



Dear Manitowoc Public Library,

I am delighted to inform you that the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie, [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), is awarding a \$10,000 gift to your library and to all Carnegie Libraries nationwide in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries in the United States between 1886 and 1917, driven by his belief that they were “cradles of democracy.” As part of our [Carnegie Libraries 250](#) special initiative, we contacted each library and established that about 1,280, including yours, still operate as libraries and acknowledge their association with Carnegie, making them eligible for the celebratory gift.

Your library can expect to receive a check in January 2026. You may use the funds however you wish to celebrate the anniversary, further your mission, and benefit your community. If your library system includes multiple Carnegie Libraries or branches, each one will receive \$10,000.

On behalf of the foundation, thank you for the many ways you serve your communities. My hope is that this gift serves as a recognition of your commitment, our founder’s legacy, and the importance of this milestone in our nation’s history.

Best regards,

[Dame Louise Richardson](#)

President, Carnegie Corporation of New York