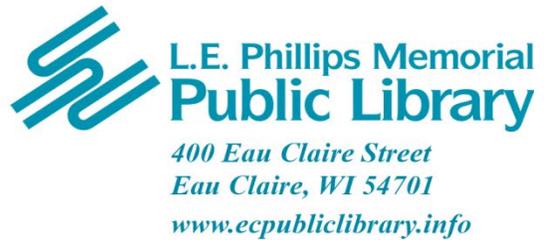


News Release

For Immediate Release



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Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire Presents \$25,000 to Library Story Builder Campaign

The Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire presented a check for \$25,000 to the Story Builder Campaign for the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Expansion project on Thursday afternoon. Kiwanis representatives Shelia Wall, Tom Mihajlov, and Becky Mattson presented the check to library Deputy Director Kimberly Hennings and Story Builder campaign co-chair Carol Gabler.

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. The Kiwanis gift, which secures naming rights to the Stroller Parking area planned near the renovated Youth Services Program Room, brings the total fundraising effort to just under \$4.2M.

Of the library and their gift to the campaign, Kiwanian Tom Mihajlov says, "The Library's Story Builder expansion uniquely fits Kiwanis' commitment to children. The Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire has a long history of serving the kids of our community, whether it's "Reading is Fundamental" where the Kiwanis distributed over 20,000 books to elementary school children in Eau Claire and Altoona to helping kids appreciate the joy of reading, **it's all about the kids.** That is why the Kiwanis Clubs of Eau Claire are pleased to make this gift."

The Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire was officially chartered on March 22, 1919, with the creed "service brings its own reward." Later that year the Kiwanis International motto was changed to

“We Build” and remains such today. The Eau Claire club embraced that change and never wavered in its purpose.

During its nearly 100 years, the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire has made a significant impact on the Eau Claire community. The primary mission of Kiwanis has always been a focus on bettering the learning and living environment of children throughout the world. Kiwanis believes that the opportunity to become a Beethoven, a Shakespeare, a Da Vinci, or an Edison should be available to every child and the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire is no exception. By sharing their “K” the Club has helped to “build” over 11 other Kiwanis Clubs in NW Wisconsin. To learn more, visit www.eauclairenoonkiwanis.org.

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@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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