

# Connecting with the Community

The Library has had a meaningful year engaging with residents and the community. The Library Director and Assistant Director held Snack & Chats with residents to discuss and share ideas for improvements to the Library. We also did specific written surveys to assist in planning our new Snack Space, and to develop new programs and services for older adults.

Adult Services received a \$12,000 grant from Age Options, a non-profit organization seeking to enrich the lives of older community residents and their caregivers. We funded new programs, such as Tai Chi and healthy eating, added items for checkout to improve wellness and accessibility, such as a rolling walker and SADD light, and are finalizing purchase of new back-supporting lounge chairs.

The Friends of the Library awarded their first annual \$500 scholarship. They hosted two book sales, sponsored programs, and contributed financially to the Library.

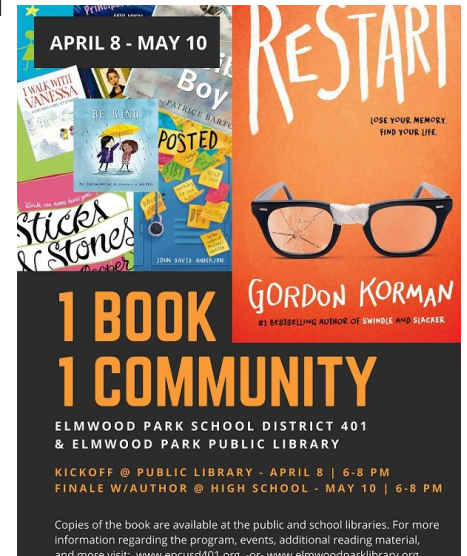
We partnered with Elmwood Park School District 401 for the first ever **1 Book 1 Community** reading initiative. The theme of kindness was introduced in books students read in school, and expanded upon through discussions and events held at the Library.



Our second annual fundraiser was a success with over \$5,000 raised for the Library's Gift Fund. The fundraiser supported the remodel of the Kids & Teens program room. Now outfitted with a custom puppet theatre, the newly named Imaginarium is a favorite spot for our youngest visitors, as well as a new space for our elementary school art programs, chess, and special events.

We hosted booths at the Taste, Fall Fest, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and Senior Dance, marched in the Fourth of July parade, and co-sponsored events with Kiwanis and Relay-for-Life.

Coming Soon: Look for our book bike at community events this summer!



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