

PRESS RELEASE

Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation Awards \$72,000 in Grants to Library

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (April 13, 2022) – The Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation (Friends) has awarded a total of \$72,000 in grants to Williamsburg Regional Library in the first quarter of 2022 to support the library's collections, programs, and services, which includes a \$30,000 distribution directly from the organization's endowment earnings and \$42,000 in Margin of Excellence Awards.



Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library President Sam Sadler (left) presents a check to Williamsburg Regional Library Director Betsy Fowler. Full-sized image available upon request.

The Friends' mission is to support the Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) through fundraising and advocacy to ensure excellence in library collections, programs and services, a mission it executes through regular grant giving throughout the year. The Friends have distributed \$693,788 since 2017 to support the library, and much more since its inception in 1964.

“The Friends help make WRL a great library,” said Library Director Betsy Fowler. “We put every dollar we receive, both public and private, to good use to offer a wide variety of programs, collections, and services for our community.”

Though the Friends rarely allocate funds from earnings from their endowment, in this grant cycle they elected to award \$30,000 to fund the purchase of multiple copies of digital materials due to an urgent need.

“We received reports from the library director and staff that demand for the library’s most popular digital materials has been impacting user access through excessive wait times, and the library does not have the budget to purchase all the copies needed to satisfy demand,” said Friends Board President Sam Sadler.

“The library stretches its budget to provide as many titles as possible, but the Friends Board felt more support was required to meet community need. We are glad to help the library meet that need through this special distribution.”

The Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation total annual budget for 2022 is \$324,000, and its current assets total \$3.7 million. Approximately 48% of the Friends budgeted revenues come from donations, while 28% come from sales of books from the Book Nooks at both library locations and online. The remaining revenues are from interest, investment earnings and investment growth.

Grants funded through Friends Margin of Excellence Awards in the first quarter included:

Spring Festival: \$5,000

Summer Reading Kickoff: \$6,000

Summer Reading Program: \$15,000

Adult Summer Reading Program: 4,000

End of Summer Event: \$5,000

Cena con Cuentos \$5,000

Staff Connections Committee: \$2,000

Learn more about the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation at wrl.org/give. For more information about programs and events supported by the Friends grants listed above, email Desiree Parker at dparker@wrl.org.

The Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) is an award-winning regional library system that consists of the Williamsburg Library on Scotland St. in Williamsburg, the James City County Library on Croaker Rd. in James City County, the Stryker Center on N. Boundary St. in Williamsburg, and its Mobile Library Services vehicles. The WRL service area includes the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County.

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