

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



NORTHVILLE DISTRICT LIBRARY  
**F·R·I·E·N·D·S**

## Friends of the Northville District Library 2025 Accomplishments at a Glance

- Donated \$14,000 to sponsor the Summer Reading Programs for Youth, Teen, and Adults
- Contributed \$500 towards the “Cool Reads” Winter Reading Program
- Awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship to a Northville High School graduating senior
- Contributed \$4,500 to support Battle of the Books (Middle School reading competition). The winning team was the “Reads Mill Page-Triots”
- Sponsored 5 evening library programs
- Contributed \$1,000 to maintain the Teen Comfort Cabinet
- Sponsored the Youth Department’s “Winter Extravaganza” party in December
- Contributed to the Community Reads program. The 2025 book was “My Murder” by Katie Williams
- Purchased the monthly Book Page magazine for distribution in the library
- Sponsored Free Comic Book Day
- Provided treats for the library staff in April for National Library Workers Day, and in December for the holidays. We also contributed to the staff party in August
- Donated \$6,000 and assembled monthly craft kits for children which are planned and distributed by the Youth Department.
- Attended workshops and networking events with both FOML (Friends of Michigan Libraries) and Northville Chamber of Commerce
- Represented the Friends and the Library at the Northville Farmers Market in September



## 2025 - 2026 FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Martha Nork     | President      |
| Denise Stacer   | Vice President |
| Kathy Fox       | Secretary      |
| Linda Schwelnus | Treasurer      |

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Claire Kreher   | Gift Books                      |
| Cindy Frango    | Membership                      |
| Christine Litka | Newsletter & Public Relations   |
| Denise Stacer   | Scholarships & Bookmark Contest |
| Linda Bastien   | Used Book Operations            |

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Charlene Cach    | Board Member-At-Large |
| Regina Mingela   | Board Member-At-Large |
| Kimberly Meisel  | Board Member-At-Large |
| Racha Alchommali | Board Member-At-Large |

# President's Report

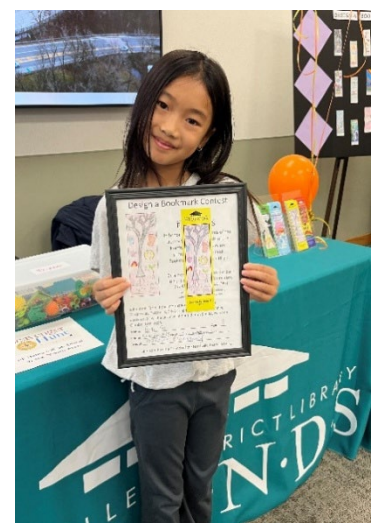
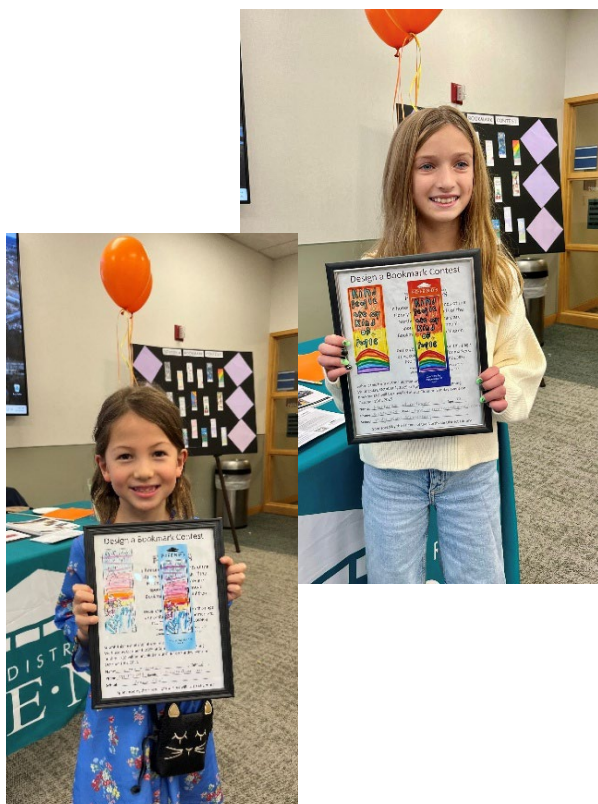
Martha Nork

The Friends of the Northville District Library are committed to providing both financial and volunteer support for the library, as well as strengthening the connection between the library and the Northville community. Thanks to the dedication of our many volunteers, we were able to accomplish our mission successfully in 2025.

Our used book operation is a significant undertaking that relies on the hard work of numerous volunteers. In 2025, this effort resulted in an impressive income of \$24,454.07, a 7% increase from the previous year. Selling used books, puzzles, DVDs, and CDs continues to be the primary source of income for the Friends and we are very grateful for the community's ongoing support.

The Friends continued our program to honor and acknowledge our volunteers by selecting a "Volunteer of the Month". A donation is made each month to the Gift Book Program by the Friends, and the selected volunteer can suggest a topic for books or other media which will be added to the library's collection.

Once again, the Friends held a "Bookmark Contest" for Northville kids ages 5-12 in September. Four winning designs were selected from among the many creative entries, and 300 copies of each design were printed. The winning bookmarks were then unveiled at our Cider on Sunday event in October and all the young artists attended and received a certificate. Book Celler hours and other information is printed on the reverse side of each bookmark.



Our annual “Cider on Sunday” event took place on Sunday, October 19th. The event is held to express gratitude to our supporters and to increase awareness of both the Friends and the library. Attendees enjoyed Parmenter’s cider and donuts, a craft activity for kids, and a scavenger hunt within the Youth Department. Raffle baskets featuring items generously donated by Board members and local businesses were available, and guests were also offered guided tours of the library.



With the support of our many volunteers, including those serving on the Board, assisting with the used book operation, or helping with the craft kits, the Friends made a significant impact at the Northville District Library throughout 2025.



## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

### **Public Relations**

**Chris Litka - Director**

The mission of Public Relations is to promote the Friends of the Northville District Library in our community and with Friends members.

In 2025 the Friends sent 16 emails to 142 members who enrolled with their email addresses. Emails announced news pertaining to our organization and special events sponsored by the Friends. In addition, we announced events in the Downtown Development Authority's newsletter and in The 'Ville which reaches the entire Northville community.

Maintaining and improving awareness and interest in the Friends of the Northville District Library is a rewarding and valuable effort. Seeking new ideas, new people and new activities while continuing our proven practices is our goal.

### **Friends Newsletter**

**Chris Litka – Director**

The Friends Newsletter was published twice in 2025, once in the Spring and again in the Fall. The Newsletter included messages from our President, Gift Book Donations, notices of Friends events, scholarship winners, recognition of "Over and Above" donors, Battle of the Books winners, and other library news.

The Newsletter is sent to all Friends members by mail and is available in the Friends kiosk at the library and online via the "About" tab on the library website.



## Scholarship Committee

### **Denise Stacer - Vice President**

The Friends awarded one scholarship to a graduating Northville High School student in 2025. The winner was Vraj Joshi.

Applicants for our higher education scholarship must have volunteered for the Friends or the library, and are also required to submit a 350-word personal essay. The essay prompt is “How I made a difference volunteering at the library”. The following is a quote from Vraj’s essay: “Volunteering at the Northville Library taught me important skills, like organization, responsibility, and how to connect with a community in a meaningful way. It gave me a sense of fulfillment, knowing I was adding to a place that had always been a source of knowledge and comfort for me. This experience made me more involved in my community and helped me value how libraries support people’s learning and growth.”



## Gift Book Program

### **Claire Kreher – Director**

Book and materials in the Gift Book Program are selected by library staff after receiving suggested topics from the donor, or the honoree’s friends or family. The honored person is recognized with a bookplate placed in each item. The Friends handle all correspondence.

In 2025 the Friends received funds for 64 Gifts:

- 10 were given in honor of someone
- 16 were given by the Friends in recognition of our volunteers
- 36 given in memory of someone
- 2 General gifts

The dollar amount received was \$4,656. With these funds, we added 199 books, 9 Foreign Films, and 6 Read-Along Books.

## Membership Committee

**Cindy Frango – Director**

The Friends of the Northville District Library membership for 2025 was 154 members:

- 15 Lifetime
- 10 Business
- 36 Family
- 18 Patrons
- 72 Individual
- 3 Teens

Our members support the goals of the Friends with their membership dollars. Our membership drive encourages current members to renew in May by enclosing a membership form and envelope in our newsletter. Members can pay membership dues or make donations via check, credit card, electronic cash transfer, or a PayPal account. To facilitate enrollment there is a QR code on our website, on our newsletter and brochures, and on membership forms,

The Friends continue to advertise in the NDL display case during the month of May, and offer membership sign-ups & renewals at our events throughout the year. We appreciate the support from all our members over the last year.

## Library Evening Programs Sponsored by the Friends

Total spent in 2025 – \$2,400

- Galentine's Day Party - February 2
- Mackinac Bridge History – May 15
- Manhattan Film Festival – September 27, October 2
- Gilmore Girls Fan Party – October 8
- City Lights Chorus – December 15



Galentine's Day Party



City Lights Chorus

# Used Books Operation

Linda Bastien – Director

Three special used book sales were held in 2025:

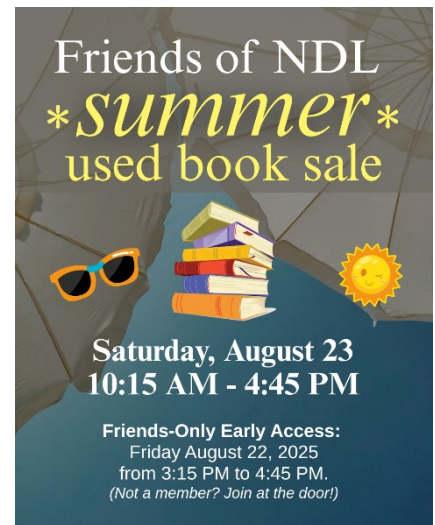
Sweet Brews & Books – February 2

Military History – May 17

Summer Sale – August 23



“Blind Date with a Book” – February 2nd



**Friends of the Northville District Library  
Used Book Operations  
2025 Year End Report**

| <u>Month</u>      | <u>Cellar</u>      | <u>Special Sales</u> | <u>Vendor</u>     | <u>Total</u>       |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| January           | \$1,173.85         |                      |                   | \$1,173.85         |
| February          | 965.37             | 238.50               | 2,797.46          | 4,001.33           |
| March             | 1,525.60           |                      |                   | 1,525.60           |
| April             | 1,161.51           |                      |                   | 1,161.51           |
| May               | 1,081.30           | 52.00                | 183.22            | 1,316.52           |
| June              | 1,484.75           |                      |                   | 1,484.75           |
| July              | 1,406.20           |                      |                   | 1,406.20           |
| August            | 1,393.45           | 501.00               | 5,578.92          | 7,473.37           |
| September         | 1,099.05           |                      |                   | 1,099.05           |
| October           | 1,267.55           |                      |                   | 1,267.55           |
| November          | 1,341.25           |                      | 121.79            | 1,463.04           |
| December          | 1,081.30           |                      |                   | 1,081.30           |
| <b>Total 2025</b> | <b>\$14,981.18</b> | <b>\$791.50</b>      | <b>\$8,681.39</b> | <b>\$24,454.07</b> |

## Friends of Northville District Library - Year Ended 12/31/2025

| Category                                 | Total            |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                            |                  |
| Dividends and Bank Interest              |                  |
| Certificate Dividends                    | 983.29           |
| Bank Interest                            | 25.12            |
| <b>TOTAL Dividends and Bank Interest</b> | <b>1,008.41</b>  |
| Donations                                |                  |
| Donations restricted                     | 465.00           |
| Donations unrestricted                   | 3,963.55         |
| <b>TOTAL Donations</b>                   | <b>4,428.55</b>  |
| Gift Book Program                        | 2,951.00         |
| Membership                               | 6,460.00         |
| Credit Card Fees                         | -49.34           |
| <b>TOTAL Membership</b>                  | <b>6,410.66</b>  |
| Used Book Sales                          |                  |
| Book Cellar                              | 15,772.68        |
| Vendor Sales                             | 8,681.39         |
| <b>TOTAL Used Book Sales</b>             | <b>24,454.07</b> |
| <b>TOTAL Income</b>                      | <b>39,252.69</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                          |                  |
| Administrative                           |                  |
| Annual Meeting Expenses                  | 41.36            |
| Dues _ Memberships                       | 285.00           |
| Honor Gifts                              | 600.00           |
| Postage                                  | 454.00           |
| Printing                                 |                  |
| Bookmark reprint                         | 233.43           |
| Membership Brochure                      | 333.05           |
| Newsletter                               | 969.64           |
| <b>TOTAL Printing</b>                    | <b>1,536.12</b>  |
| Supplies, Miscellaneous                  | 222.14           |
| Tax Preparation & License                | 400.00           |
| <b>TOTAL Administrative</b>              | <b>3,538.62</b>  |
| Friends Operating                        |                  |
| Used Book Sales - Misc Exp               | 196.90           |
| Used Book Sales - Sales Tax              | 863.43           |
| <b>TOTAL Friends Operating</b>           | <b>1,060.33</b>  |

## Friends of Northville District Library - Year Ended 12/31/2025

| Category                                    | Total                      |
|---|----------------------------|
| Library Donations and Requests              |                            |
| 2026 Wish List Items paid in 2025 *         | 4,500.00                   |
| Adult summer reading                        | 1,000.00                   |
| Battle of the books                         | 4,500.00                   |
| Community Reads                             | 500.00                     |
| Craft Kits                                  | 6,000.00                   |
| Free Comic Book Day Program                 | 200.00                     |
| Friends Sponsored Programs                  | 2,400.00                   |
| Gift Books                                  | 3,640.00                   |
| Halloween Tote Bags                         | 1,540.21                   |
| Staff Appreciation                          | 1,179.50                   |
| Teen summer reading                         | 3,000.00                   |
| Youth summer reading                        | 10,000.00                  |
| <b>TOTAL Library Donations and Requests</b> | <b>38,459.71</b>           |
| Programs                                    |                            |
| Book Mark Contest                           | 221.46                     |
| Cider on Sunday                             | 469.88                     |
| Scholarships                                | 1,000.00                   |
| Staff Appreciation from Friends             | 414.82                     |
| <b>TOTAL Programs</b>                       | <b>2,106.16</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL Expenses</b>                       | <b>45,164.82</b>           |
| <br>  |                            |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>                        | <b>-5,912.13</b>           |
| <br>  |                            |
| <b>Beginning Balances 1/1/2025</b>          |                            |
| Checking                                    | \$ 44,510.72               |
| Certificates                                | 23,013.24                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <u><u>\$ 67,523.96</u></u> |
| <br>  |                            |
| <b>Bank Balances as of 12/31/2025</b>       |                            |
| Checking                                    | \$ 37,615.30               |
| Certificates                                | 23,996.53                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <u><u>\$ 61,611.83</u></u> |
| <br>  |                            |
| <b>Change in Assets</b>                     | <b>-5,912.13</b>           |

## **Summer Reading Program**

**Caryn Bartone, NDL Head of Youth Services**

The 2025 Summer Reading Program, *Color Our World*, was a huge success with 1,374 participants of all ages. Reading was tracked either via Beanstack, our online system, or with a paper reading log.

The Friends of the Library generously provided the Youth Dept. with a \$10,000 gift and the Teen Dept. with a \$3,000 gift, which made the following programs possible:

- Every Friday morning, we offered an all-ages Storytime.
- William Shakespeare: Patrons brought a painted rock to the Library and added it to our “rock snake” to help it grow.
- Nature Explorer’s at Thayer’s Corner Nature Area: A story and outdoor activity.
- Touch-a-Truck took place at Northville High School, and we had a record breaking 1,371 people come out to see the vehicles.
- Stuffed Animal Creation Workshop: Kids built their own fur-ever friend and heard a story. They were able to pick either a sea horse, unicorn, or axolotl friend.
- Royal-Tea Party: A special fairy tale event with crowns, scepters, and a real princess.
- Kindermusik: A special musical event that showed how music can bring joy to even the youngest children.
- Family Tie Dye: Participants brought a t-shirt, tote bag, or other small fabric item to create a tie dye masterpiece.
- Midsummer Fairy Party: We celebrated the summer solstice with a party dedicated to all things fairy-tastic and introduced our new library fairy house.
- Drummasphere: A musical experience through a joy-filled, rhythm-based event.
- Magician Josh Wilde performed amazing magic and impressive juggling with great humor.
- Book Walk: Patrons enjoyed *Dog’s Colorful Day* by Emma Dodd.
- Fantastic Foam: Fantastic fun with giant cannons.
- Reptarium Zoo: Kids were able to get up close with snakes, lizards, frogs and more.
- 3D Paper Sculpture Art: Participants made unique 3D sculptures.
- Electric Art with Sloan Museum of Discovery: Participants engineered a project combining motion and colors into beautiful artwork while they learned the basics behind simple circuits.
- What’s in a Color with Sloan Museum of Discovery: Participants explored the science behind color.
- Magic Carpet Theatre: A live performance with lots of humor and audience participation using childhood favorites that inspire positive messages.
- Arts and Crafts Supply Swap: Participants donated new or gently used supplies and then came back to “shop” the collection.
- Parent Child Drawing Workshop with Amy Nielander: Families learned how to draw fun characters, while practicing think-on-your-feet problem-solving skills.
- Baby and Toddler Finger Painting: Little ones explored and created with paint.
- Teen Color Your World Scavenger Hunt: The Teen Advisory Board presented a color-themed scavenger hunt.
- Teen Mario Kart World Tournament: A video game tournament for the teens.

- Teen Professional Puprature: Participants learned how to paint animals with a local artist.
- Teen DIY Giant Pool Floaties: Teens made “beaded” pool floats out of pool noodles.
- Teen Yeet Tie-Dye: Teens tie-dyed a shirt using water balloons.
- Teen DIY Fantasy School Supplies: Teens made the new school year a little bit magical with adding some flair to school supplies.

#### Youth Program Participation

June: 12 programs with 2,020 attendees

July: 11 programs with 474 attendees

August: 11 programs with 550 attendees

#### Teen Program Participation

June: 7 programs with 126 attendees

July: 1 program with 11 attendees

August: 3 programs with 29 attendees

The funding also provided prizes for the Youth and Teen Departments. The kids who completed the program received a free book, a token for our prize-filled gumball machine, and an entry into the Youth Grand Prizes. We offered six Youth Grand Prizes.

The Teen Dept. was able to provide prizes for all of the finishers, which included a coupon to the Friends Book Cellar, along with a random drawing of various gift cards for the finishers.

We were able to celebrate the end of Summer Reading with a Summer Reading Finale Party that over 312 people attended. Kona Ice provided cool treats for everyone, there were inflatables for the kids and teens, and the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum held a Super Science Fest with six different stations.

#### Youth Summer Reading Program

\$10,000 donation from the Friends of the Library

2025 = 839 participants

2024 = 802 participants

#### Teen Summer Reading Program

\$3,000 donation from the Friends of the Library

2025 = 162 participants

2024 = 144 participants

#### Adult Summer Reading Program

\$1,000 donation from the Friends of the Library

2025 = 373 participants

2024 = 351 participants

Thank you, Friends of the Library, for your continued support of our Summer Reading program. As always, we are grateful for your support.

## Friends of Northville District Library

Our Mission: Through fundraising and volunteer efforts, our mission is to support, encourage, and enhance the services of the Northville District Library and to help build a strong relationship between the library and the community of Northville.



**Craft Kit Crew**



**Doris Oltersdorf –  
NDL Volunteer of the Year**



**Grace Colter's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday!**



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