

# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT: THEN AND NOW



## *117 Years of Library Service*

The Grand Forks area has a long and rich history of library service. Not long after the city of Grand Forks was founded, the first library was established. In 1892, a group of Grand Forks women each contributed \$5.00 for a library and took turns serving as the librarian.

In 1900, the Grand Forks City Council agreed to establish a public library and the School Board appointed the first Library Board. The Library was for “persons of good deportment” who were allowed to check out one book at a time.

Shortly thereafter, in 1901, Andrew Carnegie donated \$20,000 to construct a library. In return, the City agreed to make an annual appropriation of \$2,000 to

support library services.

By the 1960’s, it was clear that the community had outgrown the Carnegie library. In 1969, a bond issue was passed to build a new facility and in 1972, that facility opened to the public.

In 1973, 3,000 Grand Forks County residents petitioned for library service and the library officially began serving the entire County.

Now, once again, the community has outgrown its library and is exploring options to enable the library to serve the community for the next 40 years—or more! Please join thhem in imagining the future!

### **IN 2009, THE GRAND FORKS PUBLIC LIBRARY:**

- ◆ Welcomed 283,956 people
- ◆ Circulated 852,129 items
- ◆ Answered 165,951 reference questions
- ◆ Provided 3,598 interlibrary loan items
- ◆ Enabled 52,784 people to connect to the internet



## *Our Mission:*

*The mission of the Grand Forks Public Library is to  
connect the community,  
enrich the mind,  
and  
inspire the imagination.*



## *A Message from the Board President:*



As we move confidently into 2010, the Grand Forks Public Library is poised for a great and exciting future. Significant changes occurred in the past year, with a robust combination of staff, administration, local government and library patrons as contributors to the cause.

For the first half of 2009, Tri Directors Toni Vonasek, David Haney, and Connie Wylot very capably led the Library staff and operations following the sudden death of long-time Director, Dennis Page. In addition to their day-to-day responsibilities, the trio participated on the search committee headed by Wilbur Stolt, Director of UND's Chester Fritz Library, to locate, interview, and retain a new director.

Wendy Wendt joined the staff as Director of GFPL in June and immediately began working to establish the essential connectivity between staff, board, and community. Significant internal administration was initiated, with much-needed updates on policies and procedures, financial reporting, budgeting, and communication. Outside of the library, Director Wendt assumed an active role as a participant in the community and initiated opportunities to serve as "the face" of GFPL, providing information and updates regarding the current state of library affairs and plans for future development.

Also in June of 2009, 18 members on the Library Task Force for Revitalization conducted a nationwide search and eventually retained Library Consulting, PA to assist in an information gathering and evaluation process. The consultants' reports completed in the last half of the year included a needs assessment evaluation and a building use plan. That process resulted in a recommendation for proposed new library construction.

In the final months of 2009, Library representatives have teamed up for numerous public presentations in an effort to build advocacy and share the good news of increased usage and growing patron counts at GFPL. We have also discussed the frustrations of limited display areas for collections, cramped computer quarters, insufficient space for programming opportunities, and over-taxed technology systems. Whenever possible, we've requested and received advice, encouragement, and assistance. Every day, we are heartened by the loyal support that the citizens of Grand Forks display for their library.

We expect that the next three years will be critical in our ongoing efforts to rejuvenate GFPL. We look forward to receiving continued strong leadership, collaborative thinking, strategic planning, and sound fiscal management to help make our dreams a reality.

On behalf of the Grand Forks Public Library Board of Trustees, I would like to thank and congratulate elected officials, library staff, fellow trustees, and the entire community for their tremendous support and vision for the library—now and well into the 21st century.

*Susan Mickelson*

Susan Mickelson  
President, Grand Forks Library Board

## **2009 LIBRARY**

### **BOARD**

### **MEMBERS:**

**LILA CHRISTENSEN**

**RICHARD FIORDO**

**MIKE MACNAMARA**

**SUSAN MICKELSON**

**KAY POWELL**





## *From the Director's Desk:*



The past year has been a time of transition, reflection, and community connection for the Grand Forks Public Library (GFPL).

The Library Board, Library Task Force, Library staff, and I have spent much of the past six months reflecting on the library's past successes, investigating the current needs and opportunities in the community, and working with library stakeholders to imagine what the future might hold for the library and the community.

During our discussions, it became clear very quickly that the Grand Forks Public Library has extraordinary support in the community and plays a central role in its educational, recreational and social needs. The library is well-loved and well-used.

Despite the challenges the library faces, the Grand Forks Public Library continues to prosper because of the dedicated support of many people including the Grand Forks City Council, the Grand Forks County Commissioners, the Library Board, the Library staff, the Friends of the Library, and the public. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued support of the library and your dedication to its mission. Together, we can continue to imagine a wonderful future!

*Wendy Wendt*

Wendy Wendt  
Library Director

## *2009 Library Staff Members:*

Cecil Bartosh	Audrey Jones	Bev Shuler
Diane Bell	Carol Junk	Bill Siebert
Kay Berg	Rachelle Klemme	Laura Slaathaug
Erin Boese	Diane Lien	Erica Sodeyama
Sharon Brinkert	Diane Lindseth	Beth Sorenson
Kathryn Camburn	Andrea Lorenz	Wayne Springer
Stephanie Clark	Mary Lorenz	Melissa Strand
Sue Cox	Blair Mills	Aaron Stefanich
Terri David	Judy Mullally	Sara Tezel
Sandra Demps	Linda Ose	Elvira Tkach
Cindy Driscoll	Tonya Palmer	Laura Twedell
Maureen Erickson	Lori Parent	Kayla Urness
Margaret Fedje	Tracy Riske	Toni Vonasek
Tessa Foerster	Yeisa Rojas	Taylor Vos
Mary Claire Galloway	June Roseen	Sarah Whalen
David Haney	Idoia Ruiz Vidaurreta	Bobbi Wood
Regina Hiles	Janice Sayers	Bethany Wurtz
David Hird	Deb Sando	Connie Wylot
Jean Jacobson		

**WHAT LIBRARIES**

**GIVE YOU ARE**

**ALL THREE**

**TENSES - THE**

**PAST TENSE,**

**THE PRESENT**

**TENSE IN WHICH**

**WE LIVE, AND**

**THE FUTURE**

**THAT WE CAN**

**ONLY IMAGINE. —**

**PETE HAMILL**



**THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSET OF ANY LIBRARY GOES HOME AT NIGHT — THE LIBRARY STAFF. — FATHER TIMOTHY HEALY**





## 2009 Highlights

### *Transitions, Connections and Explorations*

2009 was a year of transitions, connections and explorations for the Grand Forks Public Library.

In 2009, longtime Children's Librarian Rita Midstokke and Circulation Supervisor Kay Berg retired. They provided many years of stellar service to the community and were difficult to replace. Fortunately, the tri-directors selected two people who are up to the challenge —Carol Junk became the Circulation Supervisor and Aaron Stefanich became the Children's Librarian. Both have been great additions to the library staff and bring with them great enthusiasm and energy.

At about the same time, the Library Board hired Wendy Wendt as the Library Director, who joined the library in June.

The year was also a busy one for the Library Revitalization Task Force, which hired the firm Library Consulting PA to assist with the revitalization process.

The consultants met with over 100 library stakeholders including community leaders, elected officials, library staff and community members.

These discussions resulted in a Needs Assessment, which confirmed that the library is well-

loved and well-used but that the community has outgrown the present facility.

This report will be followed by a Building Use Program, which will indicate what size library is needed to provide the services needed. This will be followed by site evaluations, if warranted.

Throughout these transitions, some things never change. The Library staff continues to focus on being responsive to community needs, collaborating whenever possible while providing exceptional customer service. Stop in to see what the Library can do for you today!



### *Events and Celebrations*



**“ONCE A CHILD  
LEARNS TO USE  
A LIBRARY, THE  
DOORS TO  
LEARNING ARE  
ALWAYS  
OPEN.” —  
LAURA BUSH**



## Library Service Statistics

	2009	1979
Population served (Grand Forks County)	66,585	63,425
Library visitors this year	283,956	175,000
Library visits per capita	4.26	2.76
Total items checked out	852,129	360,128
Adult materials	585,390	218,459
Children's materials	266,739	141,439
Paintings	NA	230
Items checked out per capita	12.80	5.68
Interlibrary loan items provided to other libraries	3,598	293
Interlibrary loan items borrowed from other libraries	536	381
Number of internet users served	52,784	NA
Number of library programs	155	52
Adult	7	NA
Young Adult	7	NA
Children	141	52
Number of people attending library programs	3,218	1,855
Adult	282	NA
Young Adult	35	NA
Children	2,901	1,855
Summer reading program participants	550	NA
Number of reference questions answered by staff	165,951	263,856
Number of library staff (Full-Time Equivalent)	23.0	14.0



## The Library Collection

	2009	1979
Print materials	275,177	116,983
Audio materials	23,301	18,206
VHS videos and DVDs	15,832	NA
Viewmaster Reels	NA	2,325
Total materials	314,310	137,514
Magazines and Newspapers	315	280
Databases available online through Library website	26	NA
E-books available through Library website	5,352	NA





## Financial Summary

	2009	1979
<b>Revenue</b>		
City of Grand Forks	\$1,272,956	\$194,373
Grand Forks County	\$ 281,042	\$ 25,749
Intergovernmental	\$ 90,652	\$179,249
Gifts, Donations and Grants	\$ 54,165	\$ NA
Fines, Fees, and Other Charges	\$ 43,408	\$ 8,895
Interest	\$ 24,492	\$ NA
Miscellaneous (2009-Fire Ins. Reim.)	\$ 39,857	\$ NA
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,806,573</b>	<b>\$408,236</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$1,016,564	\$142,479
Books and Library Materials	\$ 241,449	\$ 79,350
Online Catalog	\$ 54,501	NA
Supplies and Materials	\$ 43,261	\$ 34,762
Building Repairs and Utilities	\$ 104,461	\$ 46,017
Equipment	\$ 4,288	\$ 6,014
Computer Hardware, Software and Repair	\$ 28,997	NA
Postage	\$ 15,272	\$ 7,260
Telephone	\$ 9,147	\$ 2,109
Membership Fees	\$ 2,526	\$ 966
Travel	\$ 6,952	\$ 2,975
Printing	\$ 12,991	\$ 8,493
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 53,796	\$ 7,155
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,593,205</b>	<b>\$337,580</b>



“I THINK THE  
HEALTH OF OUR  
CIVILIZATION, THE  
DEPTH OF OUR  
AWARENESS  
ABOUT THE  
UNDERPINNINGS  
OF OUR CULTURE  
AND OUR  
CONCERN FOR  
THE FUTURE CAN  
ALL BE TESTED BY  
HOW WELL WE  
SUPPORT OUR  
LIBRARIES.”

— CARL SAGAN





## *Library Return on Investment*

- ◆ In 2009, the Grand Forks Public Library saved community members \$11,929,806 by loaning them books, videos, and other items worth an average of \$14 per item borrowed.
- ◆ In 2009, the Library saved community members \$22,526 by offering story times and other library programs and events, as compared to a \$7 movie ticket.
- ◆ In 2009, the Library saved community members \$633,408 by providing computers with Internet access for the public. Kinko's charges \$12 per hour for this service.
- ◆ In 2009, the library saved community members \$1,161,657 by answering reference questions valued at an average of \$7.00 per question.
- ◆ In 2009, the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County provided \$1,845,948 in library funding, and the residents received the equivalent of \$13,747,397 in library services.
- ◆ For every \$1 spent on the library, our community received an average of \$7.45 in return.
- ◆ **Library Return on Investment: 745%**

**"IN MY VIEW,  
INVESTING IN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES  
IS AN  
INVESTMENT IN  
THE NATION'S  
FUTURE."  
- BILL GATES**



## *Library Comparisons*

	Population	Expenditures Per Capita	Annual Circulation	Hours Open per Week	Staffing FTE	Collection (Books)	Visits
<b>Grand Forks Public Library</b>	<b>66,585</b>	<b>\$23.25</b>	<b>852,129</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>335,514</b>	<b>300,624</b>
W Fargo	14,950	\$39.16	82,668	56	9	52,982	NA
Dickinson	23,524	\$22.23	122,871	23	8	97,043	166,904
Morton Mandan	25,926	\$18.70	106,909	38	7	49,177	106,709
Minot	36,567	\$28.64	299,137	67	17	143,631	151,785
Bismarck	75,000	\$28.28	499,350	43	25	205,485	358,922
Rapid City, SD	85,108	\$31.37	677,228	34	40	151,977	469,620
Duluth, MN	86,319	\$43.24	901,128	34	48	435,478	404,724
Fargo Public Library	90,599	\$27.63	830,287	57	35	192,815	461,581



"A LIBRARY IS A  
JOYFUL PLACE  
WHERE THE  
IMAGINATION  
ROAMS FREE, AND  
LIFE IS ACTIVELY  
ENRICHED. "  
JOHN K. HUTCHENS



**GRAND FORKS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

2110 LIBRARY CIRCLE  
GRAND FORKS ND 58201  
701-772-8116

Monday	9:00 am—9:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am—9:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am—9:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am—9:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am—5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am—5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm—5:00 pm



Visit us online at

**[www.grandforksgov.com/library](http://www.grandforksgov.com/library)**

or e-mail us at

**[gfpreference@hotmail.com](mailto:gfpreference@hotmail.com)**