



# The Giving Story

Growing up, Dave Bright used to take the bus to visit his dad at work. He'd then pass the time until his dad drove them home by exploring downtown Iowa City. Most of his explorations ended at the Iowa City Public Library, then located in the Carnegie building, 212 South Linn St.

"It was always open and always welcoming," Bright said.

In time, his face became so familiar to the staff, he was greeted by name. They'd ask his opinion about the last book he read and share recommendations for future reads. It's a memory he treasures, one he was thrilled to pass on to his own children.

Family visits to the Library are a tradition for Bright, his wife Heather, and their three children: Piper, Truman and Sullivan. They've planned visits around specific programs, taken advantage of the Library's location to seek shelter during a sudden downpour, and of the staff's extensive knowledge to find new books that fit their children's interests.

"The Library is a place that's mattered to me my whole life," Bright said.

That's why he joined the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation Board of Directors in 2014. Currently the board's vice president, he'll begin his second three-year term in 2018. Bright is one of 17 board members who work with staff in the Library's Development Office to fundraise for the Library. Since the Friends Foundation was created 25 years ago, dozens of community volunteers have added an average of a quarter of a million dollars every year to the Library's coffers.

*"The Library is a place that's mattered to me my whole life."* - Dave Bright



## Volunteer Spotlight: Ben Batzer

Ben Batzer recently received a certificate celebrating one year of volunteer service with the Iowa City Public Library.

"I thought, 'Wow; that went fast,'" he laughed. Time truly does fly when you're having fun.

Batzer has spent every Friday morning sorting book donations for The Book End and making sure the shelves of the used book store are stocked for business for more than a year. This is in addition to his responsibilities at the University of Iowa, where he's both a student and a teacher.

Batzer, 25, is pursuing his PhD in English, and said it makes sense that he sees libraries as his home away from home.

"I joke with my students that I'm a professional reader of books," he said. Growing up in St. Louis, MO, Batzer's earliest library memory is the St. Louis County Bookmobile that visited his elementary school every other week. That and the pride he felt when he received his first library card.

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Library Director Susan Craig calls the impact of those donations tremendous.

“Picture every sixth book gone from the shelves—that could happen without the additional funding from donors to the Friends Foundation. We wouldn’t be able to give a book prize to the thousands of people who finish our summer reading program every year,” Craig said. “The Bookmobile, remodeling spaces to keep up with current technology and community needs, and having extra copies when popular books are published so readers don’t have to wait six months to read them, are just a few examples of how fundraising makes a difference for ICPL.”

As a board member, Bright said he gets to be part of the plans to improve the Library for everyone. This includes planning fundraisers and allocating funds for programs. It’s a way to continue his involvement with ICPL, but in a way that goes beyond patron and donor – though he happily embraces all titles.

Patty McCarthy, Development Director, says Friends Foundation board members excel at creative and unique ways to convince people to support ICPL. “Through the years, it’s been wonderful to see their commitment in action. Whether asking their book club to pass the hat to thank ICPL for providing book kits, or convincing five other families to eat at a local restaurant because the owner is willing to donate some of its daily income to ICPL, or inviting friends to come with them to our signature “Looking Forward” event in the spring, they are willing to help.”

“The Library is something that’s been given to us, a resource we use,” Bright said. “I think it is important people know that even though it is part of the City of Iowa City, that funding doesn’t cover everything.”

Additional funding streams are necessary for unique programs, collection purchases, and building improvements. Bright said his family regularly gives to the ICPL Friends Foundation because they support the Library and its mission, but also because they benefit from its continuous evolution. When he was his children’s ages, there wasn’t the technology which is now available in the Ellen Buchanan Children’s Room. That wasn’t what patrons wanted then, but they do now and ICPL responded.

Still, he added, adapting to changing times hasn’t diminished the Library’s fundamental principles. For every new program or unique service, the love of books and of making information accessible to all remains.

“The Library is something everyone can rely on,” Bright said. “It’s open to everyone. More important, it’s one of those things you’ll use your whole life.”



*The second floor Computer Lab will close for renovations in late November and reopen in late February. Regularly scheduled activities will be temporarily relocated or cancelled during that time. Check the event calendar for details.*

“As a kid, you see all the cards your parents have in their wallets. When I got one of my own, I felt so official,” he said. That rush of responsibility has evolved into a feeling of responsibility and accountability towards public libraries on multiple levels: taxpayer, patron, volunteer.

“Education, not just formal education but the access to knowledge and the access to learning, is one of the keystones to a good community,” Batzer said. “There’s no way the worth of the library could ever be overrated because it means so much to the community.”

As a volunteer, he feels he’s contributing to that sense of community, using his time at ICPL to step out of his personal bubble. “It would be easy to spend my Friday mornings at home,” he said. “I like volunteering because it gets me in a reality beyond my own.”

That generosity is also true for the other 48 Book End volunteers. Most volunteer as sales clerks at the store, and their contribution enables the store to be open seven days a week during many of the Library’s hours.

“Ben and the other Book End volunteers are vital to the success for the ICPL Friends Foundation,” said Patty McCarthy, ICPL Development Director. “Their efforts raised more than \$33,000 last year from sales of thousands of donated books, CDs, movies, and even occasional art work. That’s amazing considering children’s books are priced at just 25 cents.”

And, as a “professional reader,” Batzer enjoys sorting through the book donations, and analyzing the reading trends of the donors. Sometimes they give him ideas for what he should read next. “I love libraries,” he said. “They’re for the public and they’re supported by the public. I just think they’re phenomenal.”



WESLEY BEARY  
President, ICPL Friends Foundation  
Board of Directors

Dear ICPL Friends,

I strive to never truly grow up, because nothing beats the curiosity, wonder, and joy of children.

Where do you go to feed curiosity, wonder, and joy? If you’re like me that nourishment comes from frequent ICPL visits. It is my one stop shop for learning, entertainment, and expanding horizons.

Speaking of expansion, I am always amazed at all of our library’s materials, services, and programs. Just this year, support from donors like you allowed us to add a bookmobile! From playgrounds to retirement homes, the bookmobile drastically increases ICPL access to the young (and young at heart) throughout our community.

As a child, my summers were also highlighted by weekly library visits when I checked out as many books as my library card would allow. As an adult moving to Iowa City, the library once again became an oasis for my numerous, frequently shifting interests. Where else could I explore such diverse art, books, games, graphic novels, movies, and programs!

This is why I am writing you today. Our library is excellent but it won’t stay that way without your support. If you give now, you will support the evolution of the library as it connects, engages, and enriches our community.

Every gift makes a difference. Please donate generously with the enclosed envelope or online at [icpl.org/about/donate](http://icpl.org/about/donate). Your donations support our library’s ongoing excellence.

Thank you for your patronage and support!

With gratitude,



Wesley Beary  
President, ICPL Friends Foundation Board of Directors

P.S. Please give today to support the child in all of us.



# Making a Difference for the Iowa City Public Library

Thank you to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for their financial contributions to the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation received July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for Fiscal Year 2017. If you have a question, please contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, [patty-mccarthy@icpl.org](mailto:patty-mccarthy@icpl.org)

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Joel and Cathy Wilcox  
Charles Williams and Bonnie Rubin  
Wetherill Winder  
Marilyn Wirtz  
Steve and Sue Wolken  
James and Rosemary Yardley

#### **TRIBUTES**

**Gifts were received to honor the following:**

John and Rhonda Barr  
Connie Brothers  
Ellen Buchanan  
Mary Rita Burns  
Andrew Chappell  
Karen Chappell  
Virginia Clemons  
Ellie Densen  
Henry Ehrdahl  
Lolly Eggers  
Karlen Fellows  
Hannah's House Playschool  
Melanie Hauptert  
Josie Hermiston  
Maya Hermiston  
Robyn Hermiston  
Dennis Hughes  
Susanne Humphreys  
Susan Judisch  
Marian Karr  
Mary Lea Kruse

Julie and Kevin Monson  
Donald Parrish  
Beth Simpson  
Eldon Snyder  
Barbara Stehbens  
Joyce Summerwill  
Joyce and Dick Summerwill  
A.K. Traw  
Kathryn Wallace  
Nicole Weinert  
Mary Westbrook  
Jean Whiting  
Dawn Wiand  
Pam Willard

#### **These lives were celebrated with memorial gifts:**

All on the Vietnam Memorial Wall  
Betty Beasley  
Charles and JoAnne Bullock  
Maryellen Cazanias  
John Dane  
Robert Eldridge  
Mary Gantz  
Linda Jordan  
Tracy Taylor McBurney  
Nicholas  
Paul McDonald  
Dottie Ray  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Schlachter  
Theresa Semel  
John Sjoberg  
Amy Smothers  
Elizabeth Stromquist  
Sheri Dawn Thomas  
Joseph Szterics  
Richard Thomson  
Kelly Traw  
Judy and David Van Hecke  
Cathy Weingeist  
Jonathan Wieseler  
Roger D. Williams  
David Yerkes

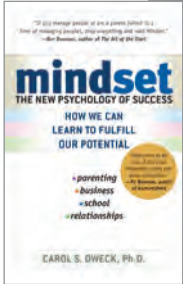
#### **Gifts In Kind**

Wayne Anderson  
Aspen Leaf Frozen Yogurt  
Blank Park Zoo  
Gary Bosencier  
Joseph Brisben  
Bruegger's Bagels  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Eric Christiansen  
Anne Cremer  
James Curtis  
Barbara DeGood  
Peter Deison  
Joseph Dobrian  
Karolyne Eckles  
Bruce Fouke  
Taera Harman  
Jenna Hartz  
Jim Hayes  
John Heck  
M.C. Hernandez  
The Iowa Children's Museum  
Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature  
Java House/Heirloom Salad Company  
Phillip Jones  
Kate Kasten  
KCJJ - 1630 AM  
Katharine Kenah  
KXIC - 800 AM  
Iowa City Parks & Recreation  
Department  
Little Village  
Linzee Kull McCray  
McDonalds  
Dimitra Mihalopoulos  
Anthony Panzardi  
Pepperjax Grill  
Pizza Ranch  
Judy Polumbaum  
Julie Pulkrabek Law  
Bridgid Ruden  
Bob Stein  
Steiner Books  
Veterans for Peace  
Walmart  
Mary Kathryn Wallace  
Westdale Bowling Center & Lazer Tag  
Z'Mariks Noodle Café





WESLEY



*Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*  
by Carol S. Dweck

"Great insights into learning and empowering others to learn!"



SUSAN

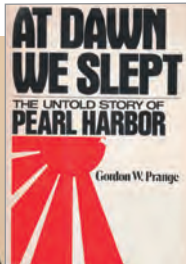


*Jewelweed*  
by David Rhodes

"This is a sequel to one of my favorite All Iowa Reads books, *Driftless*. It carries on the story of the people of Words, a small town in Wisconsin. I love it when you like the sequel as much, or more, than the original!"



DAVE



*At Dawn We Slept*  
by Gordon W. Prange

"It is an incredibly detailed account of the background and planning of the attack on Pearl Harbor, as well as the attack itself. It is also written by a native Iowan, and a three time graduate of the UI!"

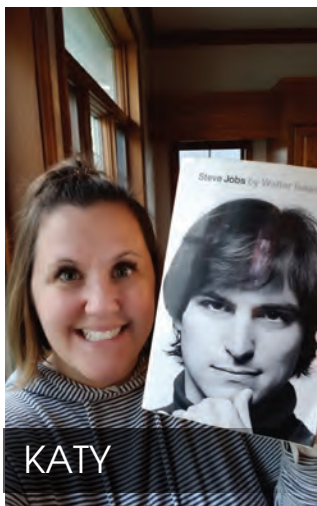
*Minds of Winter*  
by Ed O'Loughlin

"This historical novel is based upon Sir John Franklin's fateful 1845 expedition to find the Northwest Passage. The depictions of polar explorers—the men, conditions, and horrible fates—are accurate and stunning."



JULIE

In need of your next great read? We have suggestions for you!

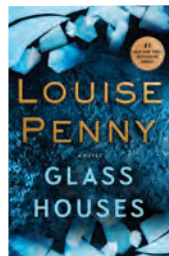


KATY



*Steve Jobs*  
by Walter Isaacson

"Steve Jobs gave author Walter Isaacson unprecedented access—and his blessing—to write this biography. It is a raw, first hand account of the genius business man that Jobs was, and his unrelenting quest for perfection. It is a long book, which takes patience and time to read, but it is worth every moment."



PATTY

*Glass Houses*  
by Louise Penny

"The latest in Penny's marvelous series. Armand Gamanche is the Canadian investigator. Finely drawn characters. Startling crimes. Surprises galore. Human nature described and displayed so very vibrantly that you will be thinking about this story long after you finish reading."

# From the Director: FY17 Annual Report Highlights

The word of the year was “Bookmobile” – planning, training and, finally, doing. Still, as big a project as rolling out the Bookmobile was, it’s just one component of what makes ICPL the busiest public library in Iowa. In the year ending June 30, 2017, more than 797,000 people entered the downtown building, an average of 235 people per hour.

## Programming

The Children’s Services staff hosted nearly 600 programs, which were attended by 27,871 people. Many of the newer program offerings are STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) related. We held our first-ever STEAM festival in May, building a replica “steam engine” in one of the meeting rooms, and offering booths, demonstrations, and programs in other spaces.

Our Autism Accessible Browsing Hour received national attention. This program is repeated every other month. We open an hour early on Saturdays to serve those on the autism spectrum.

Speaking of extended hours, the Iowa City Downtown District threw a block party in late June and we were part of it – with about 30,000 other people. We extended our Saturday hours to stay open until 10 p.m. Regular Library services were available, as well a video game tournament and a fundraising scavenger hunt.

## Collections and Technology

The use of electronic downloaded materials continues to grow. Of the 1.3 million items circulated in FY17, digital materials accounted for 12.8 percent of adult items and 2.1 percent of children’s.

We began circulating Wi-Fi Hotspots this year, a service that has been very popular. We also introduced the My-ICPL mobile app which allows patrons to conveniently access and manage their accounts, search the catalog, add events to a personal calendar, and contact the Library.

## Friends Foundation 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The ICPL Friends Foundation’s donations make a difference every day in our ability to serve so many people and offer up-to-date collections, cutting edge programs and services in a building that is designed to best serve the community. Thank you to everyone who has given to the Friends Foundation in the past.

Visit [icpl.org/about/annual-report](http://icpl.org/about/annual-report) to read the complete FY17 annual report.

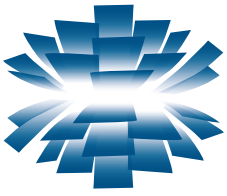
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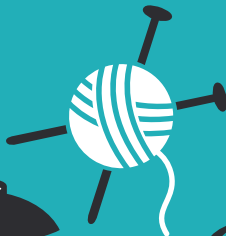
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