



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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(L-R: Brewers' Shortstop Willy Adames, Brewers Foundation Executive Director Cecelia Gore, Library Education and Outreach Public Service Area Manager Kelly Wochinske, Library Foundation Deputy Director Sam McGovern-Rowan, Foundation Director Ryan Daniels, Library Director Joan Johnson and Mayor Cavalier Johnson)

Brewers Community Foundation Commits \$40,000 Toward Library's Summer Reading Program

The Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation, with support from Brewers' shortstop Willy Adames, presented \$40,000 to the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation to support the library's Summer Reading Program. The funds were presented at a pre-game event held on American Family Field.

"The Summer Reading Program provides children with access to books and structured summer reading experiences," notes Mayor Johnson. "This program reaches children at their neighborhood MPL branch and through the outreach that occurs at child care centers and at summer recreation and learning sites so that

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Milwaukee Public Library

everyone can participate. It's another great summer activity in a city that's rich with opportunities for young people."

"We are deeply grateful for the generous donation of \$40,000 from the Milwaukee Brewers Foundation. This significant contribution will greatly bolster our Super Reader Summer reading program, enabling us to reach more children and foster a lifelong love for reading," said Ryan Daniels, Library Foundation Executive Director. "This partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to enhancing literacy, and we believe it will have a profound impact on the educational trajectory of countless young lives in Milwaukee."

"The library is an excellent free resource for families to have access to books of a wide range of interests and reading levels, as well as librarians to guide children and families in selecting great books," said Library Director Joan Johnson. "The average student that does not read over summer loses one to three months of learning. That loss has a cumulative, long-term effect, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected, a phenomenon known as the 'summer slide.'"

"Summer slide" is the tendency for students, especially those from low-income families, to lose some of the achievement gains they made during the previous school year. The Milwaukee Public Library provides information to help school administrators and educators with key talking points and resources and research for developing school- or community-based programs to help stem summer slide. The library offers a well-established, structured summer reading program that includes the Super Reader Squad for children 12 and under, the Teen Summer Challenge, and Book By Book Adult Summer Reading.

Studies show that when children participate in summer reading programs, select reading materials themselves, and read for enjoyment; they receive the most gains in reading achievement. Children and teens tend to read more when adults in their lives encourage them to read and also when they see those adults reading themselves. The library has a goal of enrolling 25,000 readers into this year's program. To enroll, visit mpl.org and click the link for the Summer Reading Program.

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About Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 13 locations and more than three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of physical and digital materials, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming, and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves nearly one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at www.mpl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, MPL relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support Milwaukee Public Library at www.mpl.org/support.