

THE PAT HARRIS AWARD



Established December 15, 2011





HIS AWARD

recognizes a degree of
friendship to the Saint
Paul Public Library that can
only be described as “super.”

This prestigious award is not given annually, or on any regular basis. Rather, it is given when the commitment and devotion to the Saint Paul Public Library is of such a degree that it ceases to be customary or commonplace, and instead demands special notice.

Patrick W. Harris, the first recipient of this award, which henceforth will bear his name, is an example of the type of rare, unexpected and lasting commitment that is recognized as clearly and unmistakably “super.”



Notable examples of Pat Harris' commitment to the Saint Paul Public Library, as well as his commitment to the mission of all libraries, include:



SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

- As a City Councilmember, Harris initiated and led the complex effort to establish the Saint Paul Public Library Board, which he chaired until he left office.



- As a public leader, Harris was an outspoken champion of libraries and the right of every citizen to have access to knowledge.



- Harris gave 12 years of strong public service supporting and advocating for the Saint Paul Public Library, including tenacious budgetary leadership each year.



- Pat and his wife, Laura, made multiple personal donations to The Friends and the Saint Paul Public Library, including requesting that guests at their wedding give books to the Library in lieu of wedding gifts.

- He led with able alacrity, projects focused on advancing international partnerships, education and literacy – including the first-ever bookmobile donation to Mexico which was lauded by Mexican President Vicente Fox.





“Saint Paul’s retired bookmobile departed from Central Library one cold, January day in 2006 on a week-long, 2,200-mile journey to Manzanillo, Mexico. The city’s 14-year-old bookmobile, which logged thousands of miles bringing books to neighborhoods in Saint Paul, was donated to Manzanillo to help improve literacy in Saint Paul’s sister city.”

*Saint Paul's Sister City,
Manzanillo, Mexico.*





The Pat Harris Award is presented to a member of the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library or the community whose contribution has a profound impact on Saint Paul's libraries that leaves a truly significant and lasting benefit.

Thank you!

