



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

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

March 2021

Dear Library Supporter,

Welcome back! As we look forward to the brighter days of spring, we are excited to see you again now that libraries are starting to reopen to the public. (Please visit [RocCityLibrary.org](http://RocCityLibrary.org) for updated Central and branch hours and safety guidelines.)

Thank you again for your past support, which helped the Library serve the public with many online and alternative programs and services throughout the past year.

One thing we have all learned from the pandemic is to truly value what helps us get through the hard times. Perhaps you enjoyed the pleasures of reading a good book, having an online visit with family or teaching yourself something new. The Library's curbside assistance, online chat service, mobile internet units for loan and online programs made it possible for patrons to have these necessities – some called them 'lifesavers' – to keep their lives in balance.

Children could switch to online learning at home, adults could work at their jobs remotely, youth could keep in touch with their mentors, and businesses could get market research reports to keep afloat. That these services are provided to all patrons at no cost demonstrates the Library's vital role in helping our community emerge from the pandemic with stronger and more equitable opportunities for education, jobs and vibrant neighborhoods.

In the past year, FFRPL has provided more than \$100,000 to the Library for unexpected pandemic-related expenses, such as increased digital resources and enhanced measures to ensure patron and Library staff safety. In addition to those special requests, we expanded program audiences for *Books Sandwiched In* and *Tuesday Topics*, which featured the writings and voices of marginalized groups in our community. The *Sokol High School Literary Awards* remain committed to recognizing the best in area high school poetry and prose. And Library exhibitions continued with socially distanced tours and accompanying online programming. (For more details, please read our Annual Report at [FFRPL.org](http://FFRPL.org).)

The Library relies on FFRPL for these and other crucial enhancements not covered by its municipal budget, but we cannot meet these urgent requests for the Library without your support. Thanks to generous donors like you and sound investment strategies, we can focus on long-term sustainability to help the Library continue its critical work in our community. That is why **we invite you, as a valued donor, to increase your impact by supporting FFRPL's 2020-21 Annual Campaign for the Library** at an equal or higher level than you have in the past.

Keep well, enjoy the promise of spring, and thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Richard L. Hamilton

Board President, Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

P.S. Although we will not be able to hold our HUGE Used Book Sale this spring, you can find your perfect used book and support the Library & FFRPL **right now** through our online book sales. Shop at [ffrpl.org/sales/book-sales/](http://ffrpl.org/sales/book-sales/)