

2019 BIG IDEA Grant Recipient

River Falls Public Library

THE BIG FUN LAB

Community Play Space

Back in 2018 a temporary “Children’s Museum” was installed in the lower level gallery of the River Falls Public Library with borrowed equipment including large-scale building blocks and several STEM-integrated kits. The mini-museum space encouraged active learning for toddlers through pre-teens and provided much-needed meeting space for kids and caregivers. More than 1,100 people visited the temporary installation and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Staff immediately began thinking about how to make the exhibit concept a regular occurrence.

The Big Idea Grant from River Falls Community Foundation will provide equipment to create THE BIG FUN LAB community play space within River Falls Public Library.

The space will benefit area children, parents, grandparents and caregivers. It will be a gathering space for caregivers and a place for kids to play, move and learn indoors during the coldest months (In 2020 the space will be available January-April, in subsequent years the space will be ready in December).

The area will also allow library and local family service organizations to provide additional resources to families while promoting early literacy and play-based learning.

The space will fill a need for indoor play space for families with young children.

For kids and families, the space will be **F U N** free, accessible and educational.

River Falls Community Foundation is proud to fund this worthy community benefit!



2018 BIG IDEA Grant Recipient

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Northwestern WI- St. Croix Valley Region

SPORTING WORLD.

In 2018, the inaugural BIG IDEA grant was awarded to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin – St. Croix Valley Region.

The grant was used to open Sporting World, a used sporting goods store (707A North Main Street) that provides free or reduced cost sporting equipment to River Falls community members in need.

The store also hosts volunteer “sales helpers.” In addition, sporting equipment is available to the public at used-sporting-good prices.

Funds raised support other programs hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin, further expanding the community impact of the store front venture.

