Bookstore Income Sources 2021



Monroe County Public Library Foundation 2021 Financial Summary

Income

Bavender Estate Gift	\$120,778
Investments	109,010
Bookstore Sales	108,705
Annual Fund Drive	64,827
Other Donations	33,352
Memberships	29,722
New Branch Fund	20,582
Special Events	5,220
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$492,196

Expenses

Total Support for MCPL...\$112,547	
Annual Grant to MCPL.....	100,000
Restricted gifts and Grants	11,610
Library Staff Recognition.....	937

Friends Office

Staff.....	64,484
Operations	1,423

Bookstore

Staff.....	50,930
Operations	6,213
Cost of Goods.....	1,391
Power of Words	12,871
Armstrong Exhibit.....	3,379
Investment Expense	10,064
Annual Fund Drive.....	3,566
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$266,868

Assets

General Endowment	\$411,237
Carol R. Nicholas Fund (Strategic Initiatives)	382,081
Marian Armstrong Fund (Special Exhibits).....	334,270
Archie M. Koon Fund (Indiana Room).....	137,457
Bavender Estate Gift (restricted)	124,801
Checking Account & Undeposited Funds	65,015
Non-Endowment Investments	37,213
Diane Breeden-Lee Endowment (Children)	64,374
Hilliard Lyons Endowment (Collections).....	55,607
Ruthmarion Becker Endowment (VITAL)	47,362
Judith Serebnick Endowment (Adult Services)....	37,483
Paula B. Anderson Endowment (Power of Words)	37,487
Community Foundation	31,515
Sara Laughlin Endowment (Staff Development).....	25,538
Sarah C. Thrasher Endowment (VITAL)	14,933
Inventory for Sale (Bookstore gift items)	3,109
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,809,482



Planning for Expanded Access with a New Branch!

In Fall 2021, the Library broke ground for the construction of a new 21,000-square-foot Library on the southwest corner of the Batchelor Middle School grounds. You can help fill the new building with the books, materials, and resources that make our local libraries true community treasures which enrich all of our lives. Now is the time for us to launch the future and be part of this exciting once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a world-class branch for our community which will open in 2023. Make your donation at is.gd/swbranch



Our Thanks

We thank our Board and volunteers for their service to the community through the Friends. We thank our members and donors who have been committed to the public library for 56 years with their generous gifts of time and financial support which create unlimited possibilities for all through our public library.

