



Marlene, Owliver, Brenna, and Jackie

DONATION MADE TO UNION COUNTY LIBRARY FOR 2026 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Pictured with this article are Union County Public Library Branch Manager Marlene and Director of Youth Services Brenna shown accepting a check from Friends of Union County Library, represented by Secretary Jackie. Friends of Union County Library (FOUCL) made this \$2,000 donation towards the Summer Reading Program now to help offset costs and make it possible for Union County Public Library (UCPL) to begin making purchases and contracting with entertainers. FOUCL recognizes and appreciates United Community's \$1,500 gift to make this contribution possible.

The 2026 Summer Reading Program theme at many libraries nationwide, including UCPL, will be "Unearth a Story," focusing on dinosaurs, archaeology, and paleontology. Months of preparation go into this weeks-long series of events, which will include reading logs and prizes along with special guests and entertainment. If you want to know how you can help, stop by the library to pick up a flyer with a list of prizes that can be donated on an individual basis.

It is wonderful to anticipate summer, but right now we are living through February, which can't seem to decide if it wants to bring us winter or spring weather. Whatever the weather, February is the month of love and is National Library Lovers Month. This designation is a reminder to honor libraries and celebrate their role in providing access to knowledge and culture. FOUCL encourages you to appreciate libraries by visiting your local library, participating in activities there, and personally thanking the library staff for what they do to make our local libraries places patrons want to return to again and again. If you don't have a library card, February would be the perfect month to get one.

Libraries are not just places to check out or read books. They provide meeting space for events and activities. They offer internet access to all, and they provide a staff who can make helpful suggestions and answer questions. Community members of all ages can gather at libraries for education, entertainment, and inspiration.

This month, after thanking your library staff, please consider supporting them further by joining Friends of Union County Library. We are still accepting renewals and are also seeking new members for 2026. There are three ways to join: 1) Go to foucl.org, print the form, write a check, and mail in or drop them off at the UCPL circulation desk; 2) Go to foucl.org and pay with a charge card through PayPal; or 3) Pick up a membership form at UCPL, fill it out, and drop it (with cash or check to FOUCL) at the UCPL circulation desk.

Our wise mascot, Owliver, says, "Come join me at the library!"



**Advocating for Libraries,
Literacy, and Lifelong Learning**