

Connection. Collaboration. Creativity.

GOOD NEWS: A letter from the WPLF



Kristi Oberg
WPLF CEO/President
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Giving for Early Childhood Literacy

Your donations to the WPLF's Library Giving Day play a critical role in the Library's response to the ever-growing gap in childhood literacy. Thank you for helping us raise nearly \$15,000. The LGD fundraising initiative is just the beginning of our early literacy fundraising plans.

According to the United Way of the Plains website, in 2019, 45% of USD 259 children were not reading at a third-grade level. The pandemic has only exacerbated this issue. When kids are not reading at grade level by third grade, they are less likely to graduate from high school and face higher incarceration rates.

We can change a child's life trajectory by improving their reading skills, and your continued support of the WPLF will make that possible. Parents are their children's first and best teachers. Supporting early childhood literacy through Family Engagement is the WPLF's top priority for 2022 and 2023.

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." — Frederick Douglass

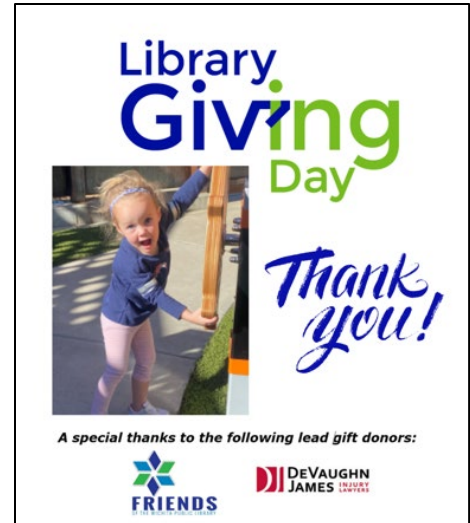
Meet Traci Ball, Development Associate



"I look forward to working with Foundation supporters to make Wichita a better place to live," says Traci. Her passion for non-profits developed early as she worked for her dad at a non-profit organization that provides work opportunities for adults with mental and physical disabilities. Traci comes to us from PBS Kansas. She is a graduate of Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, with a Bachelor's in Applied Organizational Leadership. Please join WPLF in welcoming Traci to our team!

Branch Library Updates

On April 9, the grand opening of the Evergreen Community Center and Library was held, with a day full of laughter, music, and excitement. Kansas State Representative Ponka-We Victors shared that computer access at Evergreen Library was crucial to her high school and college success, culminating in Representative Victors earning a Ph.D.



Library Programs

The Library continues to adapt to keep customers engaged. Your financial support of the WPLF makes these programs possible.

EXHIBIT: Blackbear Bosin, May 1-May 31, Advanced Learning Library. Wichita artist Blackbear Bosin wrote a poem with each painting he created. As part of a multi-year-long campaign by the Mid-America All-Indian Museum to "Bring the Bosins Home," paintings have been photographed for archiving, and his poetry has been re-matched with the works. The Library is hosting an exhibit of Blackbear Bosin's art and poetry throughout May to celebrate the end of this important local history campaign.

Mac Book Basics, 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, on Zoom. New to Apple's Mac PCs or MacBooks? Learn how to navigate your Mac, set up system preferences, and explore the most important features to get started. Register at (316) 261-8500 or online. A program link will be sent to your inbox the day before and the day of the program.

Author Event: Candice Millard, 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, Advanced Learning Library. Watermark Books & Cafe, in partnership with Wichita Public Library, welcome back Candice Millard for an event celebrating her newest book, "River of the Gods," a peerless story of courage and adventure set against the backdrop of the race to exploit Africa by the colonial powers.

Summer Reading 2022: Oceans of Possibilities, May 31-July 28. Summer Reading is the Library's largest reading program for kids ages 0-18. By reading even 15 minutes a day, kids can dramatically reduce the slide in reading levels that happens during summer break. The Library emphasizes the joy and fun of reading and offers a robust program schedule to keep families interested and engaged. Sign up at any library location or go online to wichitalibrary.org/summerreading. Read books, win prizes and participate in exciting programs all summer long.

Summer Concerts in the Park. 10:30 a.m., Naftzger Park (102 S. St. Francis) and 3 p.m., Riverside Park (720 N. Nims Ave.). Enjoy lively music and foot-tapping fun at our FREE children's concert series at Naftzger and Riverside Parks! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and plenty of sunscreen! Concert dates: Monday, June 6, Laughing Matters; Monday, June 13, Kevin Horner; Wednesday, June 22, Mr. Stinky Feet; Monday, July 11, Nathalia Palis. If inclement weather is forecasted, call (316) 261-8500.

Did You Know?

Ask-A-Librarian services will be back in full swing with additional staffing in May. Get free one-on-one technology help with computers, iPads, or other tablets, various software, searching and applying for jobs, downloading e-books, learning about social media, and much more. To book an appointment, call your nearest Wichita Public Library location.

Visit wichitalibrary.org/events for more programs and information.

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The Wichita Public Library Foundation's mission is to fund Library operational needs directly benefiting the public and not covered in the tax-supported budget. The mission directs the Foundation's activities through private fundraising, Foundation, individual and corporate grants, and annual endowment distributions to the Library.