Foundation Builder

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www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org

Donor Corner

If you were given a combination padlock and a list of three United States Presidents, would you know how to open the padlock? This was the first task to kick off the Rochester Public Library Foundation's Second Annual Amuzing Race fundraiser. The first team opened their lock in under a minute. Out of the thirty-five teams participating in the race this year, only eight teams succeeded in opening the lock before the teams were allowed to use library resources to help them. For 15 minutes teams wracked their brains and spun the dials on their locks until the announcement came that they could use any library resource to help them figure out the clue. There was a mad dash to the catalog computers to look up books about presidents and in no time at all, the rest of the teams opened their locks and were on their way to the next destination. For those who are curious, the team that won first place was not one of the eight teams that

solved the task within the first 15 minutes.

During the course of the race, teams were sent all over Rochester to find their clues and perform tasks. Some tasks included building a geodesic dome out of newspapers, stacking paper cups into a pyramid without actually touching the cups with their hands, finding a certain employee at Target North, finding two cards with their team number on them out of a mountain of old library catalog cards, an electrical wiring project to turn on a light bulb, etc.... The race ended at the Sports Center Fieldhouse at Rochester Community and Technical College with an awards ceremony and a picnic lunch sponsored by John Hardy's Bar-B-Q.

The winning team, Footloose and Childfree finished the race in just over three and a half hours. The grand prize was four vouchers good for two tickets each to a 2008 Twins game, a Kent Hrbek figurine and a Kirby Puckett figurine all donated by Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. Other prizes included: more Twins' tickets donated by the Minnesota Twins,



Above: Clue #1 - Trying to figure out the combination lock.

Below: Clue # 4 - Create a geodesic dome out of newspapers.



Clue # 16 - Wire up a light socket and switch.



tickets donated by Steve and Judy Kereakos to the Rochester Greek Festival, rounds of golf donated by the Rochester Park and Rec Department, family sessions and free 8x10 photos donated by Hart Photography, and many more great prizes.

Thanks to race participants, volunteers, and sponsors, the event raised just over



From the Director's Desk...

Has your child ever brought homework to you asking for assistance and you look it over thinking "I'm not sure I can help?" What if your work schedule doesn't allow you to be home when your child is doing homework? Whom does your child ask, then?

Audrey Betcher

The Rochester Public Library has always been a place for students of all ages to turn for homework assistance. Through the generous support of the Rochester Public Library Foundation, the Rotary Clubs of Rochester, and Charles and Barbara Withers, RPL has been able to expand support to students with Live Homework Help from Tutor.com. The service began on September 1st after months of planning and implementation.

So what is Live Homework Help? It is an online, ondemand homework assistance program. It connects a student with a real tutor in a one-on-one session. Help in math, science, social studies and English is available for grades kindergarten through early college. The service is available from any Internet accessible computer through the library's website. It is also available on any computer in the library. RPL

has contracted for tutoring services from 4 pm – 10 pm seven days a week in both English and Spanish.

Who are the tutors? They are certified teachers, professional tutors, college professors, graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in accredited colleges and universities, and proven subject experts.

RPL worked very closely with the school districts in our service area: Rochester Schools (public and private), the Dover-Eyota School District, and Byron School District, and RCTC. Teachers have been informed about this new service and have received posters for their classrooms and program cards for recommending the service to students. Students have received folders that highlight the program features, and most families have received a magnet for their homes. The library worked with the Rochester and Byron public school districts to mail a library card to students who didn't have one.

But it is really all about results. Are students using the program to succeed in school? Of course, the program is in its earliest stages, but in the first 15 days of the program, 370 students used the service. Over 90% of those students said that the program is helping them improve their grades.

Without your generous gifts, this program would not exist for the students of our community. Thank you for supporting our community of learners!

One-Stop Shop for all Your Homework Needs

Now that school is back in full swing the homework headaches are not far behind. Don't despair - there is a cure. Rochester Public Library has homework help in various formats for every level of education.

- tutor.com Professional tutors communicate with students with an instant messaging type format and a drawing surface to help diagram those tricky geometry problems. Visit www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/ tutor for more information.
- Homework Assistance Study Table is held in the library every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening from 6:00 - 8:40 in Meeting Room B. Area volunteers provide individual assistance to students with specific questions regarding their daily homework assignments. Although all students in the community are welcome, the academic levels of students who attend are generally grades 4 - 12.
- Learn-A-Test (LearningExpress Library) is an interactive online learning platform that includes practice tests designed to help students with math, writing and reading comprehension skills for elementary

through highschool levels, GED, college entrance exams and much more. This valuable tool can be found on the library's website by clicking on the Reference & Magazines tab, then clicking on the "Alphabetical List of Research Databases" link, then scrolling down to the "Learn-A-Test" option. While scrolling, make note of all the other databases available. There's everything from finding out who your great-great grandfather was, online encyclopedias, learning Spanish, to fixing cars.

- Ask a Librarian option is available during regular library hours. You can reach a librarian by calling 507-328-2309, using instant messaging - IM: RPLmnInfo (yahoo AIM) or by e-mailing us at: reference@rochester.lib.mn.us.
- AskMN 24/7 is a new reference service for library patrons in Minnesota. With AskMN, you can contact a librarian any time, day or night. Just click on the AskMN link in the "Ask A Librarian" sections of our website and you will be able to text message with a librarian immediately.

In Loving Memory

One of Rochester Public Library's most treasured items was not a book, DVD or computer. It was one of our own staff members! Loren Marquardt had been on staff at Rochester Public Library since 1990—a time when movies were still in VHS format and the library was located where Broadway Plaza now stands.

Loren had been a part of the Circulation Department. helping check out materials to all RPL patrons and handing out smiles and high fives at the same time. However. Loren was also familiar with all the locations that have housed the library since he was a child. His first memory of the library was going to the 1st Avenue and 2nd Street location for Boy Scout meetings on the second floor. He got his own library card at the Children's lower level in the building that is now home to the Mayo Medical School. Loren's daughter, Sue, also fondly remembers this library location as it was the place her father took her to get her

first library card. She has been a life-long library user ever since.

Loren was a familiar face in Rochester. He was born in Rochester and attended Hawthorne Elementary, Rochester Junior High and was one of the first classes to attend a brand-new Lourdes High School. His father, Ollie, owned Ollie's Food Center at 620 1st St NW where Loren honed his food expertise to use later as a caterer for the attached Mustard House. That wasn't his first job, which was scooping golf balls for 25¢ a day at the corner of what is now Cub Foods.

However, of all the jobs that Loren has had, we are most thankful that he answered a posting at Fontaine Towers looking for help at the library. Over the years, Loren's fun-loving nature and wonderful people skills were used not only at the circulation desk, but also at the children's desk. During the grand opening of the new library, Loren's musical skills were put to use as a part of a group of eight

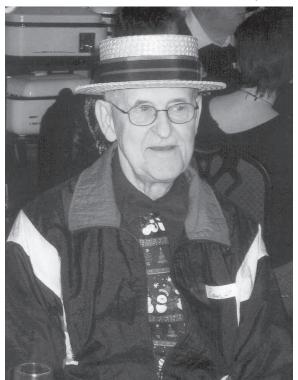
library staff that sang a song created especially for the new library. And we can't forget that Loren put his physical skills to the test as part of the RPL Cartwheelers for the 2002 Rochesterfest parade!

Loren's long association with Rochester Public Library clearly changed his life. In turn, he had a remarkable effect on the lives of many of our patrons. Sue McMillan described Loren as "her hero." Here is her story:

"A few years ago I made a mistake. My daughter, Liz, asked me to bring a music CD back to the library. Without thinking about it, I grabbed the CD case, drove to the library and slipped it in the book return. When Liz came home from

school that afternoon, we discovered that I had returned the wrong disc—one she still needed to help her prepare for a concert. I returned to the library and saw a very kind looking man behind the desk. That man turned out to be Loren. I explained to him what happened. He smiled at me and said, 'Give me a few minutes.' That was all it took. He came out smiling, with the disc I needed. He has been my hero ever since!"

As you can see, Loren's commitment and dedication to our library has had many avenues and he touched many hearts during his tenure at the Rochester Public Library.



Loren Marquardt 1927 - 2008

Save the Date! 2009 Sth Annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine A fund-raiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation

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Library Wins National Award



The Rochester Public Library has been chosen as a recipient of the 2008 Digital Pioneer award (the "Digies" award) from its digital partner – OverDrive.

The Digital Pioneer award is presented to OverDrive partner libraries that have shown excellence and

leadership in delivering digital media to their community through successful collection development, website management, promotion and community outreach.

The Rochester Public Library has consistently been a leader in offering its patrons access to information in new formats that are of interest to the community. Audiobooks are now compatible with iPod®.

Kim Edson, Head of Readers Services at the Rochester Public Library says, "It is an honor to receive this national award. We provide downloadable audio books, video, and music because it is a service that our community wants and values. It is an extra bonus to be recognized by the library community as a whole who are acknowledging our library as being a leader in establishing best practices for offering digital collections."

Some of the other winners of this year's Digies Award were the Boston Public Library, the Delaware County Library System, the Denver Public Library, the Greater Phoenix Digital Library, the New Hampshire State Consortium, the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium and the Southern Ontario Library Service.

Rochester Public Library's New Automated Materials Handling System Andy Stehr

In mid-March the Rochester Public Library installed a new Automated Materials Handling System. The library's goals were to get items back to our shelves faster, decrease the number of items missed during the check-in process and to have items removed immediately from a patron's record. Though the Automated Materials Handling System has been working very well for the most part, there have been some challenges.

The automated materials handling system, or AMH, can accept only one item at a time. This means it takes longer to return items. This was a drawback of which the library was aware when we purchased the AMH, but we hoped that any inconvenience would be off-set by the items being directly checked in. If a patron puts more than one item thru the mouth, it can cause the system to shut down. Although, this does happen, this problem can be remedied by using the correct return procedures.

There is also a learning curve. Library staff has noticed that patrons who take the time to read the provided instructions experience a high level of success.

The basic steps for a successful return are: place an item in the AMH mouth with the title up, flush with the right side of the opening. Then slide the item forward until it catches on the rollers. Wait until you see either a green bar of light at the mouth of the AMH or a green check mark on the screen. Then insert the next item. If you're at the external book drop, you'll need to press the black button to start the process. If the AMH sends an item back, it means it could not read the barcode. Simply wait for the green light and try the item again.

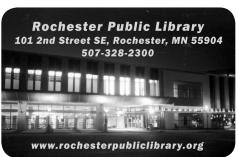
The AMH has been working very well, and has helped the library return items to the shelves much faster. The library is committed to using the AMH, and we hope that, given time, our patrons will adjust to this new procedure. If you see someone struggling, be sure to help them out. If we all work together, all of us can benefit with the Automated Material Handling System.

Library Card Gets New Look -- John Hunziker, Communications Manager

I spent some time with Vern Johnson recently. Vern is 90 years old and lives on the 18th floor of Fontaine Towers. He has awesome views of downtown.

I've known and talked with Vern off and on since the early 1990's. Vern, in his retirement, enjoyed taking pictures. He decided that he would take pictures day by day of the building of the new Joint Government Center, the Mayo Civic Center additions and the building of the new Rochester Public Library. A number of years later he also did the building of Riverside Central Elementary School.

How I ended up talking with Vern is somewhat convoluted and owing to a number of phone calls and e-mails. The library is in the process of ordering new library cards. Currently, we use about 12,000 a year, on average. This year, because of an educational program that we will be rolling out in conjunction with the schools in Olmsted County, we are making a concerted effort to make sure that every student in grades 4 through pre-college has a library card. That's a lot of library cards!



A new card with our new phone number and website address was designed using a night shot of the library all lit up from the inside. As

we were putting together the specifications for the card to get bids for up to 50,000 new library cards, the question came up, "Do we have the rights to use that picture?"

The back of the picture was dated 1997 and was found in a scrapbook. No one was sure where it came from; it had always been here. Leonard Parker

Associates Architects, Inc. was the firm that designed the library, so it was thought that it may have been a photo they had taken. Finding an old copy of the design book in the files gave us a phone number. The phone number connected to a company called Durrant Group and was answered by a young woman in Honolulu, Hawaii. It developes that Parker had been sold/merged with Durrant and all of the paperwork was in Madison, Wisconsin. After e-mailing the picture, the people in Madison checked their photo archives against the photo we sent them and found no match.

The next effort was the History Center of Olmsted County. Vern had given the History Center copies of all of his photos and they had what looked like an exact match and said it had been taken by Vern Johnson. A couple of phone calls later and I was in Vern's apartment. He has walls of great photos including a night shot of the library skyway I had never seen before. We verified that the photo had been taken by him and he gave us permission along with a signed photo use release form.

In talking with Vern it turns out he is an avid reader of mysteries and had spent quite a bit of time in the older libraries in town reading books on photography to learn more about his hobby. He also mentioned that he came to town as a four-year-old from Marshall, Minnesota. He actually had been in and used all of the Rochester Pubic Libraries over the years. He met his wife Phyllis at the old Valencia Ballroom; it was a hopping place in its time. He said that he had been in Rochester all his life except for the war years 1942-1946.

He is very pleased that the photo he took will be featured on the new library card. He can look out his window and see the library.

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\$12,000 for the Rochester Public Library Foundation. The library uses Foundation funds to augment collections, expand programs, and launch pilot projects that enrich the lives of the citizens of Olmsted County. The Foundation also donated 35 rolls of paper towels to the Ronald McDonald House as a result of the race. Along with the first clue, each team was given \$2.10 to be used later in the race. It wasn't until clue #11 that the teams found out that they needed that money to purchase a roll of paper towels and take it to the Ronald McDonald House to get their next clue.

More photos of the 2nd Annual Amuzing Race can be found by visiting: www.amuzingrace.org.

Sponsors of the 2008 Amuzing Race were:

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In-kind and prize donations: Dorothy Bishop, Cold Stone Creamery, Friends of the Library, Hart Photography, HyVee South, Steve & Judy Kereakos, Minnesota Twins, Pace Dairy, Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Qualey-Fisher Insurance, Radisson Hotel, Recreation Lanes, Rochester Community & Technical College, Rochester Park & Rec Department, SNG Research.



Left: Clue #13 -Stacking cups without touching them.

Right: The finish line at last!

