

Connection. Collaboration. Creativity.

GOOD NEWS: A letter from the WPLF



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Well wishes

During these uncertain times, the board and staff at the WPLF send well wishes to you who have faithfully supported the Library, the Foundation, and our community. First and foremost, we hope that you and your families remain healthy. That you can find delight in simple pleasures like cooking a special meal (that your previously too overcommitted schedule prevented) or calling and talking to a friend. Many of you work in careers that will require extra hours, and we thank you for the sacrifices you are making to help our community. We know you will find the stamina and perseverance to meet your responsibilities. Regardless of your situation, we send care and support your way.

We are here to help

To learn more about library closings and programming updates, please go to <https://www.wichitalibrary.org/covid-19>.

Starting to get restless, not to fear - digital services are here

The Library has several digital services cardholders can use to stay informed and entertained during the closures:

- ❖ E-books and e-audiobooks on Libby, by OverDrive
- ❖ NewsBank (with Library card)
- ❖ Become an Informed Voter (learn about civic engagement)
- ❖ Learn a Language (Mango Languages)
- ❖ Fun activities and games for kids

Links to these resources are at <https://www.wichitalibrary.org/covid-19>.

Library staff will continue reporting to work and will be available to answer your calls and emails, including Saturday and Sunday, during business hours.

Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/WichitaPublicLibraryFoundation



We need to hear from you

A database is only as good as the accuracy and completeness of its data. As we work on updating our records, we need your help. Please go to <https://supportwichitalibraries.org/myinfo> to update your contact information. We will follow up on this request with a mailing in a few weeks.

2019 usage numbers

In January, I promised March's *Good News* would share 2019 library data. Amid our current challenges, it's important to celebrate our past successes. Because of your generous gifts to support programming and the capital campaign, 2019 saw a million walk-in visits that translated to 2 million checkouts.

Your generosity created innovative programs and services. Here are just a few:

- ❖ More than 78,000 residents attended 5,400 programs.
- ❖ Public internet computers were accessed a total of 125,713 times.
- ❖ Wireless sessions totaled 104,023.
- ❖ The use of children's materials increased to 263,439.
- ❖ Library patrons accessed 4,244 technology training sessions.
- ❖ Teens and children participated in 1,710 programming events.

Your support helps kids

As a support organization to the Library, the WPLF understands the importance of childhood literacy. To see the number of children using our library system continue to increase, we have chosen the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers as the initiative for our Library Giving Day Appeal. We are partnering with the Friends of the Wichita Library, intending to raise \$5,000. Check your mailbox and email mid-April for the opportunity to double the impact (and value) of your donation to help increase childhood literacy in Wichita.

Did you know?

The Foundation is one of two support organizations for the Library. The Friends of the Wichita Public Library provide support through their used bookstore in the Advanced Learning Library, book sales hosted throughout the year, and membership donations. To learn more about how you can become a member, donate your used books, or attend the next book sale, visit <https://www.wichitalibraryfriends.org>.

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The mission of the Wichita Public Library Foundation is to fund Library operational needs directly benefiting the public and not covered in the tax supported budget. The mission directs the activities of the Foundation through private fundraising, Foundation, individual and corporate grants and annual endowment distributions to the Library.