

From the Director

As we reflect on the past year, I am thrilled to share the remarkable journey we've undertaken together at Lincoln City Libraries. In a transformative move, we embraced a fine-free policy, ensuring that access to knowledge remains barrier-free for all members of our community. This decision has not only fostered inclusivity but welcomed back families who may have limited their usage due to existing fines or the fear of incurring fines-and has encouraged returning users to explore the vast resources we offer. Our analysis of going fine-free after one year reveals no detriment to service. Item return rates and average hold times are in line with previous years.

The vibrancy within the library post-COVID has been palpable, with a surge in patron activities and programs. From dynamic children's events and outreach efforts to a variety of active book clubs and learning events, the library is once again a thriving hub of community activity and social exchange. The increase in activity is a testament to our commitment to providing a space that goes beyond books, catering to the diverse interests and needs of our community.

Our mission to be a responsive and purpose-driven community resource is reflective of the collaborative spirit of our dedicated staff and those whom we serve. As



we look forward to the coming year, we remain committed to evolving and expanding our offerings to ensure the library continues to be a place of knowledge, creativity and connection for all.

-Ryan Wieber



















Williams Branch

In 2019, Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) and the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation departments came together with the common goal of building a new, shared facility that would showcase the best both departments had to offer. A combination recreation center and library, to replace the existing Air Park Recreation Center and include the movement of the current Dan A. Williams Branch Library, would bring much improved and refreshed services to Northwest Lincoln. And, in 2023, that dream became a reality when the Air Park Community Center opened to the public in July 2023. LCL was thrilled to be partnering once more with Parks and Recreation, much as we did in an earlier iteration of our Air Park Branch, at that time called the Arnold Heights Branch Library. We truly have returned to our roots in this collaborative and cooperative partnership.

The new Air Park Community Center includes a fullservice library, gym, dance studios, gaming space, outdoor programming areas and more. Opportunities for shared programming abound. The new Williams Branch Library has all the great features of LCL's previous Williams Branch including a wide range of popular materials for children, teens and adults, programming, our wonderful LCL staff who have assisted Air Park residents throughout the years - and most importantly, a fireplace that is accessible from

both inside the library and community center! Another exciting aspect of the new space is the big windows that offer views of the surrounding area and the new outdoor space that is open to library users. Customers can enjoy reading, congregating and attending special outdoor programming on the patio under the beautiful, covered awning. Additionally, there is a fully accessible conference room for community use and plenty of collaborative and private seating for those wanting to relax and read something from the updated collection or those wishing to work together in groups.

Named for Dan A. Williams, a Lincon City Library Board member for seven years and a founding member of Citizens Against Racism and Discrimination, the Williams Branch Library previously operated through a joint partnership with Lincoln Public Schools, as part of their Arnold Elementary School building. LCL and LPS continue to cherish the special relationship they have and will continue to collaborate as new opportunities arise. Since 2009, the Dan A. Williams Branch Library has been housed in Arnold Elementary and although Williams has moved on – it didn't move far. The new Air Park Community Center will continue to serve Arnold Elementary students and residents of Northwest Lincoln for many years to come.













CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

Bennett Martin Public Library

136 S. 14th Street

179.115 Circulation: 109,491 Visits: Public Service Hrs/Week: 62

NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCH LOCATIONS

SOUTHWEST LINCOLN

Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library

6701 S. 14th Street

Circulation: 518,690 Visits: 153,563 Public Service Hrs/Week: 64

NORTHWEST LINCOLN

Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library

1530 Superior Street

Circulation: 298,306 Visits: 109,747

Public Service Hrs/Week: 64

Dan A. Williams Branch Library

4900 Mike Scholl Street

Periodic Closures during 3-months construction and moving period

Circulation: 8.904 8,030 Visits: Public Service Hrs/Week: 31

NORTHEAST LINCOLN

Victor E. Anderson Branch Library

3635 Touzalin Avenue

Circulation: 148.458 Visits: 65,728 Public Service Hrs/Week: 64

Bethany Branch Library

1810 N. Cotner Boulevard

Circulation: 102.141 Visits: 38.136 48 Public Service Hrs/Week:

SOUTHEAST/CENTRAL LINCOLN

Charles H. Gere Branch Library

2400 S. 56th Street

Circulation: 774,385 Visits: 230,180 Public Service Hrs/Week: 64

South Branch Library

2675 South Street

Circulation: 117,646 Visits: 42,929 Public Service Hrs/Week: 64

MOBILE OUTREACH

Lied Bookmobile

Circulation: 48,998 Visits: 5.132 20 Public Service Hrs/Week:

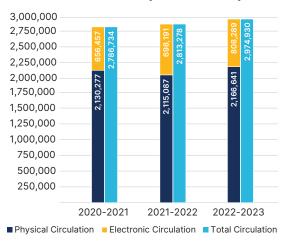
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS

Circulation: 808,289 Website Visits: 1,386,017 Public Service Hrs/Week: 24/7

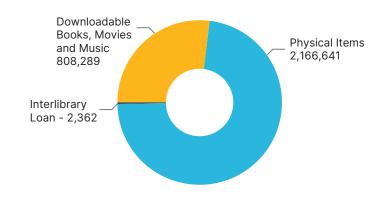
LIBRARY SERVICES		
Annual library visits	785,119	
Number of registered borrowers	166,556	
Library OneCard (LPS student accounts)	46,437	
Circulation of adult materials	849,177	
Circulation of children's materials	1,319,826	
Circulation of physical items total	2,166,641	
Total Electronic circulation	808,284	
Total physical + electronic circulation	2,974,930	
Number of public internet computers	157	
Internet computer reservations	89,607	
Program attendance children & teens	65,452	
Attendance in meeting rooms	55,496	
Total employees (FTEs)	108	
Total number of volunteers	218	
Total number of volunteer hours	5,953	

LIBRARY MATERIAL HOLDINGS	
Adult Print	356,935
Adult NonPrint	77,291
Youth Print	309,557
Youth NonPrint	34,189
Total owned	778,877

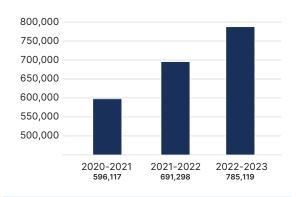
Circulation FY 20/21 - FY 22/23



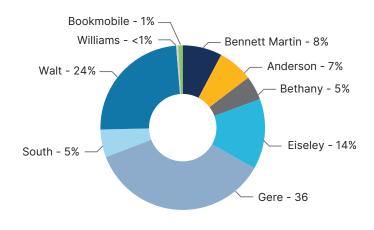
Circulation Total 2,977,292



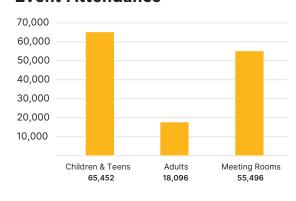
Library Visits FY20/21 - FY22/23



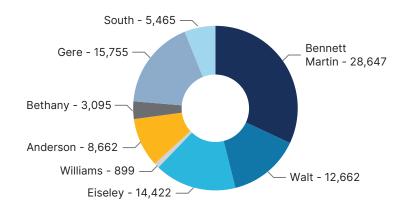
Circulation by Branch



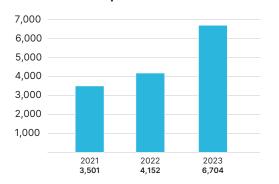
Event Attendance



Internet Computer Reservations Total - 89,607



One Book One Lincoln Circulation of Top 3 Titles





Summer Reading

Here at Lincoln City Libraries, summer is one of the most fun times of the year because that's when we hold our Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) and 2023 was no exception. With everything from alpacas to Saltdogs, friendship quilt squares to plentiful prize packages, it was all about being "All Together Now" and the joy that public libraries bring to youth, teens and adults throughout the hot summer months. LCL was happy to celebrate this 86th year of the Summer Reading Challenge by offering a myriad of programs, in addition to themed, systemwide opportunities for collaboration and engagement, the ability to connect with old and new friends and the fun of logging reading-however that might individually look-into our online database and paper SRC booklets. Lincolnites truly brought their best to this year's SRC.

Summer Reading Challenges are well known to be fun, engaging ways for public libraries to stay first and

foremost in the community's mind during the summer months, but did you know that participation in a SRC can also help shoo away that dastardly summer slide?

2023 Summer Reading Challenge

Registrations: 17,171 readers a 6.1% increase over 2022.

Completions: 7,207 readers completed the program in Beanstack a 2.7% increase over 2022.

Summer Programs:

June: 48 events attracted 4,467 attendees (avg. 93 people per event) July: 50 events brought in 4,028 attendees (avg. 80 people per event)

Plus, parents of youth enrolled in the public library summer reading program reported that their children spent more time reading over the summer, read more books, were well prepared for school in the fall and read more confidently. All that and fun, too-here at LCL, we are happy to oblige!

Throughout the LCL Summer Reading Challenge, participants had many engaging and enlightening experiences to choose from. Kids saw magic tricks from Jeff Quinn, Kokyo Taiko drumming and Bubble Parties, teens made smoothies on the blender bike, tested out their prowess with teen trivia and quilted special quilt squares for the Friendship Quilt that was then entered into the State Fair. Kids and teens didn't have all the fun—adults are always welcome in the LCL SRC. Adults had fun finds—everything from book folding to book clubs to craft programs and more amongst a multitude of adult oriented activities.

All in all, Lincoln City Libraries saw 17,171 registered participants – over half of which were kids and teens. Here's to another stellar Summer Reading Challenge in 2023 – looking forward to "Adventure Begins at Your Library" in 2024.

Reading is for Everyone

Lincoln City Libraries hosts inaugural Library Card Design Contest for Kids.

The past year brought a burst of youthful creativity to our libraries in our first-ever Library Card Design Contest for Kids. With an invitation extended to budding artists aged 11 and under, the response was overwhelming—over 200 imaginative entries were submitted.

Narrowing down this much creativity to just three finalists was a super fun, yet challenging task.

"Besides providing a platform for local artists to shine, the contest

also fostered a sense of unity and enthusiasm within the community," said Traci Glass, LCL Assistant Director. "The submissions, featuring a diverse range of styles and concepts, demonstrated the power of art in connecting people and inspiring imaginations."

The unveiling of the three finalists sparked excitement, and voting opened to the public on social media over the summer. Among the standout designs, one rose victorious, chosen to adorn the

library's official cards with its colorful, positive message.

The winning design was by Hazel Pinegar. Her design, entitled "Reading is for Everyone!" features a self-portrait with her signature braids, and a full-color rainbow on a blue-sky background. Pinegar said that her "reading is for everyone" message extends to her friends who speak different languages. Pinegar added she hopes to learn Spanish like some of her friends, and she is glad the library has books in Spanish.



The enthusiasm shown by kids in the card design contest is a beautiful example of how children and families recognize the joy found in a library card. We're happy for Hazel, and thrilled that thousands of others can enjoy her creativity every time they check out a book.

- Ryan Wieber Lincoln City Libraries Director

Around Town Storytimes

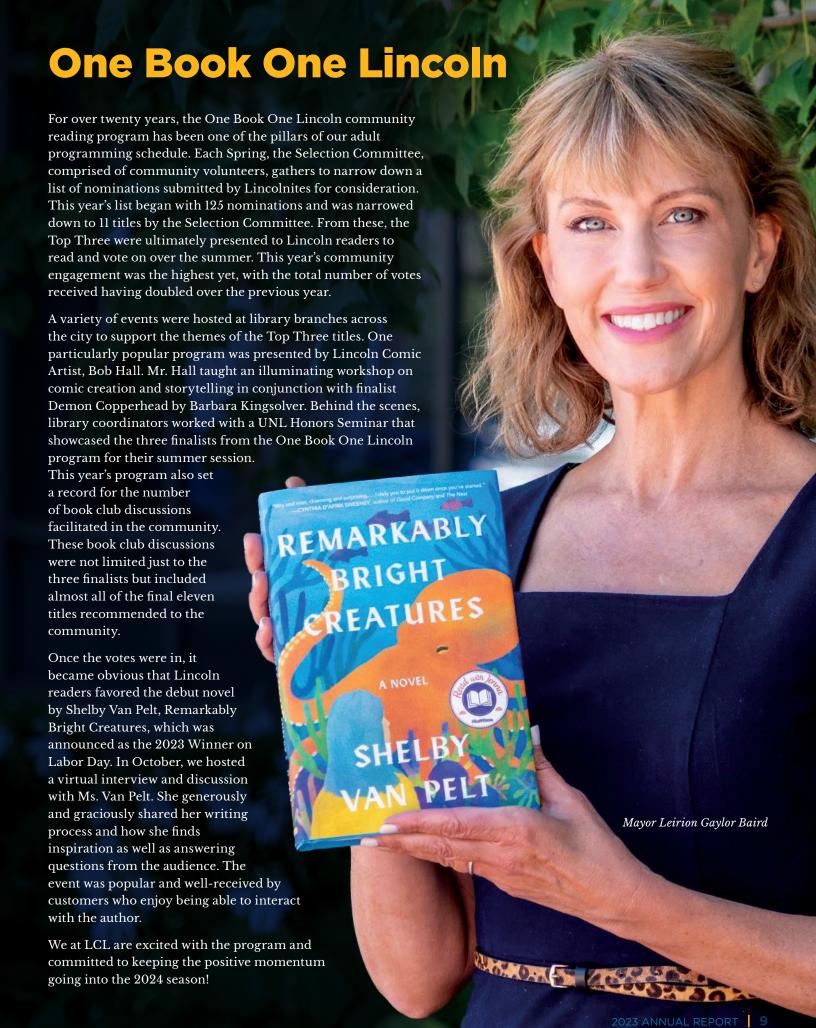
During the summer of 2023, Lincoln City Libraries led Around Town Storytimes at eight locations across the city. Hosted monthly during the months of August through May, these off-site storytimes have become a staple event for many Lincoln City Library patrons. Over the course of the 8-week summer session in 2023, nearly 1000 parents, caregivers, and children attended our Around Town Storytimes. As with all Lincoln City Libraries storytimes, these storytimes focus on the five early literacy practices of: reading, writing, singing, talking and playing. Modeling these practices for caregivers and kids alike, we hope to make early literacy skill building easy and accessible for all.

Working hard to reach all corners of our Lincoln community, Around Town Storytimes have been hosted at over twenty different sites across the city since they began in 2022. Some of our most well-attended events have taken place at sites like Memorial Stadium, the Nebraska State Capitol, and the Museum of American Speed; these unique storytimes sites are meant to demonstrate to caregivers that reading and literacy can happen anywhere, anytime!



Everyone loves being read to!

In 2022-2023, Lincoln City Libraries offered 1,262 library storytimes that drew 26,314 attendees to our branches. We also brought 293 storytimes to the community via outreach, which 9,106 people attended.



Special Collections



Heritage Room

The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors works to celebrate, preserve, and promote works by and about Nebraska authors, past and present. Currently, there are over 15,000 works in the collection representing over 4,000 authors. This year, more than 100 new works were added to the collection by over 70 different authors. These recent additions are in more than 10 languages, displaying the international impact of Nebraska's literature.

Beginning in 1985, the John H. Ames Reading Series has given Nebraska authors the opportunity to share their works with our community by reading and speaking on their experiences as writers. This year, the Heritage Room was proud to host several prestigious writers at our two Ames Reading programs. In October, New York Times bestselling author Tosca Lee joined us to read from her duology The Line Between and A Single Light for the 226th Ames program. In May, the Prairie Trout Writers Group gave the 227th program. Accomplished authors, Pam Barger, Twyla Hansen, Mary Pipher, Marge Saiser, and Karen Shoemaker each read from their own works and discussed what a writing group is, and how working together has impacted them.



Polley Music Librarian, Scott Scholz

Polley Music Library

Highlights FY 2022-23 (September 2022-August 2023)

The Polley Music Library is a service of Lincoln City Libraries funded by the Lilian Helms Polley Trust.

Polley Music Library had an exciting year, led by a significant increase in programming. In the last fiscal year, Polley hosted 14 performances and/or music-related trainings, including such artists as Toby Driver, Jeremy Young, Dennis Taylor, The Ludus Duo, Omkara, Golden Studio and trainings from Darren Keen and Nick Vaccaro. The events are hosted in the intimate setting of the library and allow space for artists to discuss their work and for audience members to ask questions.

The Lincoln Ukulele Group, who provide ukuleles to the library for the lending program, started meeting twice a month in our 4th-floor auditorium for their rehearsal/jam sessions and the public is always welcome to join in. The guitar lending program entered its second year and more guitars were added courtesy of Lincoln's own Zager Guitars company. The songwriting club, which meets once a month in our 4th floor auditorium, also entered its second year of bringing musicians together from a wide range of backgrounds and skills.

As always, lots of new music books were added to our collection and many of those were featured on the Polley Music Library program broadcast on KZUM, which passed the 200-program mark this year. Catch the show 10-10:30 Saturday mornings or 9:30-10 Sunday evenings at 89.3 FM. There's something for everyone, including musicians and anyone who just loves music!



Book Clubs

Bethany BookTalks

The Bethany BookTalks program began more than 20 years ago, and it is the longest-running book discussion group at Lincoln City Libraries. Every Friday morning, 10:30-11:30 AM, adults meet at the Bethany Branch Library to share their love of books and reading. Some sessions feature Lincoln City Libraries' staff members providing recommendations. Other sessions are "Book Chat Days" during which attendees talk about the books that they are reading. The Bethany BookTalks schedule is available on the LCL events website.



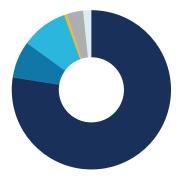
Get Your Just Desserts

The Just Desserts mystery fiction discussion group began meeting in April 2006, and as of October 2023 has completed 18 years and 177 meetings. Inspired initially by a similar group at an East Coast library, members bring desserts to share while they read and discuss ea, January to October. Though based at Bennett Martin Public Library, it has also met at South and Walt Branches.

Many participants have been attending for years, and say it is the highlight of their month. Group members have made friendships outside the library, leading to road trips to see authors like William Kent Krueger, Lee Child, Craig Johnson and J.A. Jance in Seward, Omaha and Crete. One of the goals for the group is to introduce members to mystery/suspense/ thriller authors they may never have sampled - 143 different authors have been featured. Each month also features a round robin of what members have been reading lately.



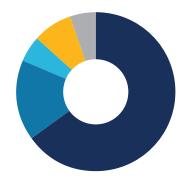
Financials 2022-23



Revenues

xes \$9,787,190.06
955,147.00
1,194,086.64
64,443.84
429,881.37
192,849.28

Total Operating Revenue \$12,623,598.19



Expenditures

■ Salaries and Benefits	\$7,782,702.20
Collections	1,961,098.07
Technology	614,037.59
Facilities	981,866.46
Other	612,232.38

Total Operating Expenditures\$11,951,936.70

Per Capita (2020 Census pop. 322,608) \$37.05 Per Household (2020 Census 132,670) \$90.09

Bethany Branch Library Improvements

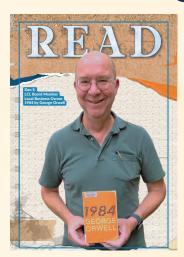
The curb appeal at Bethany Branch Library was greatly enhanced during the past year. The parking lot was resurfaced in April 2023 and on June 16, 2023, a new bench in front of the library was dedicated in honor of Marlene Cupp. Marlene worked at Lincoln City Libraries for many years and then served as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. The bench was donated by Marlene's daughters Mary and Amy. In attendance at the dedication were Marlene, her daughters, Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, Library Director Ryan Wieber, Bethany Branch Manager Kim Shelley and numerous library customers who regularly attend the Bethany BookTalks.



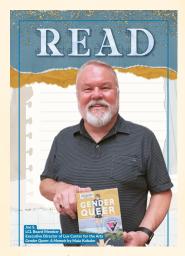


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Library Board



Dan Sloan President Co-Owner, the Mill Gourmet Coffee and Tea



Joe Shaw Vice President Executive Director, LUX Center for the Arts



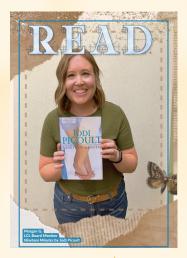
Jacki Ostrowicki Treasurer Assistant Vice President for External Relations, University of Nebraska



Rhonda Seacrest | Member since 2017 Retired. Rotary #14 Nebraskan of the Year 2023



Lisa Hale | Member since 2017 Vice-President, Customer Services, Lincoln Electric System



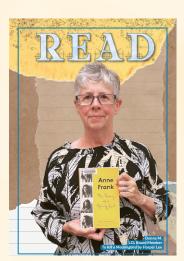
Morgan Gerteisen | Member since 2022 Director, Talent Operations, LI-COR Biosciences



Patty Beutler | Member since 2023 Freelance Writer and Editor



Nichole Bogen | County Liaison Senior Counsel · O'Neill, Heinrich, Damkroger, Bergmeyer & Shultz



Donna Marvin | Served 2011-2023 Retired

Volunteers

Ager, Marty Aldrich, Sydney Al-Hindawe, Danya Al-Hindawe, Ranya Andersen, June Avey, Raelyn Avey, Rowan Ayres, Joshua Baer, Oliver Bakare, Adam Bakare, Faridat Bash, Francine Bauer, Sandra Beard, Beth Bellmyer, Grace Bellver Suarez, Maray Blackwell, Susan Boesiger, Glenda Bohnart, Lily Bowman, Carlos Boyle, Audrey Boyle, Cami Braatz, Phoenix Brown, Kylie Brown, Michaela Brown, Richard Brown Kramer, Liam Bruce, Kirsten Bruhl, Jennifer Bryan, Ira Bryan, Oren Burke, Lauren Burton, Amy Buxton, Miles Asher Callahan, Blake Campbell, Ben Cannon, Kathleen Cepure, Marche' Christensen, Zoe Clarke, Mollie Codr, Emma Colberg, Sonia Covalt, Chloe Cuevas, Diego Cuttlers, Aleyna Cuttlers, Khloe Deutsch, Maria Devitt, Pixie DiBernard, Barbara Dittmer, Kinzie Dvorak, Willa Easley, Emma Eisler, Reesa Emery, David Emmons, Taylor Ferree, Cheryl Fisher, Dakota Fox-Hays, Ivy Furr, Dominic Gabel, Ethan Gabel, Morgan

Gallegos-Bauer, Abigail Gallentine, Holly

Garay, Amelia Gelber, Elaine Gilliland, Norma Gustafson, Donna Ha, Tiffany Haines, Rebekah Hamad, Shurouk Harper, Jordan Havel, Zoey Heerspink, Abigail Henke, Finnian Herr. Melvia Hill, Clare Hoffart, Lily Holland, Brielle Holtmeier, Mary Hudgens, John Humes, Brian Humeshkar, Dhiya Humlicek, Michelle Hutching, Halsten Hutchings, Hattie Ismail, Husam Ismail, Rumzy Jacobo, Mana Jiskra, Thomas Jones, Peggy Jorgensen, Alice Jorgensen, Rose Kastl, Elliott Kastl, Elyse Celicia Keetle, Judy Keller, Elise Keller, Johan Kelly, Kilian Kingsbury, Martha Koch, Calvin Kort, Yun Kotipalli, Aarunya Le, Thi Lien, Lucy Limbach, Annika Linneman, Kadence Livers, Kaelyn Lunquist, Mischa Lunquist, Nettie Lusk, Karen Mack, Lily Mahmood, Mueen Malone, Marian Mashayekhi, Anita Mattos, Lara Matzke, Jaxson McCullough-Pitsch, Alysen McGhee, Samantha McGowan, Maggie McGrew, Ashlyn McHargue, Madison McHargue, Teresa McNeese, Tatum

Mieth, Bryanne

Moorhead, Kailee

Moeller, Ellen

Murtha, Timothy Myers, Quentin Neemann, Sharon Nelson, Bristol Nespor, Abigail Newlun, Susan Nguyen, Dylan Nielsen, Alaina Noack, Jocelyn Noack, Meredith Northup, Carryna O'Brien, Jackson O'Neal, Liam Othling, Reanna Pande, Sakshi Patterson, Vicki Pearson, Keith Pederson, Barbara Pelter, Peg A. Pepin, Jean Peters, Ella Pierce, Audra Pultz, Selah Pushkaran, Deva Putensen, Katherine Quiring, Beth Quiring, Mary Jane Rawlings, Evie Reeves, Bob Reichmuth, Kelsea Rezac, Cara Rida, Reema Rida, Reeyad Rida, Zahraa Roberts-Day, Hattie Rosenthal, Glen Ryu, Korey Schied, Suzanne Schneckloth, Denis Schwartz, Reece Sheely, Ayden Shield, Alex Skinner, Izabel Skinner, Mya Slater, Amy Smith, Ben Smith, Janet Smith, Judy Smith, Rachel Smith, Tucker Sorensen, Hope St. James, Kristin Stark, Peggy Steele, Anna Stilwell, Gera Svoboda, Cheryl Tangeman, Thomas Templin, Roger Terwilleger, Gideon

Moorhead, Kendra

Muffler, Myra

Muriello, Ruth

Muriello, Avigail

Tewes, Madison Thayer, Carol Thiel, Austin Thiele, JoAnne Thomas, JoAnn Thoms, Tera Timperley, Claire Tlamka, Bryan Tlamka, Brynn Tran, Eliza Tran, Kate Tyrrell, Sheryl Union College, Project Impact Usher, Avery Vanek, Nicholas Vanneman, Sue Vannier, Joyce Verzal, Deanna Wailes, Boots Washburn, Juanita Waters, Kat Will, Jeannie Williams, Jorrian Wilson, Bo Wimes, Brooke Winklepleck, Janice Wolf, Julie Zgud, Cyrus Zingler, Zoe

HONORED VOLUNTEERS

Recipients of the President's **Volunteer Service** Award:

Deva Pushkaran (Gold Level - 250 hours)

Reema Rida (Bronze Level - 110 hours)

Recipients of Nebraska Library **Association Outstanding Volunteer Award** 2023:

> Reema Rida **Judy Smith JoAnne Thiele**

