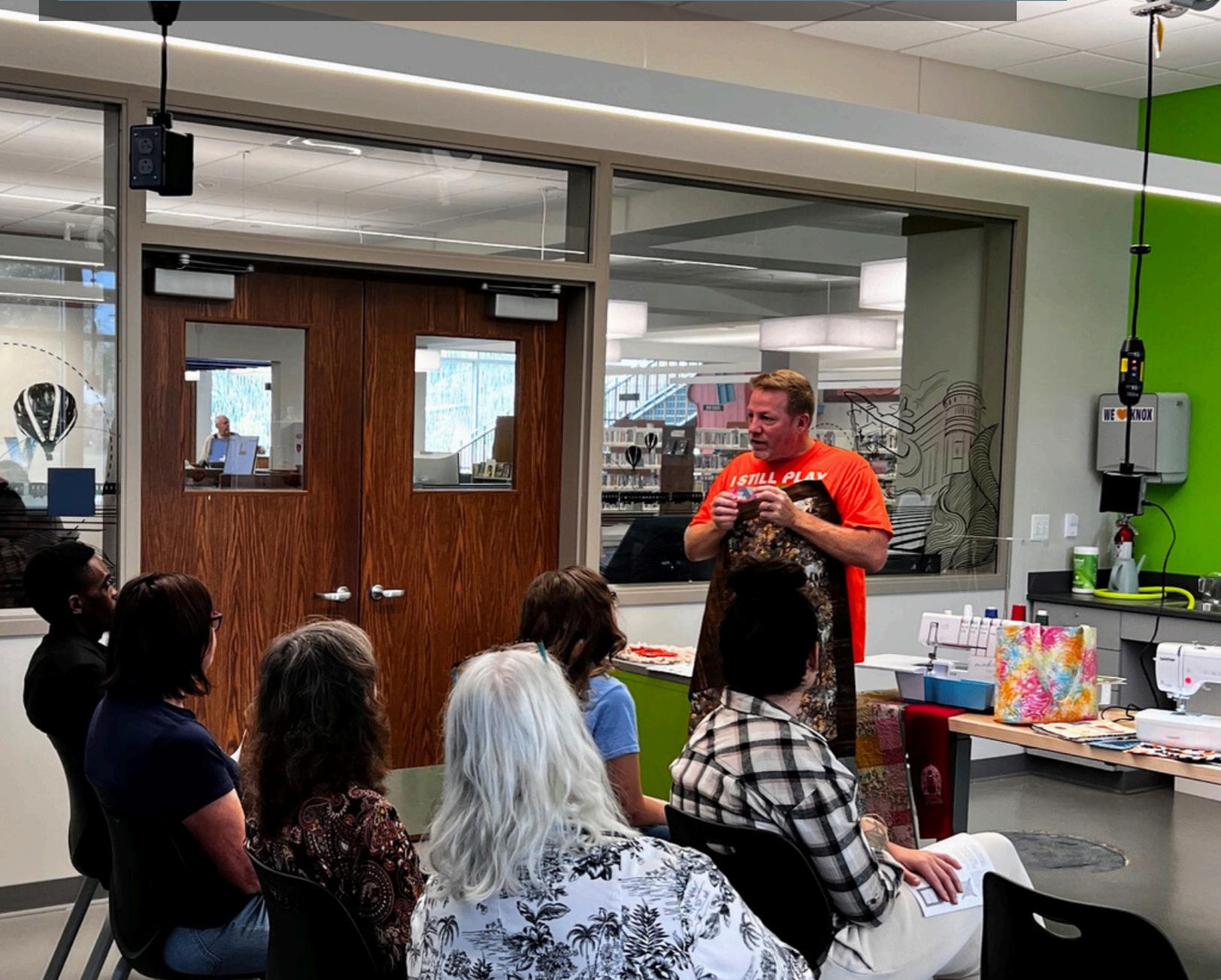


Investing in What Matters

Strengthening the future of the Galesburg Public Library together.



2025 Impact Report
Made possible by community generosity



264 W Main St

309-343-6118

thegplf.org

A Message of Gratitude

In 2025, the Galesburg Public Library continued to thrive as a place where curiosity is welcomed, skills are built, and community comes together.

Because of You, in 2025...

Community support helped expand the library's collections, bring engaging programs and authors to Galesburg, preserve local history through digitization, and support literacy programs for young readers.

Throughout this report, you'll see how these investments helped strengthen the library's role as a place for learning, connection, and discovery.



“Libraries are awesome! I know that's not new news, but I just get excited every time I'm here!” – Anonymous Grandmother



Public funding keeps the library's doors open and essential services available to all.



Philanthropy helps the library grow.



Through community support, the library can expand collections, introduce new programs, strengthen learning spaces, and respond to emerging needs.



The Galesburg Public Library Foundation stewards that generosity with care—ensuring that today's gifts support the library now while also strengthening its future.



Because of you, the library is not only well-used, it is well-positioned for the future.

Donor-Powered Impact

Every program, collection, and community experience at the Galesburg Public Library is strengthened through the generosity of supporters who believe in the power of libraries. In 2025, community support helped expand resources, bring programs to life, preserve local history, and support learning opportunities for readers of all ages.



Investing in Readers

Expanding the Library's Collections

Community support helped expand the library's collections with early literacy kits, large print books, and book club bundles—ensuring more readers can find materials that meet their needs. In 2025, donor support helped add 72 items to the collection, strengthening access to books and learning tools across the community.



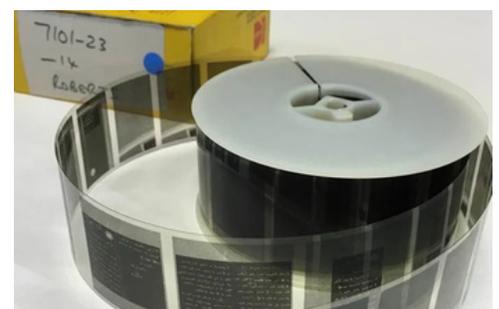
“My preschool-aged daughter loves the children's play area and getting books.” – Talbot Fisher

Investing in Local History

Preserving Community Stories

In 2025, donor support helped begin the digitization of 31 microfilm reels of historic Galesburg newspapers, including the *Free Democrat*, *Galesburg Register*, and *Galesburg Republican Register* dating from 1854–1915.

These fragile records are being preserved and digitized so they can be safely protected while also becoming easier for the community to explore. Once uploaded to the library's microfilm website, patrons will be able to access these historic newspapers from home for the first time.



Investing in Shared Experiences

Bringing Programs to Life

Support from the community helped bring authors, performers, and Summer Reading programs to the library in 2025. These events created opportunities for families and readers of all ages to gather, learn, and experience stories together.



“We love the free programs for the children. Educational and fun!!”

Investing in Young Readers

Encouraging a Love of Reading

Programs such as Twenty to Try, Reading Buddies, and PageTurners help children explore books, build confidence as readers, and discover the joy of reading. These experiences help nurture the next generation of lifelong learners.



Investing in the Library Itself

Tools That Support the Library

Some of the Foundation’s support happens behind the scenes. Donor support helped provide tools such as digital signage, microphones for programs, security equipment, and a book sanitizer, helping to keep the library welcoming, functional, and ready to serve the community.



Stewardship & Financial Snapshot

Every gift entrusted to the Galesburg Public Library Foundation is managed with care and purpose.



GALESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Your Impact in 2025

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
RAISED

\$131,583.70

PROGRAMS
SUPPORTED

14

ITEMS ADDED
TO THE
COLLECTION

72

Our Stewardship Commitments

- Thoughtful investment aligned with community needs
- Long-term planning for stability and resilience
- Transparency and responsible governance
- Respect for donor intent

Strong stewardship ensures that generosity today continues to benefit the community for tomorrow.

“The Galesburg Public Library is one of the most immaculate libraries I've been privileged to encounter. Very useful knowledge center.”

Our Donor Community

The People Behind the Impact*

Support for the Galesburg Public Library comes from a community of individuals, families, businesses, and partners who believe in the power of libraries to strengthen learning, creativity, and connection.

In 2025, donors supported the library through annual gifts, monthly contributions, sponsorships, and ongoing pledge commitments. Together, these supporters help expand programs, strengthen collections, and create new opportunities for learning across our community.

Many donors also continue fulfilling pledge commitments from the library's Capital Campaign, ensuring that the vision for a vibrant, modern library remains strong and sustainable.

“I am proud of the library and what you are doing for the people of Galesburg and the world.” – Michael Leo Morrison, Author

Ways Our Donors Support the Library

Carnegie Society

Leadership supporters whose cumulative annual gifts of \$1,000 or more help the Foundation invest strategically in programs, collections, and opportunities that strengthen the library's impact.

Legacy Builders

Monthly donors whose steady support provides reliable funding that helps sustain library programs and initiatives throughout the year.

Capital Campaign Partners

Supporters who continue fulfilling pledges from the library's transformational Capital Campaign, helping ensure the long-term success of the community's investment in a new library.

Annual Supporters & Community Partners

Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations whose gifts support programs, collections, and initiatives that enrich the library experience for our entire community.

*A full list of supporters can be found at thegplf.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Executive Director's Letter



As we move further into 2026, the Foundation is building on the momentum of the past year with a renewed focus on expanding access to learning and strengthening the library's role throughout our community.

Through our Access for All initiative, we are working to bring the library beyond its walls—expanding outreach and developing pop-up library experiences that connect with people where they live, learn, and gather.

This work is already taking shape through expanded community partnerships with organizations such as All Star Sports Academy, the Galesburg Housing Authority, and the Galesburg Parks & Recreation Department, creating new opportunities to reach families, students, and neighbors across the community.

We are also supporting innovative programs that bring stories and creativity to life, including Books in the Burg, the Teen Movie Project, and our sponsorship of the Community Read this spring—initiatives designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and conversation.

At the same time, the Foundation remains committed to the long-term sustainability of the library. Through thoughtful stewardship, endowment growth, and legacy giving, we are working to ensure that the library continues to serve future generations.

Your continued partnership makes this work possible.

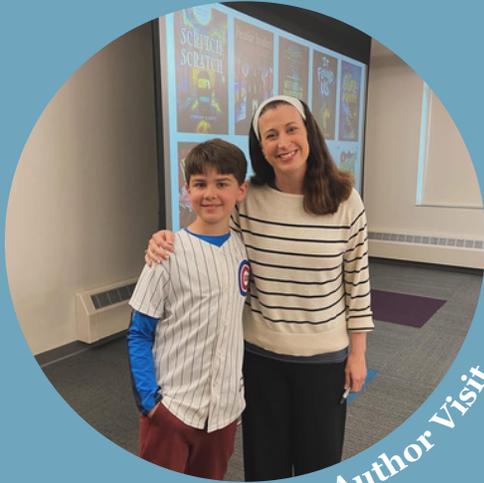
Because of you, the Galesburg Public Library remains a place where curiosity is welcomed, skills are built, and community comes together—and we are grateful to build that future with you.



Heather Sipes

Heather Sipes
Executive Director

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!



Author Visit



Summer Reading



Summer Reading



Pageturners Book Club for kids



Virtual Reality



Arduino Circuit Kits



OzObots



Summer Reading



Book Sanitizer



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Galesburg, IL 61401

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