



Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

115 South Avenue ~ Rochester, NY 14604 ~ 585.428.8325 ~ ffrpl.org

Fall 2023

Dear Library Supporter

In 1929, William Yust, the first director of the Rochester Public Library, wrote: "it is the business of the public library to . . . make possible education for adults at home through life. That is what makes our Public Library in a very real sense the People's University."

This mission to enable self-education is still a vital part of the library today for all ages.

Access to materials and programs that the library offers is essential for our patrons. **We are so grateful for your past generosity to the library that allows our community libraries to be a crucial part of this access.** Library staff know their patrons and provide services that can be most useful to them. That is why I invite you, a **cherished supporter** of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL), to be a part of our annual campaign to **continue building a better tomorrow through literacy and knowledge.**

Throughout the library's storied history, several community libraries have stood the test of time. Arnett Branch library celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. From the moment its doors first swung open for a neighborhood dance in 1923, it has served as a vital resource for individuals of all ages, ensuring that knowledge and learning are within reach of every member of our diverse community, and each person feels safe and welcome within its walls.

One of our valued patrons, Susan Morehouse, shared her experience of one of our community libraries with us: "Arnett Branch Public Library became for our children a wonderful extension of their own living room and bookshelves. All four became avid readers at a young age and frequented the library multiple times a week, participating in the programs, reading countless books, doing the crafts, and enjoying being known and loved by the staff. It was and is a safe and fun place to go. Now, our eight grandchildren enjoy visiting when they are in town-the art on the walls, checking out books and movies on my card and participating in story time. We are so grateful to have this key library in the center of our community! It is a gift!"

Arnett serves as a central hub within the community, fostering connections through music, events, and social gatherings. It acts as a focal point for neighbors and friends to come together, while also actively engaging with the community through outreach efforts such as farm markets, school events, and block parties.

The dedicated staff and volunteers assist patrons in self-education by providing computer navigation help, reading and story-time activities for children, nutrition programs catered to adults and much more.



Thank you for your unwavering support which enables the library to continue expanding the resources and programs that facilitate self-education. By investing in our libraries, you are investing in the intellectual growth and personal development of our community. Your contributions enable individuals to access the tools and opportunities they need to take ownership of their educational paths and unlock their full potential.

Your **generous contribution**, no matter the size, **will directly impact the lives of individuals and families in our community**. With your support, we can expand our reach, improve services, and empower even more people through literacy and knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Justin Stevens

FFRPL Board President

P.S. We are immensely grateful for your support. Please know that you can donate through various methods: check, credit card, online, stock, IRA charitable distributions or Donor-advised Fund. Thank you again for making a difference!