



•2015 YEAR IN REVIEW• FRIENDS OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY

The purpose of the Friends is to bring together individuals interested in the Johnson County Library system; promote informed community interest in the Library functions, resources, services and needs; and to provide supplementary funds for the Johnson County Library.

GENERAL INFORMATION

During 2015, Friends of the Johnson County Library provided continuous support for Johnson County Library. New members joined our organization and operations continue to expand.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Friends sponsored and participated in several events this year to promote the Library and increase visibility for the organization including:

- National Library Week bookmark design contest presentation to winners
- Pinnacle Award Reception and Dinner – Summit Sponsorship Level
- Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
- ALA Conference in San Francisco
- National Free Comic Book Day
- 2nd Saturday Author Events for Luis Carlos Montalvan, Andrew Smith, A.S. King, and Jessica Day George
- Prairie View Middle School and Shawnee Mission Northwest High School author events for EK Johnson
- Bookstore promotions and sales to highlight National Library Week, National Friends of Libraries Week, Banned Books Week, and Celebrate Teen Literature Day
- Delivery of treats to Library staff during National Friends of Libraries Week

PRESENTATIONS

The Friends Shankel Award for Distinguished Library Service was presented to longtime volunteers Dwane Wills and Martha Lavin. Dwane assists with Senior Outreach, while Martha lists items online through the Friends internet sales division. Both are friendly faces consistently seen at our Annual Sizzlin' Summer Book Sales as well.

Complimentary lifetime membership into the Friends was granted to retired Senior Outreach Librarian Lynn Wild.

FRIENDS OPERATIONS

Sorting and internet sales operations celebrated their fourth year at Pine Ridge Business Park in Lenexa. Volunteers were added to support expansion in each of our sales divisions. Throughout 2015, the Library and the Friends worked together meticulously planning and preparing for the addition of a third Friends Bookstore at Central Resource Library.

“I’m excited to have the Friends of the Library Bookstore in the Central Resource Library. Central circulation staff process a LOT of materials including new materials to the Library and items bound for the Friends. We now get to see the full life cycle of materials at the Central Library, and it’s a rewarding experience to witness. Our materials truly never leave loving hands; staff enjoys providing them for patrons, and when purchased from the Bookstore, the materials simply move into another loving home for patrons to add to their personal collection.” – Chris Carleton, Circulation Supervisor

LIBRARY ADVOCACY

One of the main roles of the Friends is to build community support for the Library. The Friends and the public are encouraged to show their support for the Library and ensure that adequate funding is provided for Library services and programs. Thanks in part to these efforts, the County Commission adopted the Library’s 2015 budget and approved a mill levy increase to provide critical funding for the Library as well as County Parks and Recreation and County Transit Services.

FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Revenue thru 12/31/15 for the Friends of the Johnson County Library activities totaled \$343,574.57. Income was generated via membership dues, monetary donations, used book sales, retail book sales at Library author events, two used bookstores, online book sales, the sale of book totes, and The Roasterie’s *Freedom of Espresso* Library cause blend. Expenditures included the salary of two part-time and two full-time employees, operational costs, promotions and advertising, membership campaigns and financial support to the Johnson County Library and Library Foundation.

LIBRARY USED BOOKSTORES AND ONLINE SALES

As of January 21 2016, the Friends operate three used bookstores – inside of Antioch Library, 8700 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Merriam; inside of Blue Valley Library, 9000 W. 151st St., Overland Park; and last but certainly not least, inside of Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87th St, Overland Park. These stores provide visibility for our organization and enable our community to purchase gently-used books and audiovisual materials at bargain prices. Revenue from these stores totaled \$92,830.02 thru 12/31/15.

A weekly senior discount day at our Antioch and Blue Valley stores offers 10% off of bookstore purchases to citizens age 65 or better, and teachers receive 10% off every day with a valid school I.D. Friends members receive 10% off bookstore purchases throughout the year and 20% off on Friends Appreciation Day, held the second Thursday of each month.

The Friends continue to sell items through Amazon, AbeBooks, Alibris, and eBay which generated \$143,248.56 thru 12/31/15. Orders are shipped five days a week to locations all over the world.

“I enjoy the variety of work I get to do in internet sales – I like a challenge. Mostly, volunteering gets me out of the house, which makes my wife happy.” – Larry, Internet Sales Volunteer

SIZZLIN’ SUMMER BOOK SALE

Over 250 volunteers worked in excess of 2,000 hours over six days to help operate this annual fundraiser, held for the first time at its new home at Johnson County Community College’s Fieldhouse Gym. The event ran June 3 – 6 and was cosponsored by Johnson County Library and Friends of the Library. A Preview Sale was held on Tuesday, June 3, 9am – noon, exclusively for Friends members. Revenue totaled \$64,725.26. Unsold materials were donated to area schools, prisons, churches, hospitals, treatment centers, literacy groups and other nonprofit agencies.

“The Friends of the Library has been a fantastic group to work with for many years. We have appreciated the hundreds of books donated for our book shipments. These books fill the shelves of our 72 libraries in Ethiopian schools. The volunteers are always eager to help and are Reading Angels to children in the Johnson County area and in Ethiopia!” – Leann Clark, Ethiopia Reads Book Collection Coordinator

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY

The Friends purchases all items weeded from the collection for \$50,000 per year. Additional funds support the annual bookmark contest, early childhood literacy, leadership development through the Library’s Leadership Program, and publication and distribution of *The Guide*.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Approximately 150 Johnson County Library volunteers who donated 100 hours or more were awarded a complimentary one-year Friends membership at the April Recognition Luncheon held in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. In 2015, nearly 400 volunteers provided over 19,000 hours of service to the Friends by way of the Library. Johnson County Department of Correction’s Therapeutic Community continued to provide excellent support during particularly busy times at our sorting center and Sizzlin’ Summer Book Sale; clients volunteered over 250 individual hours throughout 2015.

“I am so grateful for the men from Johnson County’s Therapeutic Community who help us with manual labor.” – Dwane, Book Sale Volunteer

“I like being able to go out into the community and it helps me show self-worth. I appreciate being appreciated for my hard work.” – Therapeutic Community Volunteer

BOOKMARK DESIGN CONTEST

Ten winners were chosen from over 500 entries into the Annual National Library Week Bookmark Contest. Children and adult winners were each presented with a cash award as well as a Friends Bookstore gift certificate. Color bookmarks were printed with the winning designs and distributed at the 13 Johnson County Library locations.

BOARD COMMITTEES

The workload of the Friends is spread among several committees made up of volunteers who donate their time and talents to improving the organization and carrying out its many activities and Library support functions. These committees meet monthly and report to the Board of Directors:

- Executive
- Organizational Development
- Advocacy
- Operations Oversight

There are committee spots available for Friends members who would like to get more involved with the organization. Volunteers are also needed to help with book sorting and sales year-round.

“After retiring in 2014 I needed something to do. Fortunately I found a position at the Friends sorting center. So now, I sort books with new friends and nice people.” – Marshall, Book Sorting Volunteer

The Friends board and employees work closely with the Library’s Community Relations and Volunteer Services Departments that provide administrative and promotional support to the organization.

MEMBERSHIPS

Retaining current members and attracting new ones is a continuous goal. The organization has a membership base of nearly 700 active members as of 1/31/16. Please remember to renew your membership and encourage others to join to keep our organization strong! Memberships may be purchased or renewed in person at the Friends Bookstores or online at www.jocolibrary.org/friends.

KEEPING INFORMED AND MEMBER BENEFITS

A triannual publication called *The Guide*, funded by the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, promotes Library, Foundation and Friends programs and activities.

The Friends section on the Johnson County Library website (www.jocolibrary.org/friends) also informs members of book sales and Friends activities.

Member benefits include invitations to special Library and Friends events, a daily 10% discount on purchases at the Friends of the Library Bookstores, a 20% discount on purchases on Friends Appreciation Day, and admission to Friends Only Preview Sales in conjunction with our larger book sales.

Information is also shared on the Friends Facebook and Twitter pages to keep those who follow the Friends of the Johnson County Library updated on events and items of interest.