



# FOOL's FORUM



A Newsletter by and for the Friends of the Oakmont Library

(affectionately known by the acronym "FOOL's")

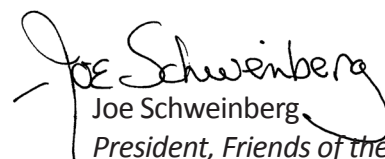
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You may recall our newsletter cover of 2021, where children were pictured remotely connected to the Oakmont Carnegie Library from their homes due to Covid health restrictions. It's now 2023 and, as the above image indicates, the children are back!!! So, this year we turn our attention to making their library room more "accessible and comfortable" as you will read inside. It was with your membership donations that we were able to provide new furniture and shelving for the children's area.

If you are a FOOL's member, we thank you for your past generous support. If not, please consider helping us with a tax-deductible donation to maintain the continued quality of the children and young adult programming at the Oakmont Carnegie Library.

  
Joe Schweinberg  
President, Friends of the Oakmont Library  
Serving Verona, and Oakmont



The Friends of the Oakmont Library are a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide financial assistance to the Oakmont Carnegie Library. This money is solely for children and young adult programming which the library could not otherwise afford out of their budget. Since 1992 we have raised almost \$120,000.00. This was accomplished by annual, tax deductible, membership donations through our newsletter, and the Friends of the Oakmont Library link on the Oakmont Library website.

*Thank you!*

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*We have made every effort to present the list of donors as accurately and completely as possible. If any errors have occurred, we apologize most sincerely.*



# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

It's the time of year when Oakmont Library looks back on our ongoing friendship with the Friends of the Library (FOOLs). In 2022 the FOOLs stepped up (again) and helped us with two big projects: our Maker Space and children's room furniture.

The Maker Space continues to grow, and the FOOLs helped us from the very beginning. During summer reading in 2022 we used the space for programming and teaching. This space gave us the opportunity to expand our creative programming and reach community members who were looking to try out a 3D printer or a Cricut. People have personalized mugs, created buttons for events and painted characters created in the 3D printer. Through all this the FOOLs supported the library.

The children's library has not had new furniture for decades. There are tables in that area that were from the original library (built in 1901). The tables were adult tables with the legs cut in half so that they were at a good height for children. We've replaced those tables with lighter tables and benches, sized for children. The older tables are being used in other parts of the library and the new furniture is more age appropriate. This year we've asked the FOOLs to help us purchase a mother/child workstation so that moms have a place to use a computer while their infants play right next to them.

This ongoing 31 year friendship with the FOOLs is all about how we can support our library users. Thanks to them, we've updated and improved library service to all of you!

*Beth Mellor*

*Director, Oakmont Carnegie Library*



**Café Tables and Chairs for Group Work Area**



**Alesis V-Mini - 25-Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller with 4 Backlit Sensitive Pads, 4 Assignable Encoders and Professional Software Suite Included**



**Small Book Display Carrels**



**Children's Benches**



**Large Book Display Carrels**

## THROUGH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**From the Children's Librarian at Oakmont Carnegie Library**

Thanks to generous donations from Riverview's Tenth Street Elementary Second Grade Read-a-Thon, The Friends of the Oakmont Library and the Oakmont United Methodist Women, the Oakmont Carnegie Library's Children's Department has been able to build a much-needed resource! We have been able to purchase materials for children and teens with dyslexia, visual impairment and for those experiencing visual literacy challenges. These materials include a juvenile large print collection, books written in dyslexic font, books on MP3, books on CD, WonderBooks for all reading levels, Vox early literacy books, and Launchpads.

WonderBooks and Vox books combine the print word with the spoken word through a ready-to-play audiobook attached. Launchpads offer literacy help through tablet-based learning at the child's own pace, and large print books can be paired with our MP3 and CD spoken materials if needed. We are so pleased to have the opportunity to have these powerful tools to engage all children who enter our building by helping everyone to develop the reading skills that they need to be successful in school and in life, regardless of their literacy and learning styles. We have been given the gift of responding to our community's needs through such wonderful generosity!

Thank you!  
Karen Crowell, Children's Librarian



# Let's go to the Heinz!!!

This summer we will be releasing our 2023 EXPERIENCE KITS. Each kit contains 4 free passes to a unique local history attraction and suggestions for other places of interest to the family. For this program we partner with the Heinz History Center, so that our community has access to these local historical sites.

So, pack up you family and set out on a historical adventure. We always have passes for the Heinz History Center and will be getting information on what other historical sites will be included in this year's programs.

Beth Mellor  
Oakmont Carnegie Library Director



**Friends of The Oakmont Library**  
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