



To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustee
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning
Date: 10/15/2026
Re: Kaukauna Public Library Donation

The library is being honored on October 20th with a check presentation at the library and at the Common Council meeting by the Retirement Housing Foundation.

Each year, the Retirement Housing Foundation selects a recipient for a Friends of the Elderly award. The award is given to an individual or organization making a substantial and/or unique contribution to the health, housing, social, psychological, or spiritual quality of older adults' lives.

In 2026, the City of Kaukauna was selected, marking the first time the Retirement Housing Foundation in California selected an entire City to honor instead of an individual. For 40 years, the City has been a close partner with Round House Manor. Most notably assisting in May 2023, when the tornado came through Kaukauna, tearing the roof off their facility, displacing residents.

Many years ago, the library reached out to Round House Manor to see how they could best assist residents with library services, which blossomed into a wonderful partnership. The library has offered on-site tech help to residents, offered an intergenerational storytime, and has even brought in speakers. Round House Manor has reciprocated with collections for some of our annual drives, like the school supply drive, as well as working with us on fun extras for our storytime friends, like our annual spring duck and egg hunt, as well as helping us prep our make and take kits for summer.

The library is extremely grateful to have been selected for a \$20,000 donation from the Retirement Housing Foundation. \$10,000 of the donation has been reserved for the large print collection. Large print books cost more than regular print books, so allocations to the collection do not go quite as far as they do in other collections. With an influx of funding this size, we now can go through the collection and add missing books in series, as well as add additional new titles. \$10,000 will also be unrestricted and may be used to support the upcoming 2027-2030 library strategic plan.