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### **Friends group awards \$34,000 to Oshkosh Public Library**

Oct. 31, 2012 – The Friends of the Oshkosh Public Library have awarded more than \$34,000 in funding to the library for programs, collections and special events in 2012-13.

“Each year the Friends provide thousands of dollars in support of the library, making it possible for us to enhance the library environment, collections and services beyond levels that our regular budget supports,” says Library Director Jeff Gilderson-Duwe. “We greatly appreciate all that they do to help us achieve our goals and serve our community.”

The Friends raise funds for the library with their bi-monthly used book sales and through the Friends Gift Shop on the library’s first floor.

The most recognized initiative the Friends fund is the library’s annual Summer Reading Program. Originally designed to ensure that younger children continued to read during the summer break from school, the program has expanded over the years to offer incentives, activities and events for teens and adults as well.

Friends funding also helps to enhance the library building and create a more welcoming environment for library users. Over the last few years the Friends have purchased furniture for both the lower level children’s department and the OurSpace teen area on the library’s first floor. The Friends also purchased up-to-date display shelving for adult books that better showcase new titles and highlight popular materials.

Programming and special events for children and teens, such as the annual party for Dr. Seuss’s birthday, author visits and the Teen Book Club, also are supported by the Friends. The group allocated money to fund the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the library lions in October and will co-sponsor a new literary conference coming to Oshkosh in 2013.

The Friends are funding the library’s new eNewsletter and will purchase additional eReaders - loaded with a variety of eBooks - that the public can check out. “We’re happy to be able to help cover some of the costs of existing programs,” says Friends President Brenda Reese. “It’s also exciting to have an opportunity to support new services and programs that help the library keep up with the changing needs of their customers.”

Anyone interested in joining the Friends or learning more about the work they do in support of the library should visit [www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org](http://www.oshkoshpubliclibrary.org) or call Dana Stolley, Coordinator of Volunteers, at 236-5206.

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