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[Home](#) > Library Friends Group Donates \$25,000 to Tonawanda Public Library, Bringing Total Gifts for 2018 to \$40,000

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Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Friends of the Library

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Group Donates \$25,000 to Tonawanda Public Library, Bringing Total Gifts for 2018 to \$40,000

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Friends of the Library announced a donation of \$25,000 to the Town of Tonawanda Public Library on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

It was the organization's second major gift to the library in 2018, bringing its total for the year to \$40,000. A previous donation of \$15,000 was made in March.

Laura Glass, president of the Friends of the Library, made the announcement at the monthly meeting of the library's board of trustees. She presented a check for \$25,000 to the director of the Town of Tonawanda Public Library, Mary Muscarella.

"The Friends are thrilled to be able to provide this financial contribution to our town libraries," said Glass. "Our mission is to help our libraries meet strategic goals in community outreach, education and literacy improvement in Tonawanda."

The Friends of the Library operate independently of the public library system. The organization, which is totally staffed by volunteers, provides a second source of funding for local libraries, augmenting government funding.

This year's total of \$40,000 in donations is the largest in the Friends' history. The money will support family programs, National Book Week activities, museum and author visits, the purchase of Makerspace components and the addition of new equipment at the two branches of the town library system.

The funds for both of 2018's donations were raised through the organization's annual Big Book Sale, which is staged at Lincoln Arena each September.

Rick Geer, chairman of the library's board of trustees, said that the donations will allow the Kenmore and Kenilworth branches to offer a wider range of service to patrons through the Town of Tonawanda.

"The dollar amount of these two donations was incredibly generous," said Geer. "This kind of community support makes it possible for us to give the people of Tonawanda the type of library system that they deserve."

More information about the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Friends of the Library and its Big Book Sale can be found on the group's website at www.ktfol.com. The organization is already accepting donations of books for its 2019 sale. Books can be deposited at the Friends' offices on the first floor of the old Kenmore Middle School on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and noon.

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