

News Release

For Immediate Release



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www.ecpubliclibrary.info

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Story Builder Library Expansion Campaign Recognizes High Level ‘Chronicle’ Donors

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in downtown Eau Claire and its Story Builder expansion campaign are proud to officially recognize the donors within its Chronicle Giving Society. Donors at this level have contributed or pledged financial gifts between \$50,000 and \$99,999. These generous donations have helped to bring overall funding to roughly 84% of the total project cost (\$18.5M).

The City of Eau Claire is investing \$11.5M to revamp the library’s failing mechanical systems while the Story Builder campaign is raising an additional \$7M in private funds to expand the library’s physical space—a long overdue effort to meet the demands of Eau Claire’s ever-growing and evolving population.

As of late December, the campaign’s Chronicle Giving Society members include Mark and Lois Helland, Charles and Helen Nordstrom, Focus On Energy, and Wipfli LLP. This giving society also includes a gift in celebration of Janet A. Zais and Laura M. Kalmon, in addition to anonymous contributions.

Most donors at this level have secured naming rights to space and amenities within the new library design, some of which are still being discussed.

In a statement of support, Valerie Fedie of Eau Claire accounting and business consulting firm Wipfli said, “Giving back to our communities is a fundamental part of the Wipfli culture. We create lasting, positive impact not only by supporting our clients and each other, but also by embracing the communities we live in to make a difference and impact generations to come.

With education being such an important pillar of our community, the library project aligns perfectly with Wipfli's values of committing to lifelong learning. We are proud to have a youth study room named after Wipfli, touching the lives of many in an important and impactful way."

Of the library and their gift to the campaign, Charles and Helen Nordstrom said, "The public library serves as a statement by a community of what it feels is important in its civic life. The library is not only a repository of information and education, it also serves as a vital community center where all are welcome, at no cost, regardless of economic, cultural, or political differences. ... When we first visited Eau Claire in 1978 we were extremely impressed with the (then new) L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and were grateful to those who built and supported such a facility. It was one of the reasons we decided to live and work here for the next 42 years. We feel it is now our turn to contribute to a legacy that will improve the quality of life for our community for generations to come and encourage all who are able to help with this worthwhile endeavor."

A special gift within the Chronicle Giving Society is offered "in celebration of" Janet A. Zais and Laura M. Kalmon. Cam and Amy Kalmon, along with Amy's brother Jeff Zais, donated together to honor their mothers—lifetime library supporters who made library visits an integral part of their family's lives. Amy Kalmon explains, "I have a lifetime of memories from the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and libraries from other communities where I have lived as an adult. They offer so much for all ages, and they open doors and possibilities. In my life they have provided access to fabulous stories, exotic places, and new ideas; and they have challenged me to consider the world from different perspectives. Having free access to the offerings of the library is a reflection of our community's investment in all its citizens. Our library diminishes the gaps and barriers that divide us." (This gift will fund new greenspace at the library, a nod to Janet Zais's love of gardening.)

The library's expansion plans are designed to enhance core services. For example, an all-new third-floor event room will double community engagement space, offering expanded programming for all ages. Modernized study rooms will help individuals and groups to work, study, and meet. Redesigned shelving and display space will offer unprecedented physical access. And a new drive-up window will ease materials pickup. Beyond these essential enhancements, the expansion project dovetails perfectly with the city's upcoming plans to construct an urban plaza between the library and City Hall.

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

Questions about naming rights can be directed to Deputy Director Kimberly Hennings (storybuilder@eau Claire.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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