

**Grinnell-Herald Register**  
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**“Ahrens Foundation supports library campaign with \$500K”**

The Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation has pledged \$500,000 over a five-year period to “The Next Chapter,” a fund-raising campaign for a new public library in Grinnell. In addition, the Claude W. Ahrens Charitable Trust has pledged \$50,000 to the effort to create a new library on the corner of Fifth Ave. and Park St.

Approximately \$1.5 million has been raised thus far toward the estimated \$7.3 million project. Community volunteers are working to raise at least half of the total cost through private contributions, with the remaining money expected from the City of Grinnell.

“I am so pleased to announce our pledge of \$500,000 toward Grinnell’s public library campaign. Libraries are important to the vitality and quality of life for every community. Grinnell is no exception. We are here to support our community and this is a wonderful project,” says Julie Gosselink, president of the Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation. Gosselink co-chairs the library fund drive along with Paul Pohlson.

When it is completed, the children’s collection and storytime area at the new library will bear the name the Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation Children’s Collection and Storytime Area.

“The foundation has continually worked to provide support for children, especially through recreational and educational programs,” Gosselink says “The new library’s children’s area is closely tied to our mission.”

Founded in 1993, the Ahrens Foundation supports projects to improve communities in central Iowa. The Claude W. Ahrens Charitable Trust was established in 1991 and has typically supported religious and faith based organizations in Central Iowa.

“We are so grateful for this leadership commitment from both the foundation and the charitable trust,” says Jeff Dickey-Chasins, chair of the library board. “These gifts will ensure that our new library will be an exceptional facility for all residents of Grinnell. The new library promises to be a community cornerstone that strengthens Grinnell even further.”

“The Next Chapter” campaign hopes to create a single story 26,000 square foot library to even better accommodate the community’s need for library services. With a larger library, staff will be able to expand and develop the library’s collection of books, periodicals, audio books, large-print books, and more. The Ahrens Children Collection and Storytime Area will provide books and other materials for library users from birth through early middle school, as well as parents, teachers, and other caregivers. The storytime area will offer an attractive place for storytelling, crafts, and other group programs.

Donors to the new library in Grinnell should make their gifts payable to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, indicating “Library Building Fund” in the memo field. Contributions and pledges to be fulfilled over time are deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Checks or pledges may be dropped off at the Stewart Library or mailed to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, PO Box 344, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Anyone interested in more details about this fund appeal or the library’s building plans is encouraged to call Lorna Caulkins, library director, weekdays at (641) 236-2661 or visit the library to pick up an informational packet.

