

Rochester Public Library Foundation



Libraries change lives for all ages, all cultures, all people

Foundation

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Fall Newsletter

Libraries Change Lives



Heather, Nick, Tess and Jack Christy say that it is easy to find books in the Children's area.

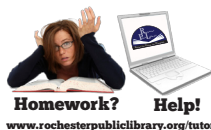
From the Directors Desk

Sales Tax Use Request



Libraries generally expand in one of two ways: expand an existing structure or build a branch. The Rochester Public Library Board carefully considered both options before recommending the option to expand the current building.

What's @ the Library?



Homework? Help!
www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor

Homework Help

"My tutor kept on helping me till I understood everything!"

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Libraries Change Lives

Heather, Nick, Tess and Jack Christy visited the library after commenting about the library on facebook. The comment referenced the fact that it is easy to find books in the Children's area owing to the way books are displayed rather than having to know, use, and understand the Dewey Decimal System, particularly when you are 4 ½ and 3 years old.

The family moved to Rochester three years ago from downtown New York City, East 33 St. and 2nd Ave. Nick worked at IBM. Jack was a year and a half, Heather was pregnant with Tess and a small one-bedroom was not working.

Nick was able to transfer to IBM in Rochester. One of their priorities was to visit the library and get cards; they actually got library cards before they got a phone. They had been frequent visitors to their neighborhood branch library in New York although had not used the main library. They were regulars at the story times in the branch library that was similar to a house, small in size but three stories. The room that the Storytime was held in had sliding doors that could be closed. They used interlibrary loans quite often and are favorably impressed with ILLs here in Rochester. They also feel that we have great collections overall and particularly like the music available and the graphic novels.

They were very pleased when the library brought Charles Baxter (*The Soul Thief*) to visit as he was a favorite author. They felt bad that only a dozen or so people were in attendance owing to a scheduling conflict with a Viking/Packers game, but were happy they got quality time with the author.

Jack has read everything in the library and the state system about high speed trains and is ready to move to Japan so that he can ride the bullet train. He is also a huge fan of dinosaurs and is beginning to delve into Space; he was checking out our Space Storytime kit.

Tess's favorite at the moment is *Madeline*, especially *Madeline's Rescue* and *Madeline the Bad*. Another favorite is *Leonardo the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems (*Knuffle Bunny*). She was dressed in her ballerina outfit and doing plie's for the camera.

Overall, they have enjoyed living in Rochester although they are headed back to the East coast for a visit, soon. The entire family enjoys the library.





Audrey Betcher

Sales tax use request

The library made a presentation to the Rochester sales tax advisory committee on September 1, 2010 and made the case for a two-floor expansion and renovation of the first two floors.

In 1993, it was estimated that our service population in 2015 would be 118,227. In 2010 the library's service population is already at 140,105. In current projections, the library's service population in 2015 is estimated to be 150,271 which is 32,044 more than expected during the building planning process.

It was estimated that the library's collection in 2015 would be 408,000. At the end of 2009, the library's physical collection (not counting electronic books, audios, etc.) stood at 433,360.

The addition of two floors will add an anticipated 30,000 additional square feet and remodeling the existing two floors will allow for more material for all ages (especially children and young adults), increased space for computers and a training lab, and more meeting rooms to allow for more programming for all ages as well as to provide more community gathering space. Based on the anticipated growth of the city and county, this will meet the needs of our community until 2030-2035.

Libraries generally expand in one of two ways: expand an existing structure or build a branch. The Rochester Public Library Board carefully considered both options before recommending the option to expand the current building.

The key factors:

- The ongoing operating costs for a branch, particularly in staffing, are significantly higher compared to expanding the downtown library.
- The Rochester Public Library is easily accessible by car or bus. Accessibility will only improve based on recommendations from the Downtown Rochester Master Plan.

The estimated cost of the project is \$18,200,000. The basis of the estimate is three-fold: a structural study from BKBM to verify the ability to go to four floors, working with a library architect from Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle, Ltd, and cost estimating from CPMI.

The Rochester Public Library serves the city of Rochester and Olmsted County residents. Because Rochester is an employment hub and the Rochester Public Library has the largest collection and the most services in the region, the library serves regional residents too. Because of the library's proximity to the Mayo Clinic, the library serves visitors from all over the nation and all over the world.

Homework Help

Here are just a few of the comments we've received from students regarding Rochester Public Library's online homework assistance program:

"My tutor kept on helping me till I understood everything!"

"I was so confused with all of my algebra homework, where I got to the point I wanted to just give up. Then I heard from a friend to try [Brainfuse] and busted my confidence for algebra 100 times more. Thank you for organizing this wonderful website!"

"This is one of the best study sites out there."

"I think that this program is very helpful. I stress "helpful" very much. I'm taking college courses from the U of M, and HelpNow has helped me on problems I was stumped on. I would be very sad if this program was taken away, and I would strongly recommend this for everyone. It is a great tool."

"Ok so I have improved my math by 80% in three weeks. I feel so good inside and out. Thank you BrainFuse."

The online homework assistance program began in September, 2008, and significantly increased the library's reach in providing homework help. The service is offered online through the library's Web page (www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor) and connects students to tutors in their specific subject area(s) of need.

Through the program, tutors can be accessed from the student's home or from any location with an Internet connection. For getting homework assistance—whether at the library or through other community programs—transportation has been identified as a significant barrier for students. The library's online tutors help address this barrier. In fact, during the 2009-2010 school year, students sought help from the library's online tutors more than 5,100 times. That's a 39% increase in use over the previous school year!

The average cost of a tutoring session is \$4 – truly a small

amount to help our students succeed. The cost of the service for the 2010-2011 school year is \$20,500.

Private dollars entirely fund the online homework assistance program through the Rochester Public Library Foundation. Without this private assistance, the Library could not continue to provide this innovative and effective service.



Homework?

Help!

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor

A Celtic Evening

at the Doubletree Hotel

**Tuesday
30th November**

Welcome 6:00 pm

Small plates served 7:00 pm

Whisky tasting

Pipes

Limericks

Men in Kilts contest 8:00 pm

Raffle/silent auction



Hosted by: Laird and Lady of Lochaber
(Drs. Bryan and Helen McIver)

Sponsored by:
Wirtz Beverages
Doubletree

Earlybird registration \$50 per person.

After 15th October \$60 per person.

Please consider making a donation if you cannot attend.

Help promote your business while supporting the library by donating items or services of value for the silent auction.

Register online www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org/celtic.html or by calling: 507-328-2343.



Rochester Public Library Foundation hosted fundraiser at Goonies Comedy Club



Nate Hall



John Bush



Michael Callahan

For those who may not be familiar with textese, LOL4RPL = Laugh Out Loud for Rochester Public Library. Approximately 70 people spent an enjoyable, laugh-packed evening at Goonie's Comedy Club with comedians Michael Callahan and John Bush. The library's own Nathan Hall served as emcee for the night.

Attendees enjoyed a fabulous buffet dinner and cash bar. There was spirited buying of raffle tickets for the bucket raffle with packages including great books, music, wine, items to pamper Mom, games and entertainment.

Michael Callahan delivered up-tempo humor mined from his very typical life populated with the young, the old, the single and the married. John Bush's comedy covered it all from his childhood relocation from Hawaii to Minnesota to his UFO sighting in New York City. His act was filled with rich characters, spot-on impressions and even a disgruntled squirrel.

Proceeds will be used to support the mission and vision of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

A fundraiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation

LOL4RPL

Wednesday
March 24

Doors open: 5:30
Buffet served: 6:00
Show starts: 7:00

Earlybird registration: \$40 per person
After March 17: \$50 per person
Register online: www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org/lo4rpl
or by calling 507-324-2343

Headliner: John Bush

Host: Nathan Hall

Featuring Michael Callahan

GOONIE'S
THIS PLACE IS A JOKE!
Goonies Comedy Club
7 Second St. SW, Rochester, MN

Proceeds will be used to support the mission and vision of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

Threads of our Community



"The Rochester Public Library is a gathering place for the entire community. As you spend time in the library, you see people of all walks of life, all ages, various income levels, and many countries of origin. When the Library was approached to partner with the Mayo Clinic and host the exhibit RACE: Are We So Different?, we became enthusiastic partners.

The Threads of Our Community quilt was conceived by staff and volunteers as a work of art that complements the exhibit and highlights the diversity in the community making Rochester a fabulous place to live. Like the quilt that is greater as a whole than any one block, our community becomes stronger by adding points of view and coming together to build on our strengths."

~ Audrey Betcher, Library Director

Library volunteer, Annette Sjolund, fondly recalls, *"I was approached by library staff to help with a **little** quilt project."* Little did any of us know the project would grow into something much larger. We hoped to create a small piece of collaborative art highlighting our diverse community. Artists were encouraged to submit blocks for a quilt that—while celebrating their needlework and fiber art skills—would also recognize the larger diversity theme by reflecting their cultures and heritages.

The response far exceeded all of our expectations. We received 55 blocks represent-

ing 40 different countries/cultures/backgrounds and a variety of needlework skills. Some artists tried to capture their perceptions or images of their home countries. Some represented a social group or organization that had become representative of their cultures. Others showed symbols of what they defined as their culture, such as a home language or a country's crest.

Each block has a story reflecting the artist's background. Some artists learned the craft as a hobby; for some it was a necessity; and for others, it was a family tradition. The quilt provides an opportunity for the artists to "chronicle" their journey, showcases their talent and recognizes that our unique perspectives can enrich everyone's lives.

This endeavor would not have been possible without the dedication of our amazing quilters, Karen Koeller and Annette Sjolund, who spent countless hours bringing this vision to life. Their creativity in weaving 55 distinct blocks into a single piece of art is truly inspiring.

The Threads of Our Community quilt is an art project demonstrating that there is a place for all people in the fabric of our society. The quilt hangs in the main stairwell of our library as a commemoration of the diverse skills, talents and heritages found here in our very own community.

On Sunday, May 16, the Friends of the Library hosted a quilt unveiling ceremony with the artists and their families in attendance.

The ceremony began with a Native American dance in the library lobby. After the dance, the attendees had the opportunity to walk through the RACE exhibit one day before it was open to the public. The ceremony continued in the library auditorium with refreshments, an Indian classical dance, acknowledgment of the artists who participated in the quilt project and the sponsors who funded it, and closed with a bagpipe performance.

Each artist was given a copy of *Threads of our Community Quilt: the Stories behind the Quilt Blocks* and one copy is available on the new wooden podium (designed and hand-crafted by John Hunziker) which is installed on the second-floor railing directly across from the quilt. Reprints of the book will be available in the Friends Bookstore, soon! The library is also getting two hardbound copies to keep in the collection. It will be available for check-out.

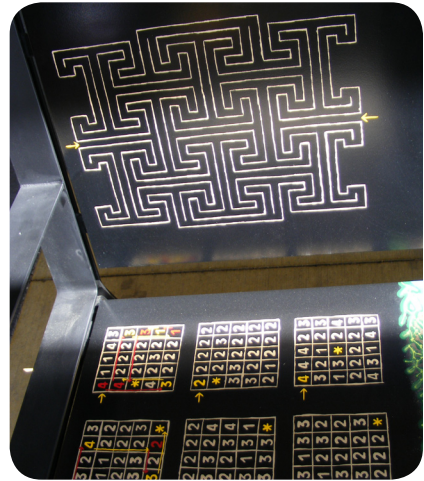
Thank you to the sponsors:
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Photos by KID
Quilters' Sew-ciety
Rochester Community Education

A-Mazing Bench

If you haven't already noticed, there is a five-foot-long bench in front of the library. This is another project done by the AARTS Council as street art, as the goose was and was purchased by the Judy and Jim Sloan Foundation.

The bench will stay outside. It has mazes on the back and seat. Feel free to work them out with your finger—nothing sharp!

It was designed and painted by a man named Mike Snyder who loves puzzles.



Donors from February 24 - July 31, 2010

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101 Second Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

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