



free to **READ**

PLAY

LEARN

EXPLORE

CREATE

GROW

CONNECT

DREAM

CELEBRATE

CARE

BE YOU

Chapters of Impact
2024



From generous donations and well-earned recognitions to exciting new additions and impactful programs, 2024 was filled with milestones that strengthened our library and community. Here's a look at the top 10 highlights that shaped our year!

1. Generous Donations — Our community came through in big ways, donating stuffed animals, snacks for teen programs, and craft supplies to enhance our programming.

2. Recognition & Awards — We were honored as the Group Volunteer of the Year by the ND Long Term Care Association, and Kirbie Sondreal was selected as an ALA Emerging Leader!

3. Fond Farewells — We celebrated the retirements of two incredible team members, Lori Parent and Wayne Springer.

4. Summer Reading Success — Participants read an astonishing 882,254 minutes during our Summer Reading Program!

5. Grant Funding — We secured \$39,357 in grants, helping us expand resources and opportunities.

6. The Return of LEGO Magic — GFKLug's beloved LEGO display made a much-anticipated return, delighting visitors of all ages.

Inside of building is open and airy. Staff are friendly, courteous, and helpful. Computer kiosks are available. Signage is visible and helpful. There are playful touches throughout the building available to kiddos and adults alike.



Karen - Google Review



I love this library. Best thing ever.



Darlene - Google Review

Amazing library! Have lived many places and this library is easily the best. And what an amazing kids' section and play area.

★★★★★ Melanie – Google Review

7. Read + Feed Impact — We waived \$3,908 in library fees through our Read + Feed program, helping families while fighting hunger.

8. Blue Zones Commitment — We officially became a Blue Zones Participating Organization, reinforcing our dedication to community well-being.

9. Music & Mocktails — This lively event brought together good vibes, great music, and a chance to support the Friends of the Library.

10. Soundproof Booth Addition — A brand-new soundproof booth now offers a quiet, dedicated space for working or studying.

What a year!
Here's to even more
community connection, discovery,
and innovation ahead.

-Wendy Wendt, Director

I love libraries and have lived all over the world with the military. In 20 years this library is my favorite! Recently somebody showed me the section where they sell books. I got one of their older book club books for \$1! Thank you for such a great place to be.

★★★★★ Kyra – Google Review



I find the time I spend with the group and events to be incredibly fulfilling and enjoyable.



Karmen – Friends Member

free to **BE A FRIEND**

The Friends of the Grand Forks Public Library are dedicated champions of literacy, learning, and community. Their support enhances nearly every aspect of the library experience—from lively events to practical upgrades—all with the shared goal of keeping our library vibrant and accessible to all.

Through their signature fundraising events, the Friends brought people together in joyful and meaningful ways. The third annual Music & Mocktails event invited guests to enjoy live music, sample creative non-alcoholic drinks, and celebrate community connections. Their popular book sales turned gently used books into powerful tools for good, funding library programs while also giving readers the chance to build their own collections affordably.

The Friends also helped spark imagination and curiosity through the Books & Bricks LEGO display, a collaborative event that transformed the library into a miniature world of wonder.

Thanks to the Friends' generosity and spirit, the library remains a space where all are welcome, ideas flow freely, and the love of reading is celebrated every day. Their work reminds us that when a community comes together in support of learning, everyone is truly free.

-Debbie Sanders, President



**GRAND
FORKS
PUBLIC**
Friends

free to **SHARE STORIES**

Thanks to generous community support, the Grand Forks Public Library Foundation made big strides in 2024 toward creating a new public podcast studio—a space where everyone is free to share stories.

The Foundation raised a total of \$23,318, including \$9,028 during the 2025 Giving Hearts Day campaign. These funds secured the purchase of a professional-grade podcasting booth, with installation plans underway in 2025.

The podcast studio will be free and open to all, providing a welcoming space for people to find their voice, record memories, explore creative ideas, and connect through sound. This project is a bold example of the Foundation's mission in action: supporting Grand Forks Public in transforming lives and sparking curiosity through forward-thinking resources and community partnerships.

With every gift, the Foundation is helping to ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds are free to be heard, free to create, and free to imagine something new.

-Nicole Derenne, President



Every story matters.



Hooray for making sure every voice is heard and that children, families, and communities have access to stories and resources. Thanks for making a difference today for a legacy of tomorrows—one story, one community engagement, one resource at a time.



Kathy - Facebook

**GRAND
FORKS
PUBLIC**
Library Foundation

1,865,542
computer minutes

total circulation

514,835

267
books to
nursing
homes

481 radon
kits circulated

983 programs

40,615
total program
attendance



This place is incredible. Super good environment, organized, clean.



Mariapaz - Google Review



By the Numbers

REVENUE

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| City of Grand Forks | \$2,200,834 | \$2,117,032 |
| Grand Forks County | \$836,278 | \$764,026 |
| State Aid/Intergovernmental | \$199,745 | \$151,690 |
| Grants | \$39,357 | \$109,999 |
| Library Fees/Services | \$29,083 | \$24,824 |
| Interest/Donations | \$100,844 | \$67,616 |
| Total | \$3,406,141 | \$3,235,189 |

EXPENDITURES

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Wages & Salaries | \$1,701,403 | \$1,570,706 |
| Benefits | \$608,872 | \$582,169 |
| Supplies | \$83,661 | \$84,912 |
| Utilities | \$70,452 | \$79,495 |
| Services & Contracts | \$217,308 | \$254,524 |
| Building Maintenance | \$83,908 | \$88,309 |
| Operating Expenses | \$139,808 | \$173,364 |
| Books & Periodicals | \$188,588 | \$183,755 |
| Capital Expenses | \$78,524 | \$14,910 |
| Total | \$3,172,524 | \$3,032,147 |

Staff are friendly and the library is clean. So many computers to use and lots of seating options.



Kaylee - Google Review



gflibrary.com



701-772-8116

