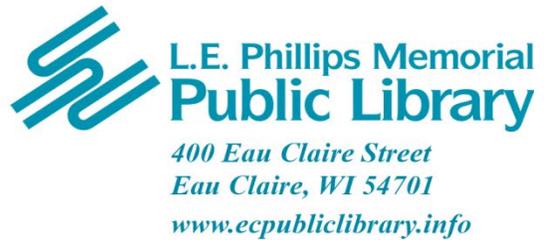


News Release

For Immediate Release



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www.eubliclibrary.info/storybuilder/campaign-materials

Library Reaches Out to Area Educators for Expansion Project Support and Encourages Donations in the Name of Special Teachers

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library is reaching out to Eau Claire area educators, inviting support for its Story Builder library expansion campaign. The campaign is pursuing private funding to add physical space and new amenities to the library's 44-year-old downtown building, aiming to accommodate a surging increase in interest and use. As part of those efforts, the library is hoping local teachers, professors, school administration, and support staff (current or retired) can pool individual donations into one large gift of \$50,000. As part of the gift, the group would secure naming rights for a new youth study room.

As of early December, the library has raised over \$30,000 towards the special study room pool. The deadline to contribute is December 31.

Also, community members in general are encouraged to donate to the study room in honor of a local teacher. It's a fantastic way to recognize important educators in one's life or the life of one's children.

People interested in having their gift included in this group naming opportunity can indicate so on the pledge form found at www.eubliclibrary.info/storybuilder. They can also call 715-839-5094 or email storybuilder@eauclaire.lib.wi.us. People are welcome to contact the Eau Claire Community Foundation with specific questions about giving at 715-552-3801 or info@eccfwi.org. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will receive individual recognition on a plaque in addition to the group naming opportunity.

The City of Eau Claire is investing \$11.5 Million to revamp the library's failing mechanical systems while the Story Builder campaign is raising an additional \$7 Million in private funds to add major items such as third floor with a 200-seat event room, a new hands-on learning lab, a special workshop space, a drive-thru style pickup window, and modernized study spaces.

As the most visited place downtown Eau Claire, in non-pandemic times, the library sees more than 400,000 visits each year (that's 1,200 visitors a day) from the library's service area of 86,000 people. The \$7M goal must be reached by the end of the year so construction work can happen alongside the City's upgrades, set to begin in the spring of 2021. The campaign is well on its way, surpassing \$4M from over 200 donors.

Anyone interested in learning more about the campaign can visit www.ecpubliclibrary.info/storybuilder.

Questions about gifts and naming rights can be directed to Deputy Library Director Kimberly Hennings (storybuilder@eauclaire.lib.wi.us; 715-839-6225). Pledges and gifts can be sent to the Eau Claire Community Foundation, which supports the philanthropic portion of the Story Builder expansion campaign (306 S. Barstow St. Suite 104, Eau Claire, WI 54701; www.eccfwi.org; 715-552-3801; info@eccfwi.org).

For other library information, people may contact Information & Reference by calling 715-839-5004, emailing librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us, or chatting with staff via the library's website at www.ecpubliclibrary.info.

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