

PRESS RELEASE

Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation Provides Funding for New Teen Space

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Aug. 11, 2022) – An interactive new teen space is coming to Williamsburg Regional Library thanks to \$20,000 in grant funding from the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation (Friends).



The new space, which will be located in the James City County Library branch, is modeled on the successful Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio in the same building and will be the first of its kind in the regional system. It will feature fun tech including virtual reality headsets, Nintendo Switches, and an arcade game table; a collaborative workspace; a magnetic poetry wall; board games and crafts; and comfortable study and lounge seating.

“Creating exciting relevant community spaces with a variety of learning experiences, collections, and opportunities for social connection for all ages is a priority for WRL,” said Library Director Betsy Fowler. “The Friends allow the library to dream big and turn these dreams into reality with their generous support.”

“The Friends are committed to supporting our library system by providing funding each year for innovative library projects that benefit our community,” said Friends Board President Sam Sadler. “Creating a teen room is one of the projects we elected to fund in this grant cycle because teens need a space that feels like their own where they can work, collaborate, and relax in a safe, nurturing environment. We are glad to help provide this for them.”

Grants funded by the Friends in August included:

BookPage Subscription: \$3,186

Dewey Decibel Concert Series: \$15,000

Saturdays at Frink: \$5,000

Teen Room at James City County Library: \$20,000

Learn more about the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation at wrl.org/give. 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 more than \$758,974 since 2017 (not including funds for the Kiwanis Kids Idea Studio) to support the library, and much more since its inception in 1964.

The Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation strengthens a treasured cornerstone of our community. As an independent nonprofit, the Friends raises funds to support the Williamsburg Regional Library. The library’s budget funds day-to-day needs, such as salaries, maintenance, and programming.

But the Friends allow the library to dream big – igniting ambition, backing innovative initiatives that otherwise would be out of reach, and opening a world of discovery for everyone in the Historic Triangle.

Modern libraries are much more than books and story time. The Friends help Williamsburg Regional Library stand as a leader among them.

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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