



## Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

115 South Avenue ~ Rochester, NY 14604 ~ 585.428.8325 ~ [ffrpl.org](http://ffrpl.org)

Fall 2020

Dear Library Patron,

I am writing to you today with a message of **thanks** and an invitation.

First, the thanks: we are **grateful to you** for being a devoted patron of the Library, especially in these challenging times. As Board President of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL), I am heartened to see the value our community places in its favorite libraries. And I'm proud to tell you how FFRPL helped the Central Library make a rapid shift – just before the pandemic shutdown began – [to provide and increase equitable ways for patrons to receive critical information and services remotely.](#)

Perhaps you or someone you know found comfort in **reading** and enjoying the Library's expanded collection of [online ebooks, audio books \(through Overdrive\), music and movies \(through hoopla\)](#) Others who rely on Library computers borrowed **mobile WiFi units** to connect to the internet at home and keep in touch with teachers, work, doctors and loved ones. Patrons received answers in real time using the [Live Chat Reference service](#). And people learned more about our country's history of racism from the newly curated [Understanding Black Experiences](#) online resources. **FFRPL helped fund all of these projects and services, thanks to the generous support of many donors who believe in the Library's mission.**

*We all pulled through this spring and summer together*, as the Library showed its resiliency and remained a stable, trusted source of information and education for everyone in our community, even while our buildings were closed.

Second, the invitation: we invite you, as a valued patron of our vital and essential community institution, to add to this impact by supporting [FFRPL's Annual Campaign for the Library](#).

We already know how much more all our favorite libraries will be asked to do in the coming year, as students will be continuing to learn from home, the unemployed will seek job information, entrepreneurs will benefit from the specialized databases in the Downtown Library's [Carlson Center for Intellectual Property](#), and many parents will increasingly need to provide literary materials to their kids, especially families with young children who participate in the [Library's 'Raising a Reader' program](#).

As government and municipal funding is limited, community-centered support through FFRPL remains even more important. **For years, FFRPL has helped fund all of these Library services and much more, and we anticipate a significant increase in our role in the months ahead.**

Your gift to FFRPL will be an investment in our community's ability to provide accurate and engaging information along with reliable services to help us all face the months ahead. **It is with this eye to the future that we ask you to support [FFRPL's 2020-21 Annual Campaign for the Library](#).** Please give generously – and thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Richard L. Hamilton

Board President, Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

**P.S. For whatever amount you can give, we thank you!**

**P.P.S. Did *reading* help you get through the past six months? [Tell us how, and what you enjoyed reading here](#). Thanks again!**