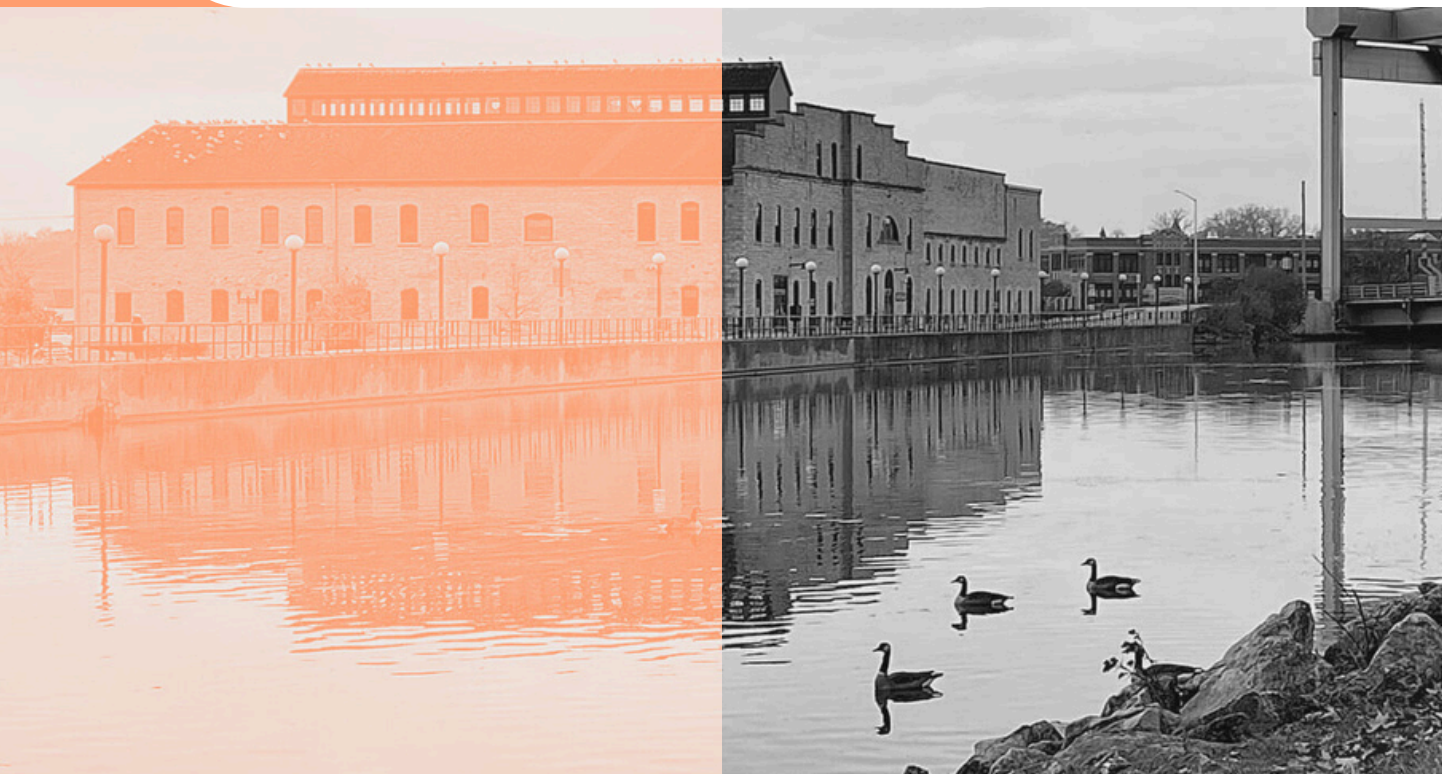
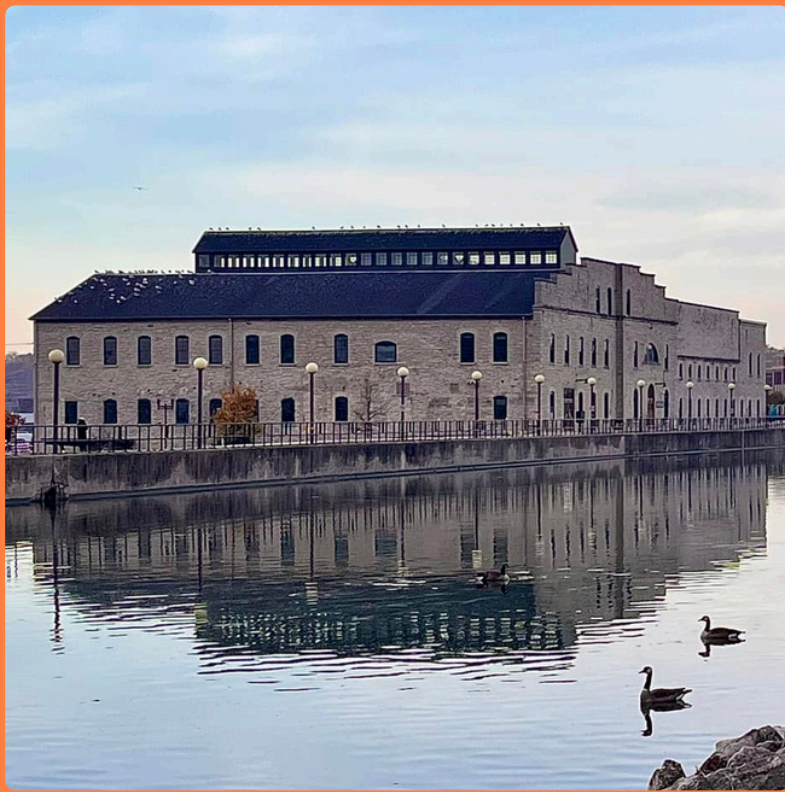


Kaukauna Public Library Annual Report 2025



Library Board

A library board protects and advances the interests of the community by governing the operations and promoting the development of the local public library. Some duties of the board include: understand roles and laws governing Wisconsin libraries, attend regular board meetings, obtain library funding, assist with the budget, hire and supervise the library director, develop and approve library policies, meet the needs of the community, and advocate for the library.

President: Anna Neumeier

Vice President: Jim Van De Hey

Secretary: Cindy Fallona

Treasurer: Joseph Lucas

School Board Representative: Paula Davis

Council Representative: Mary Jo Kilgas

Community Representatives:

Dana Tatro

Carol Van Boxtel

Jane Vondracek

Mission: The Kaukauna Public Library educates, inspires, and connects individuals and the community through materials, services and programs.

Vision: The Kaukauna Public Library will create a welcoming space, offering accessible and inclusive services to our community by connecting and engaging with them as a trusted resource. The Library will be a community leader in supporting the growth and development of individuals as a whole, recognizing the importance of literacy and lifelong learning, as well as mental, emotional, social, and physical well-being.

Values: At Kaukauna Public Library we strive to be:
Inclusive, Accessible, Connected, Imaginative, Trusted, and Knowledgeable

President's Message

Growing up, I always loved to visit libraries. From the small but wonderful county library branch in my hometown, to my university's library on campus, I enjoyed every opportunity I had to wander through a library's shelves and select a new stack of books to read. To me, a library has always been a welcoming space and a cornerstone of any community. But I had no idea how impactful a library could be until I moved to Kaukauna.

As a new resident and a new parent, I knew I wanted to foster a love of reading in my kids, so off we went to our first baby storytime at the Kaukauna Public Library (KPL). I set out with the intention of finding a fun, new way to engage my child with reading, and we ended up leaving with new friends, a pile of books, and a whole new appreciation for the programming and services that KPL provides. Our library provided the books we needed to help our children become lifelong readers, a gathering space to connect with friends, and an endless supply of kind, funny, and encouraging moments with the KPL staff. What a genuine gift it has been to step into the Kaukauna Public Library and feel so welcome!

After years of being an enthusiastic patron, I was asked to join the Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees in 2019. I jumped at the chance to give back to an organization that had given so much support to me and my family. But even serving as a volunteer, the library found a way to make my life better. I found more ways to support and connect to my community than I ever expected, and I leave each meeting with a sense of gratitude and appreciation for the KPL Staff and Board Members who go above and beyond to connect and engage with our community. The greatest benefit to my time serving on the Library Board has been the example it has set for my children. They notice and appreciate the efforts that are made by the people, businesses, and organizations like KPL that work hard to care for others, and have found many ways to make their own contributions in the community.

To say that the KPL has benefited my family is an understatement. Have we saved money using our library? Yes! Probably thousands of dollars! But even better than that, libraries bring people together and create a sense of belonging. The Kaukauna Public Library was the puzzle piece that connected my family to our community. We made friends, we found ways to engage with others, and we found ways to give back to a place that we love being a part of. And it all started 13 years ago at a baby storytime in the Kaukauna Public Library.





The Kaukauna Public Library's Little Free Pantry is 100% stocked by community donations.

After reading *Bridges out of Poverty* in 2017, staff began to notice people in the library for long hours with no food, quickly realizing that the closest pantry was only open one day a week during the day. The Little Free Pantry was created to ensure that anyone facing food insecurity has access to food during all operational hours of the library with no questions asked.

In an effort to fulfill its vision of supporting the growth and development of individuals as a whole, the Kaukauna Public Library takes its dedication to human services seriously. For several years, the library has provided free bag lunches to children facing food insecurity Monday through Saturday during the summer, which includes a snack and box of cereal for breakfast the next day. These efforts are also supported by our gracious volunteers and donors. To further its commitment, the library also hosts a School Supply Drive, as well as an annual Coat and Winter Clothing Drive to ensure that all members of our community are warm during the winter. All of these efforts would not be made possible without the support of our community.

Thank you to our community for making sure our pantry is stocked all year.



Books & Materials Savings

Imagine everyone in the community had to buy every book they read, every game they played, movie they watched, and music they listened to. Library users save money by borrowing items instead of buying, and it's great for the environment! Based on an American Library Association Library Value Calculator, our library provided:

\$4,615,758

in resources to our community!

That's an average savings of about **\$632.47** per household! Since not all households use the library, those that do are actually saving way more.

Total number of items checked out in 2025:

155,357

Total number of e-resources checked out in 2025:

39,499

Total number of items loaned to other libraries in 2025:

40,801

Technology

The library offers free WiFi, public computers, technology lending, and 1-on-1 technology help. Whether you are working remotely, printing garage sale flyers, or need to learn your new device, KPL is working to close the digital divide. The library allows everyone access to technology regardless of their income.

Internet Usage:

3,672 Hours

\$44,064 in Savings

Based off the American Library Association's Library Value Calculator

WiFi Sessions:

15,856

\$6,342 in Savings

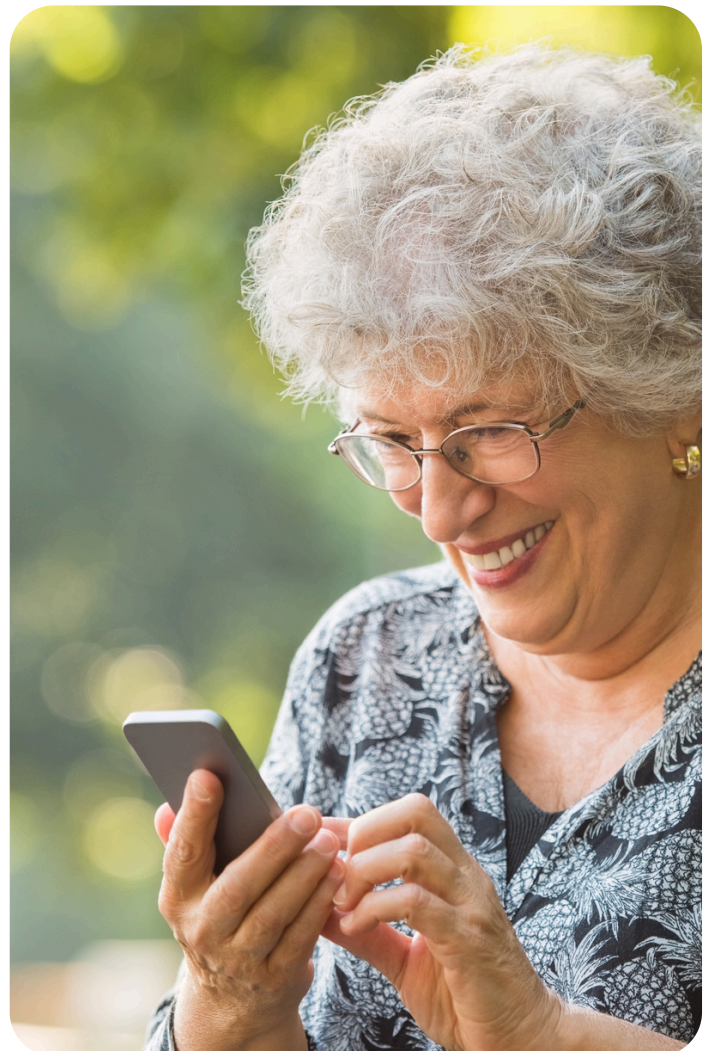
Based on \$74/mo average cost of home internet in WI

1-on-1 Tech Help Sessions:

122

\$12,200 in Savings

Based on \$100/hr average cost of professional tech help



Programming

The library holds programs for all ages at no charge. You do not have to live in the city of Kaukauna nor hold a library card to attend programs. We have programs you would expect at a library, such as storytimes, and others you might not know about! With programs from card games to local history, crafting to creative writing, music appreciation to yoga, there is sure to be something to interest everyone! At the library we strive to offer social connection at every age, where the barrier of affordability is not an issue.

27,597 people attended KPL programs in 2025

\$205,803 in Savings

Adult Programs:

176

Adult Program

Attendees:

1,578

Youth Programs:

382

Youth Program

Attendees:

12,480

General Interest

Programs:

129

General Interest

Program Attendees:

13,539

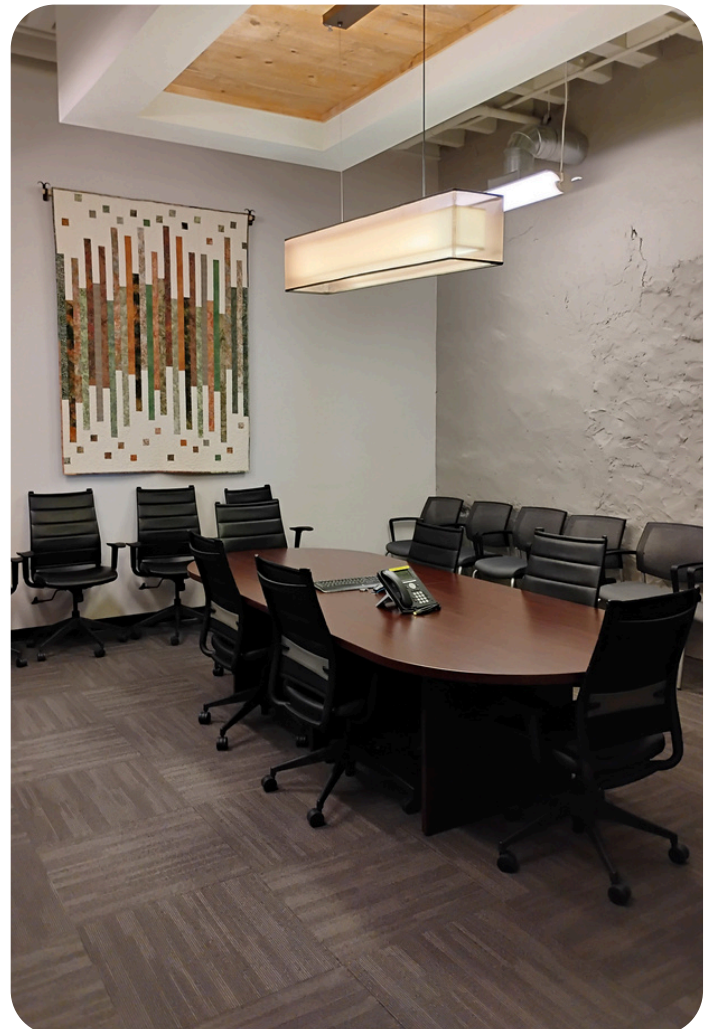


Meeting Rooms

The library offers free public meeting spaces. The meeting rooms at the Kaukauna Public Library are available for use by community groups for presentations of informational or recreational nature, or educational meetings/programs in keeping with the mission of the Library. Our meeting spaces have been used by Scouts, non-profits, sports organizations, bible study groups, Al Anon, hobby groups, homeschool meetings, government, and crafters to name a few!

Meeting and Study Rooms were used **2,434** times in 2025!

- Study Rooms (3)
(seats 1-4)
- Conference Room ABC
(seats up to 75; 305 capacity)
- Board Room
(seats up to 15)
- Garden Room
(seats up to 25)



Thank You!

Donations from library supporters enable Kaukauna Public Library to:

- Offer programs and services above and beyond our municipal allocations
- Buy equipment and supplies in support of programming
- Make our funding “go further!”

In 2025, Friends of the Kaukauna Public Library supported the library with \$33,723 in grants to support library programs, equipment, and services. Donations to the Friends of the Library support initiatives like Summer Learning Program and Summer Feeding Program. Friends of the Library also support large-scale events with our gracious sponsors, like hosting performers, Outdoor Movie Night, Touch a Truck, and the Fairy Walk. Consider joining the Friends of the Library if you love supporting your local library and community.

Some wishes granted from our 2025

Wish Tree included:

- Prize Machine
- Library of Lights Decor
- Summer Prize Books
- STEM Learning Aids
- Art & Craft Supplies
- Public Device Charging Station
- Specialty Office Supplies
- Play Area Toys
- Storytime Supplies

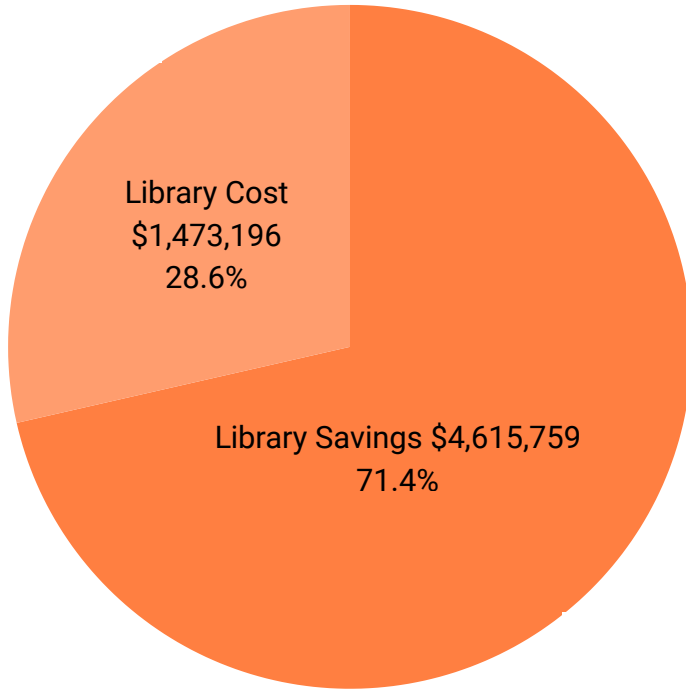
American Legion Auxiliary
Associated Bank
Sue Barribeau
Samantha Benko
Julian & Judith Bender
Sandra & Peter Benson
Joseph & Patricia Berghuis
Keith & Mary Berdnarowski
Chris & Joyce Bevers
Jennifer & Matthew Binsfeld
Al & Donna Borchardt
Amy Brunner
Kate Bujunoori
Mary Clauss
Clear Approach Optometry
Confluence Coffee LLC
Constellation
Kathryn Cronin
Gary & Shirley De Bruin
Eileen Doughty
Mary & Lyle Ellenbecker
Miriam Elmhorst
Cindy Fallona
Maureen Flanagan-Johnson
Patrick Flanagan
Fox Cities Marathon
Trevor & Carol Frank
Charlie & Grace Fuller
Karen & Michael Geerts

**Michelle Hannawald
Kathy Hartzheim
Patricia Heckner
Madelyn Hermus
Susan Hinkens
Nancy & Harry Holschuh
Thomas Jakl
Kaukauna Elks BPOE 962
Kaukauna Lions Club
Kaukauna Utilities
Mary Jo Kilgas
Laura Klebs
James & Patricia Kramer
Sue Kress
Robert & Kathy Kuritz
David Lambries
Bailey Lawless
Liebovich Steel & Aluminum North
Leudtke Agency LLC
The Mary Linda Madsen Irrevocable Trust
Bruce & Teresa Mathis
Camille Maurice
Mollies Swim Academy LLC
Niemuth Construction
Anna Neumeier
John, Charlie, Ellie & JJ Neumeier
Linda & Keith Petersen
Rebecca Pfalzgraf
Mary Schaffer**

**Kristine & James Serwe
Timothy & Jill Schmidt
Cheryl & Cyra Schneider
Kim Spizzirri
Carl & Cindy Thiem
Carol Van Boxtel
Jenny & Adam Vander Zanden
Susan Van Hoof
Terry Van Zeeland
Don & Kitty Verhagen
Sarah & Joey Vosters
Lauren Walcott
Mary Weiland
Laura Wills
Lisa Wolfinger
Angela Zeman
Gregory Ziegler**



The Library Saves Residents 3x More Than It Costs!



Library Savings per Household:

(Average household figures based on 2020 Census Data)

\$632.47 per year

Average Cost of Library Operations per Household:

(Average household figures based on 2020 Census Data)

\$202 per year or
\$16.83 per month

Library Budget 6.9%
\$1,473,196

