

# FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

## – Fall 2023 Issue –

# DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY'S INNOVATIVE OUTREACH BOOTH BRIDGING COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH LITERACY

The Decorah Public Library's Outreach Booth is a compelling and innovative initiative that has seamlessly intertwined the love for reading and community engagement. Funded by the Friends of Decorah Public Library and the Winneshiek County Community Foundation, this project exemplifies a unique blend of literacy encouragement and community involvement, bringing the library's resources to the very fingertips of the public during numerous local events.

In 2021, DPL was awarded grant funding that paved the way for developing the Outreach Booth, ensuring that the library's crucial services could be made accessible at community gatherings. From the vibrant Kids Lunch Club to the interactive Touch-a-Truck event, the DPL Outreach Booth has marked its presence, fostering a culture of reading and learning beyond the library's walls.

The Outreach Booth is not merely a static symbol of the library at various events; it is a dynamic, interactive space where community members can explore and engage with the library's materials. Library staff can check out books and DVDs, enabling attendees to check out items that tie into community events. Moreover, individuals, irrespective of age, can sign up for library cards on the spot, ensuring that the library's resources are



always within the community's reach. Events like Meet the Teacher Night, Earth Day Celebrations, and Decorah Pride have witnessed the vibrant energy and accessibility of the DPL Outreach Booth. Not only does it enable the library to embed itself within a variety of community events, but it also allows community members to witness the enthusiasm and commitment of DPL towards building relationships within the community.

In essence, the DPL Outreach Booth has transformed the conventional concept of a library from a storehouse of books and information to a movable, dynamic entity that seamlessly blends into the community.

Through this innovative endeavor, Decorah Public Library affirms its commitment to being not just a passive source of knowledge and entertainment, but an active, outreach-driven entity, ready to meet residents where they are, ensuring learning and fun are celebrated in every nook and corner of the community.



# Sophie Nall Selected as Children's and Young Adult Librarian

In early September, Decorah Public Library staff welcomed Sophie Nall as the new Children's and Young Adult Librarian at the Decorah Public Library.

From a very early age, with encouragement from her parents, she and her three younger brothers enjoyed frequent visits to local libraries and participating in summer programs near her home in Minneapolis and their family's resort near Ely, MN. During these years, she also gained valuable experiences as a young volunteer in many community-based programs for children and young adults.

As a student at Luther College, Sophie majored in English and Theater and was a member of college choirs and theater and dance productions. In recent years, she has been actively involved in programs for children and young adults hosted by the Decorah Public Library and ArtHaus.

As a new member of the Decorah Public Library team, Sophie is looking forward to working with her colleagues to build upon the long-standing tradition of offering outstanding programs for area children and their families. She is already working on exciting and innovative future programs. Be sure to check upcoming program announcements in local media, [decorahlibrary.org](http://decorahlibrary.org), and the Decorah Public Library Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Sophie Nall may also be reached at [snall@decorahlibrary.org](mailto:snall@decorahlibrary.org) or (563) 382-3717.



## Welcome Pat Downs to Friends of DPL

The Friends of Decorah Public Library Board welcomes new board member Pat Downs! Pat and her husband Roger have lived in this area since 1974 and in Decorah since 1981. She taught drama, speech, composition, reading, and English for 36 years, the last 20 of which were at South Winneshiek High School.

Pat is an avid reader, participates in library book groups, and brings her grandchildren to the library when they're visiting. Our beautiful historic library is one of the first places Pat and Roger visited when they came to town.

Pat is also an active volunteer in the community and has worked with Habitat for Humanity in both Winneshiek County and South Africa. She also volunteers at The Depot Outlet and as a guide at Vesterheim Museum. Pat says she loves the Decorah Public Library and is excited to be a part of the Friends of DPL Board!

# PULPIT TO PULPIT 5K RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>



This year's Pulpit to Pulpit 5K timed run and 1(ish) mile walk for families and dogs included over 260 participants (not counting dogs). This family and dog friendly event, hosted and sponsored by Pulpit Rock Brewing Co. and co-sponsored by many Decorah area businesses and non-profit organizations, raised funds, which were awarded to the Decorah Public Library and the Decorah Free Clinic.

*Friends President Karla Brown (second from right) accepts a check from P2P event organizers in the amount of \$3,758 (photo by Nick Chill).*

**This past summer, library users of all ages were wowed at large family programs and entertained at small events - all thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Decorah Public Library. We hosted over 2800 attendees at 39 programs.**

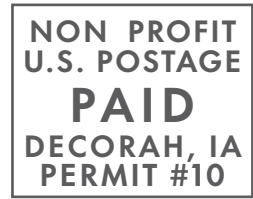


**FIND YOUR VOICE  
DPL | SUMMER 2023**





**Friends of Decorah  
Public Library**  
202 Winnebago ST  
Decorah, IA 52101



**FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library  
2023-2024 Board Members**

President: Karla Brown  
 Vice President: Alan Ellickson  
 Treasurer: Carolyn Mottley  
 Friends Board Liaison: Cynthia Peterson  
 Pat Downs  
 Kirstie Bower  
 Sue Luzum  
 Tom Murray  
 Elise Skellenger  
 Past President, Ex Officio: Jane Kemp  
 Library Board Liaison: Cheryl Pellett

[decorahfriends@gmail.com](mailto:decorahfriends@gmail.com)

***For details about upcoming programs or to see pictures from recent events, like Decorah Public Library on Facebook!***

**FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library — Fall 2023**

# FRIENDS of the Library Membership Form



Name

Address

City  State  Zipcode  Phone

Email

Student / Senior \$5

Individual \$10

Family \$25

Supporter \$50

Patron \$100

Other \$

*I want to receive emails from Friends of DPL*

*Check here if this is a business donation*

You may also **donate online** by visiting us at [decorahlibrary.org](http://decorahlibrary.org) and clicking "Friends of DPL"

Please make checks payable to:  
*Friends of  
Decorah Public Library*

Send to:  
*Friends of Decorah Public Library  
202 Winnebago St  
Decorah, IA 52101*

Contributions are tax-deductable to the extent permitted by law