



**“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people.”
–Andrew Carnegie**

**STILLWATER
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION**

Turning the Pages

Annual Report 2015

Mission

The Stillwater Public Library Foundation shares the community's love and appreciation of our beautiful and historic library. We raise funds to enrich the library's materials, programs, and services far beyond what the city would be able to provide.

2015 Stillwater Public Library Foundation Board

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Dear Friends,

2015 was a leap year for us. We grew by leaps and bounds in every way. This was, of course, all thanks to the generosity of donors to the Stillwater Public Library Foundation. It is a great privilege and responsibility to steward the gifts of donors to enhance the materials, programs, and services of the library. It's also very exciting, and I am sure you will agree as you read this report.

A public library is a government service – free to all people for all times. But, of course, nothing is free. Stillwater residents pay taxes for this service. We have a very good library.

Private funds make the difference between good libraries and great libraries. We have a great library thanks to the individuals, families, businesses, and foundations who value this community treasure and support it beyond what tax dollars can provide.

We have an outstanding library thanks to Lynne Bertalmio, who has been our exceptional library director for 41 years, and to the skilled and caring staff supported by a vital team of dedicated volunteers.

Everyone who lives in Stillwater has enjoyed this beautiful and historic library for as long as they can remember. It's easy to take it for granted. We do not. The SPLF Board is grateful beyond words for our library, and many of our donors share our appreciation:

"I now work with a large bookseller and realize anew how expensive books are for us all. Libraries are America's best cost-saving invention! Thanks for making the Stillwater Library a fun place and a community treasure." ~Donna

"My mother worked in libraries, and her mother was also a librarian. They taught me a love of books, and I do adore the Stillwater library. Thanks to everyone who makes it magical." ~Noreen

"I love libraries!! The Stillwater Public Library is one of the most beautiful and efficient I have used." ~Linda

We have a great library! Thank you for helping to make it so!

Truly grateful,



Ann Wolff, President



Materials Grants

Total Granted: \$16,325

- **Popular Nonfiction Books:** Travel books, college guides, test preparation and price guides are some of the library's most popular nonfiction books in a series. Nonfiction grants helped stock the shelves with the latest editions.
- **Broaden Fiction Collection:** City funds allow the library to purchase 'sure bet' titles by established authors or known series. This grant provides the library with the funds to add new genres and literary works that couldn't have been added otherwise.
- **Newspaper Microfilming of Stillwater Gazette:** The local newspaper is a valuable source of current history to preserve for the future. When the Minnesota Historical Society ceased microfilming local newspapers, the SPLF provided funds to microfilm the Stillwater Gazette. This resource can be used for generations to come.
- **Best Sellers:** Nearly 300 additional copies of bestsellers were purchased to shorten the time on waiting lists.
- **Graphic Novels:** Combining visual art with literary and cinematic techniques, graphic novels contain some of the most creative work in publishing. This funding allowed the library to grow this collection that is becoming increasingly popular.
- **Juvenile and Teen Fiction:** Whether from normal wear, accidental damage, or loss, replacing copies of favorite titles can be a challenge with ever tightening budgets. Replacement of nearly 150 popular teen and children's titles was made possible with this grant.
- **Large Print Books:** Over the last 15 years, the percentage of the Washington County population that is 65 or older has nearly doubled. To address the needs of our aging population, the SPLF has funded the purchase of large-print titles to help our community have access to the materials they need and want to remain engaged and active.



Photo courtesy of Verna Pitts.

2015 Library Stats

Physical Materials Checkouts:	Electronic Materials Checkouts:	New Library Cards:
304,894	20,968	1,267

Economic Impact:

Library Return On Investment studies consistently suggest that public libraries give a high return on investment, providing between **\$2 to \$10 in return for every dollar received.**

<http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2009/are-you-worth-it-what-return-on-investment>

Programs & Other Grants

Total Granted: \$17,450

- **The Big Read:** The Big Read is a program from the National Endowment for the Arts which encourages community-wide reading and participation by diverse audiences. The 2015 grant provided programming funds for themes in the reading selection *Love Medicine*. The 2016 grant will support themes in the reading selection *Grapes of Wrath*.
- **Avi:** A visit by Avi, the nationally renowned and award winning author of more than 70 children's books, was made possible by this grant. Nearly 100 readers were treated to an inspirational evening hearing about the author's childhood, his struggles with early learning difficulties, and how he overcame them. He stayed until every person in line had met him and had their books signed.
- **Weeding Support:** In order to keep the library's collections fresh and accurate and to make room for new materials, the SPLF supported the weeding of the adult nonfiction collection.

ence in their work. In any case, according to the poems of *Un río, un amor*, were composed in all as those of the following volume, *Los placeres*. But the fact that a gap of some twenty years separates the two volumes indicates that even this first style was insufficient to overcome completely the agitations and the agitations would still to trace the agitations, much of the agitation is in *Un río, un amor*, which erupts in the one that the poet cannot resolve through its. In this sense, *Un río, un amor* is part of a which does not end with this book.

ill, what we can see in Gernuda's contact with a psychological release of pent-up feelings about ideas of agitation and revolt, and certain stylistic features of French poetry, not as a means of self-expression. It is noteworthy tendencies which against the theories of surrealism sense that they maintain the priority of self-expression ultimately to increasing the conscious corner Surrealism has not found its scorn for art's transcendent expression, as is well known, through in automatism. As has often been observed

- **Youth Summer Programs:** The library has become the "go-to" summer destination for youth. Its engaging, interactive and fun activities are geared to a variety of interests and abilities. In the summer of 2015, 81 free children's and teen's programs were attended by over 2,300 participants. In addition, youth completing the summer reading challenge were rewarded with a new book from the SPLF.
- **Adult Summer Programs:** For the second year, the library offered "Light Up Your Reading," an adult summer reading program featuring recommended reads, weekly craft ideas, reading logs, prizes, and more. This program proved a fun way to involve adults in the excitement of summer reading. The grant also funded three summer concerts on the Terrace. The adult programming proved popular with 480 participants attending 11 programs.

- **Adult Writing Classes:** Among the most popular classes for adults, this grant allowed the library to offer workshops on poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction and more for both new and experienced writers.
- **Book Club Kits:** The SPLF has helped take the guesswork out of book clubs. The library will add approximately 30 new book club kits for adults. Each kit contains 10 copies of one title, discussion questions, and information about the author, along with resource information about organizing book clubs and using the library to find supplementary materials. Everything is packed into a tote bag. Just add readers for an instant book club.
- **Youth Programs Assistant:** In 2015, the library held 248 programs for children and young adults. The programs are loved by kids and parents alike but take a great deal of staff time to plan, communicate and deliver. This grant helped make these programs possible by providing funding for an assistant to help coordinate the library's vibrant schedule of programming.



Direct Library Support

Total Granted: \$43,220

Volunteer Coordinator

The SPLF, with support from the Margaret Rivers Fund, contracts with a Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, train, schedule, manage and recognize volunteers who provide over 2,500 volunteer hours of work. This gives tremendous support for the staff, freeing them to provide services they would not otherwise be able to do or to do well.

Volunteer opportunities not only benefit the library but also benefit the volunteers. Seniors are able to actively engage with the community. Teens are able to develop skills needed for future education and employment while learning that their service can directly help and strengthen the world around them.

40 adult volunteers

20 teen volunteers

2,524 volunteer hours

My experience at the library from a young patron to a Youth Services volunteer has been invaluable. Throughout my journey, I never realized when the building became a second home to me. I would walk through the doors each day, greeted by a familiar face upon entry. This sense of community and comfort at the Stillwater library is extraordinary.

I never viewed my time volunteering at the library as a “commitment.” Rather, each occasion was an opportunity to be surrounded by radiant lamps of energy and passion while doing something I truly enjoyed.

~Saisree, SPL Teen Volunteer

Event Coordinator

The SPLF provides funding for the Event Coordinator to promote, schedule, organize, and oversee all events that take place at the library. All of the income from weddings and events goes directly to the library.

33 weddings & events

\$60,477 in revenue
for the library!



“As an avid reader, I can fully appreciate the beauty of hosting your special day at the place where all true love stories lay – the lovely library,” wrote Elizabeth Greene about a Stillwater Public Library wedding in the Jan 2016 edition of *Style Me Pretty*.

Photo above courtesy of www.chrisandkristyphoto.com. Photo on right courtesy of Amanda Nippoldt.

Special Initiatives & Gifts

Total Granted: \$166,900

E-Services

One of the fastest growing areas of circulation is electronic materials. In 2015, nearly 21,000 electronic items were checked out by Stillwater Library cardholders. To help the library keep pace with this increasing demand, the Huelsmann Foundation, established in 1997 by life-long Stillwater resident and SPL Trustee Dick Huelsmann, provided a generous grant to purchase a diverse collection of electronic books, magazines, audio and more.



Shade for Terrace

Foundation donors Terry and Roxie Johnson generously provided the vision and funds for the new shade structure on the Johnson Terrace. Offering beautifully filtered light and cool shade, this structure creates the perfect setting for the library's summer concert series, wedding ceremonies and other events. It also provides a wonderful space for library patrons to work or read.

Volunteer Coordinator & Terrace Bench

The Margaret Rivers Fund has a long history of generously supporting the library. They are a primary funder of the Volunteer Coordinator. They also donated a bench on the terrace in honor of Dave Pohl's years of service on their board. This lovely bench provides a comfortable seat for two or three people to enjoy the view of the St. Croix while discussing a good book.

Sunday Hours

The library is now open on Sundays! A matching grant from Patrick and Jane Thiele inspired generous SPLF contributions that allowed the library to open on Sundays, beginning on September 13, 2015. Sunday hours, from 1:00-5:00 pm, continue through May 22, 2016.

Mabel Linquist Memorial Bookcase

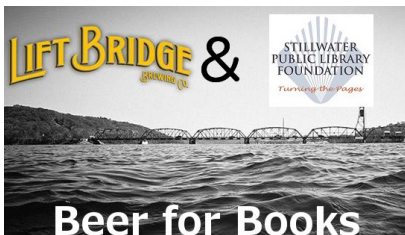
In memory of Mabel Linquist and in honor of the entire library staff, a beautiful bookcase has been generously given by Mabel's husband Dave and her children Lori and Tim. Designed and crafted by Library Trustee Spike Carlsen, the bookcase incorporates historical materials including 110 year old white pine from Marine, circa 1895 shelving from the original Stillwater Library, and decorative brackets from the original Stillwater Library.

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better." ~Sidney Sheldon



Fundraising Events

Total Raised: \$44,131



Beer for Books

SPLF supporters enjoyed Beer for Books at Lift Bridge Brewing Company. Lift Bridge donated \$1 to the SPLF for each drink purchased. Live music from band Thrift Store Sonata, great local beer and a good cause packed the house. On tap in 2016, Beer for Books III on Tuesday, March 29 from 6-9 pm.

Cocktails and Dinner with Rich Sommer

Mad Men actor Rich Sommer returned home in May for a special night benefiting the library. Spending an evening with Rich was an extraordinary experience for the SPLF and the 240 people in attendance. Rich's sincerity, humor, and big heart for Stillwater and the library were apparent while he mixed and mingled with guests, as well as during his interview with Lee Valsvik of KOOL 108. The event was a tremendous success, raising nearly \$11,000 for the ongoing efforts of the SPLF.



Photo courtesy of Nick Gorski.

Light a Spark

Light a Spark is the SPLF's most well-known event. With the library's rooftop terrace providing a spectacular setting to celebrate the 4th of July, it is not surprising that this event is an annual tradition for many families and groups of friends. Small bites to eat, refreshing beverages, music, dancing, and a cake walk to win a culinary treat from over 30 bakeries and restaurants make this a night to remember. Many thanks to the sponsors of Light a Spark and to all who attended for making this event a huge success that raised more than \$30,000.

Style Speaks Volumes II

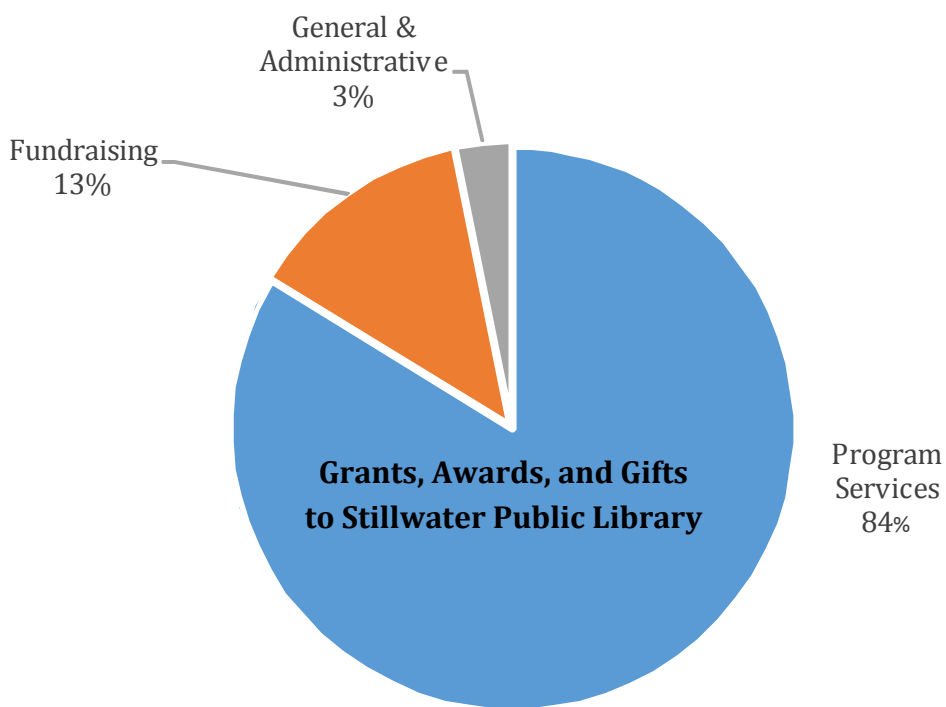
2015 marked the second year of Style Speaks Volumes — two afternoons of exceptional eats, great reads and fun fashion benefiting the Stillwater Public Library Foundation. More than 150 guests gathered for a wonderful lunch at Revé while a litany of local authors re-wrote themselves as models, featuring fashions from Sash and Matt+Nate:Men's.Life.Style. Guests were able to shop the styles, Valley Booksellers was on site, and authors were available for signing. A percentage of all sales were donated to the SPLF. Plans are already underway for Style Speaks Volumes III on November 14 & 15, 2016.



Financials

Revenue & Support	2015	2014
<i>Income</i>		
Contributions	\$261,029	\$94,752
Event Tickets/Sales	\$39,346	\$21,802
Total Income	\$300,376	\$116,554
<hr/>		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$701	\$323
Total Revenue and Support	\$299,675	\$116,231
Expense		
Program Services (Grants, Awards, and Gifts to SPL)	\$214,456	\$79,571
Fundraising	\$33,476	\$22,361
General & Administrative	\$8,266	\$8,387
Total Expenses	\$256,198	\$110,318
<hr/>		
Net Income	\$43,477	\$5,913

2015 Foundation Expenses



Donors

**Private funds make the difference between good libraries and great libraries.
We have a great library! Thank you for helping to make it so!**

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**Never underestimate
your ability to make
someone else's life better
— even if you never
know it.
~Greg Louganis**

Photo courtesy of the Stillwater Public Library's Superhero Training Academy held in August 2015.

In-Kind Contributions & Services

Our thanks to these businesses and individuals for their generous gifts and services provided in support of the SPLF.

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Betsy Galenti	Carolyn Minor	Nik Wilson
Nick Gorski	Monde Salon	Anne Young

Author Partners

The foundation recognizes the following authors for lending their time and talents in 2015.

Kristi Belcamino
Mark Berriman
Ute Buehler
Spike Carlsen
Diane Dettmann
Peter Geye
Michele Hermansen
Sue Leaf
Kerstin March
Larry Millett



Style Speaks Volumes II authors modeling fashions from SASH and Matt+Nate:Men's.Life.Style. Photo courtesy of Paul Dols, The Lowdown.

Tributes

We are honored and grateful to have received these gifts.

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Husband "Choc" Junker – Because our Stillwater Library is so important to the people in Stillwater, this donation is made in his memory. Choc loved Stillwater and every building and person in it! Given by Bev Junker
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Pauline Webster Given by Alice Colombo
Margie Wellman and her lifelong love of reading and books Given by Summer Kuehn
Francis, Adine and David Zimmerman Given by Joan Zimmerman

In Honor Of

All those that helped preserve SPL! Given by Linda Long
Marcia Anderson Given by Noreen and Kevin Olson
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Brian Bielenberg, Aigli Pittaka and Aliosha Bielenberg Pittaka for their love of the library Given by Ann and Bob Bielenberg
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