

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — June 2026

Christy Jones Wins 2026 Outstanding Friend Award

Christy Jones from Friends of Frankfort City Library has been honored with the Outstanding Friend Award for 2026.

Christy was nominated in honor of her unwavering dedication, exceptional volunteer service, and genuine passion for supporting library programs.

Director Charlene Hedges said Christy has contributed countless volunteer hours, always stepping forward without hesitation whenever help is needed, and devoting a great deal of time to program preparation and behind-the-scenes work that has strengthened the quality and reach of the library's youth, family and adult programs.



The community also appreciates Christy for being a dependable, enthusiastic presence, and for the leadership role she took in revitalizing the Frankfort City Library Friends group.

Christy received a \$50 cash award given to the Friends of the Frankfort City Library.

Friends of Towanda Wins 2026 Outstanding Friends Group Award

Friends of the Towanda Public Library has been honored with an Outstanding Friend Group Award for 2026.

The group was honored for their collaborative work in promoting library services and community events, including the Downtown Christmas event, Easter egg hunt, and trunk or treat. The group has also helped establish a puzzle night, book club, and author events at the library.



The Friends were also recognized for their financial support to the library. The group has helped increase the library endowment fund, while also providing funds for the purchase of William Allen White books and sharing in the cost to clean the library carpets.

Friends of Towanda Public Library received a \$100 cash award from FoKL.



Challenge Grant Winners

Friends of Moore Family Library (Grinnell)



The newly formed Friends of Moore Family Library was awarded a \$222.55 challenge grant from FoKL. The group will use the grant monies to purchase speakers and an Apple TV that can be used for monthly outdoor movies at the library during summer months, and also for other programs. The group is eager to launch their first membership drive, and through these and other events, hope to be able to financially assist the library with much needed building updates and additional successful programs.



Friends of Frankfort City Library

Friends of the Frankfort City Library has been awarded a \$500 FoKL challenge grant. The funding will support an expansion of the library's collection of Wonderbooks by adding new titles in the Junior Nonfiction genre. Last year the Friends received a grant to purchase junior fiction Wonderbooks, and the community response was remarkable, with requests and checkouts increasing dramatically. Building on that success, the Friends group will once again collaborate closely with the library to expand access to these high-demand early literacy materials.



Challenge Grant Winners Continued

Friends of the Burlingame Library

The Friends of the Burlingame Library received a \$500.00 challenge grant from FoKL.



The funds will provide support for a Geri-Fit wellness program designed for older adults in the community. Geri-Fit is an evidence-based strength training program created to improve mobility, balance, strength, and overall health for seniors. Classes will be offered at the library and will provide a safe, welcoming environment where participants can engage in guided exercise designed for aging bodies and varying ability levels.

The new program supports the library's mission of promoting lifelong learning, wellness, and community engagement.

Friends of Whitewater Memorial Library

Friends of Whitewater Memorial Library has been awarded a \$350 FoKL challenge grant in support of their library's All American summer reading program and celebration of the nation's 250th Anniversary.

A special program, "A Journey to the Iditarod," will dive into an interesting slice of American/Alaskan history, with Karen Land and her Alaskan Husky, Sophia, sharing the story of the Iditarod and their experiences racing in them. Karen is a writer, public speaker, and three-time Iditarod participant who has given talks throughout the nation. The Whitewater Friends are also supporting the library and summer theme through the sale of "All American Reader" t-shirts. FoKL board members Diana and Susie presented the challenge grant check at the Summer Kickoff Party on June 1.



Winfield Patio Project

Library patrons and staff of the Winfield Public Library are enjoying a recently completed Patio renovation, sponsored in part by a \$10,000 gift from the Friends of Winfield Public Library.

The newly refreshed Patio offers a welcoming outdoor space designed for community members to read, gather, work, play, engage with library programs, and connect. It includes a “story block” wall to playfully engage with early literacy skills, comfortable seating, WiFi and power access, and a screen for outdoor movies. A variety of games and activities are also available.

A Grand Opening event was held on Friday, April 24 featuring recognition of donors, remarks from Library Director Tabitha Hogan and Library Board President Kris Trimmer, as well as live music by Clayton Crawford and refreshments provided by the Friends group.

The photos below show the renovated space, including the library’s adult book club using the patio for their recent meeting (lots of Friends



First Friday Recap



FoKL’s May First Friday discussion focused on ways Friends can help their local libraries with Summer Reading programs.

Participants shared various examples of how Friends groups can contribute, including providing volunteers for events, offering financial support for prizes and incentives, and helping with logistics like food preparation and setup.

Susan Bryant shared her experience at the Morrill Public Library in Hiawatha where she organized the Kids Creative Workshop with help from Friends volunteers who led various creative programs for children throughout the summer. Other participants noted how Friends volunteers can provide support for hands-on activities with individual children, enabling staff to focus on the larger group.

Diana Weaver described how the Friends of Basehor Library provided funds for incentives for each age group, including a separate budget for Teens and Adults. The incentives were intended to encourage children and their caretakers to visit the Library during the summer. One incentive was a coupon for a free book from the Friends next book sale.

The discussion also highlighted examples from other libraries, including Winfield Public Library’s patio project and garden maintenance, demonstrating how Friends groups can support summer reading programs both directly and through facility improvements.

We also explored ways Friends groups support literacy beyond summer reading, including story walks, book donations to businesses, and adult reading programs.

Want to hear more? The recording of the session, like all of our First Friday sessions, can be found at <https://fokl.net/firstfriday>. We will not host First Friday in June and July, but we hope to see you when we return in August!

Friends of Salina Library

The Friends of the Salina Public Library are proud to announce the recipients of the 2026 Joe McKenzie Youth Scholarships. Named in honor of former Library Director Joe McKenzie, who retired in 2017 after 40 years of dedicated service, the scholarships recognize high school seniors who have volunteered in the library's Youth Services department and supported the Friends' used book sales. Scholarships are awarded annually to students who demonstrate exceptional service and commitment to the library.

Madison Givens, a senior at Southeast of Saline High School, has been awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and serves as Varsity Captain of Scholars Bowl. Madison is the Chapter President of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and serves as the Chapter President of the Art Club. She participates in Concert Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Science Club. She plans to attend Fort Hays State University to study Biological Chemistry. Madison is the daughter of Kyle and Leslie Givens.

Kristen Kinion, a senior at Salina South High School, has been awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. She is active in the Salina South Band, Scholars Bowl, Mathletes, Salina Municipal Band, and Salina Youth Symphony, and was a member of the KMEA NC District Honor Band during her junior and senior years. Kristen plans to attend Wichita State University. She is the daughter of Brian and Elizabeth Kinion.



Friends of Wichita Public Library Book Sale

A poster for a used book sale. The background is blue with a white torn-paper effect on the right side. On the right, several books are visible, including 'Life from Scratch' by Martin, 'When Life Gives You Lemmons' by Lauren Weisberger, and 'The People We Keep' by Tami S. The text on the poster reads: 'USED BOOK SALE', 'JULY 10 PREVIEW SALE - 5 TO 6:30 PM Limited to FWPL members. Memberships may be purchased at the event or at wichitalibraryfriends.org.', 'JULY 11 PUBLIC SALE - 10 AM TO 2 PM Buy a new FWPL bag for \$5 and fill it for another \$5. Or bring your used FWPL bag and fill it for \$5.', 'Advanced Learning Library 711 W 2nd Street - Wichita', and the Friends of Wichita Public Library logo.

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library (FWPL) organization has announced that the next sale of donated books will be held Saturday, July 11 from 10am-2pm at the Advanced Learning Library (711 W. 2nd Street). The event is open to the public and customers may either purchase an FWPL cloth tote bag and fill it for \$10 or bring a previously purchased FWPL bag (red, green, blue or purple with FWPL logo) and fill it for \$5. Library-themed 150th anniversary merchandise will also be available.

Paid members of FWPL may attend a special member-only preview book sale on Friday, July 10 at the Advanced Learning Library from 5-6:30pm. FWPL memberships range from \$15 to \$150 and can be purchased at the preview event. A membership application is also available online at wichitalibraryfriends.org/shop. Proceeds from the book sale will benefit the Wichita Public Library by helping to fund literacy initiatives, branch programs and author events.

Contact us!

Friends of Kansas Libraries
c/o NEKLS
4317 W 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66049

friendsofkansaslibraries@gmail.com

© 2026 Friends of Kansas Libraries.
All rights reserved.