



Dear Friends,

Happy 2021 and thank you for all your continued support and contributions to the Friends of the Kent County Public Library through the difficult times of 2020.

Last year we were not able to host any book sales due to COVID-19. Even without the funds raised from the spring and fall sales your membership support of the Friends enabled us to fund the new floor in the hallway, contribute \$10,000 toward the successful completion of Project 2020 (renovation of the Library), and funded library programs and materials through a \$10,000 direct budget grant. We were also able to help complete full funding of the Imagination Library program through the Kent County Local Management board, which assures all preschoolers in Kent County who sign up will receive a book each month of the year at no cost to them (400 children were served this year). During the pandemic when the library was forced to be closed to the public for much of the year, this last program was even more essential to early childhood development since those books were distributed through the mail to kids in our county. All of this was made possible by your generosity.

In September, we held a successful book donation that brought in 9,000 books, boxes of CDs, records, DVDs, and other donations that will be ready for our next book sale. Though we do not know when our next sale can be held, we will have one as soon as it is safe to do so, and look forward to seeing all of you.

In November 2020, we bid farewell to Director Jackie Adams who retired in December. Thank you Jackie for all your hard work and dedication to our library and our community. On January 4th, 2021 we welcomed the new Library Director, Arnessa Dowell. We are excited and eager to work with her and her staff and eager for all the great things to come at our community library.

We invite you to renew your memberships for 2021 and if possible increase your gift as we help support our library, its staff, and programs in times that continue to be tough and trying. More than ever we need your help, and by renewing your membership, or joining the Friends, you can help us continue to support programs and services available to everyone.

Please consider joining us in sustaining our great tradition!

Sincerely,

Owen Bailey
Secretary, Friends of the Kent County Public Library