



Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library

2024 Annual Report

MISSION:

The Mission of Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library [Friends] is to provide appropriate and sufficient financial and volunteer resources in support of the Whitefish Bay Public Library's mission, while maintaining a viable organization that serves as a link with the Whitefish Bay community.

MEMBERSHIP:

Friends is a membership organization with paid annual dues. As of November 30th, 2024 we have 179 members. Last year at this time we had 167 members. Thanks to all new and renewing members for continuing to support the Friends organization.

LEADERSHIP:

In 2024, the Friends Board held eleven regular meetings, a strategic planning workshop, and published two e-Newsletters. The Board continues to work on a multi-year strategic plan which has provided the opportunity to identify current and future goals.

The Friends fundraising committees continue to acquire and process used book and media donations for sale on eBay, in the Friends Book Room and at twice-yearly Book Sales. In August, Friends volunteers and board members met for a summer picnic and organized a group outing to a Brewer's game.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

In 2024, Friends held its 11th annual **Writing Contest**. A panel of judges selected nine winning entries. The winners, three in each category of short story, memoir, and poetry, read their pieces at a reception in March. The winning entries can be read on the Friends website. (www.wfblibrary.org/friends)

In May, Friends awarded \$1,000 **Scholarships** to two High School Seniors residing in Whitefish Bay. Scholarship winners were selected by a team of judges based on an essay about how the library has influenced their lives. We received 10 entries.

Friends volunteers maintained **Free Little Libraries** in Klode Park and Cahill Park, and participated in Green Day in the Bay, collecting hundreds of used books for resale.

FUNDRAISING:

Sales on the Friends **eBay Storefront** (www.ebay.com/str/friendsofwfblibrary) continued to exceed expectations this year. This would not be possible without a dedicated group of volunteers who actively seek out quality book donations, research book values, create sale listings, and process orders twice weekly, or on their own time from home.

The Friends **Book Room**, near the circulation desk, continues to be popular with library patrons. Sales are steady and strong with many weekly repeat customers. Book Room volunteers stay busy re-stocking the shelves and maintaining a wide-ranging inventory from children's books to popular fiction and general non-fiction.

Friends held two weekend-long **Community Book Sales** in May and November. Friends members enjoy the benefit of shopping on Friday evening, before the sale opens to the public on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the amazing volunteers who work year-round behind the scenes, both sales were well stocked, organized, well attended and profitable.

Revenue (as of 11/30/2024 and 2023)

	2024		2023	
Book Sales (May & Nov)	\$ 13,501	21%	\$ 11,316	20%
Book Room Sales	\$ 12,616	20 %	\$ 10,810	19%
eBay Sales	\$ 31,709	51%	\$ 29,088	52%
Other Book Sales	\$ 0	0%	\$ 119	1%
Membership Dues	\$ 4,990	8%	\$ 4,600	8%
Totals	\$ 62,816	100%	\$ 55,933	100%

Expenses

Friends is fortunate to be able to operate rent-free and without paid staff. This keeps operating expenses low and well under control. Our budgeting process includes adequate reserves to maintain our operations and continuing support of library programming if future fundraising efforts fall short.

ANNUAL LIBRARY ALLOCATION:

The Friends were proud to allocate \$40,000 to the Whitefish Bay Public Library in 2024. With these funds the library budgeted for:

- ❖ “Lucky Day” book collection
- ❖ Museum & Membership Passes for checkout, including:

Harley-Davidson Museum, Betty Brinn Children’s Museum, Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee Art Museum, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Wisconsin Historical Society Sites, State Park Day Passes.

- ❖ Photography Contest
- ❖ Adult and Youth year-round program expenses
- ❖ Summer Reading Program expenses and prizes for adults and youth
- ❖ Take and Tinker collection
- ❖ Refresh of Early Literacy Area
- ❖ Seed Library
- ❖ Touch Screen County Cat Stations
- ❖ “Wonderbooks” starting collection

VOLUNTEERS:

Friends maintains a list of volunteers who we can call on to help out with operations, events, special projects, and to assist with library programs as needed. In October, thank-you gift cards to Stone Creek Coffee were sent to 62 active volunteers in honor of National Friends of Libraries Week.

In 2024 Friends volunteers participated in:

- ❖ Book donation pick-ups
- ❖ Twice-weekly sorting of incoming books and media
- ❖ Weekly re-stocking the Friends Book Room in the Library
- ❖ Researching book values, listing and selling books on eBay
- ❖ Setup and working shifts during the May and November book sales
- ❖ Managing membership communication and annual dues renewal
- ❖ Providing ongoing publicity for the Friends organization and programs
- ❖ Maintaining content on the Friends' Facebook page and webpage
- ❖ Production of *PageTurner*, a semiannual newsletter
- ❖ Adult Writing Contest sponsorship and judging
- ❖ High School Scholarship essay sponsorship and judging
- ❖ And more...