

The Friends of the Cedar Falls Library

Annual Report 2019-2020

The Friends of the Library is an organization of volunteers who work to support the library and its multiple missions. Members are community residents who pay dues to help the library purchase needed supplies, programming and events. Board members and others also contribute their time to help the library staff offer over 600 events each year.

The purposes of the Friends of the Library are:

1. To stimulate the use of the library's resources and services.
2. To focus public attention on the library.
3. To maintain an association of persons interested in libraries.
4. To help fund materials and programs for the library.
5. To provide volunteer services to support the mission of the library.
6. To promote literacy.

The President's Report – by President Kay Thuesen

Our Mission Statement *Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library cultivate a love of learning and celebrate the joy of reading by supporting public library services for the community.*

Our 2019-2020 Friends' year is one to celebrate. The donations from you, our Friends' members, and income from the Book Nook have helped us do what we do best—support the Library. As you will see in this Annual Report, the Friends continue to support each area of the library by funding youth programs, adult book groups, the Co-Lab work space, author and speaker events and many other programs. So, **let's celebrate...**

Celebrate Members and Volunteers The Friends' membership has grown through the efforts of the Membership Committee. Enthusiastic volunteers step up to help in many capacities in the library.

Celebrate Special Events and Staff Appreciation Our Friends' events often include delicious treats. Library staff members enjoy a little extra expression of thanks now and then.

Celebrate Literacy Promotion Each year the Friends fund the purchase of a book for every fifth grader in Cedar Falls and a book for each child who attends Kindergarten Round-Up.

Celebrate Advocacy See this committee's work on Channel 15, at the Tourism Bureau or on our website, always promoting our library and literacy.

Celebrate the Book Nook Our Friends' members continue to volunteer in various capacities to operate the Book Nook, open four days each week, selling used youth and adult books, magazines, puzzles, and CD/DVDs.

Celebrate the Friends' Board Members Join me in thanking and celebrating the Friends' Board Members who make these things possible. Without your tireless efforts, we would not be able to celebrate all of this! Thank you!

A big thank you to outgoing board members Nancie Handorf, Donna Jordan, Cynthia Kenyon and Sheryl McGovern.

Committee Reports

The **Communication and Advocacy Committee** kept the public informed of library events through the FOTL Facebook page and web page. Both are updated with news and announcements with the help of library staff. With the cooperation of the producer of Cedar Falls Cable Television, several segments showcasing events taking place at the library have aired on Channels 15 and 18. The committee has increased the visibility of the Friends' Book Nook and book clubs at the CF Tourism Center. The bulletin board located there is updated yearly. We prepared the Friends' annual report featuring committee reports and an update from the President for distribution to members and community leaders.

The **Literacy Promotion Committee** continued to support literacy for people of all ages in the Cedar Valley through library programming and outreach. The committee is very pleased that the Youth Department used funding from the Friends to purchase a copy of a selected text by Dan Gemeinhart for every fifth grader in Cedar Falls as part of this spring's Cedar Valley's Youth Read. In addition, books were purchased for each student attending kindergarten roundup in Cedar Falls. Finally, the Literacy Promotion Committee provided funds to purchase *The Book Page* for library patrons.

The **Social Committee** showed the Friends' appreciation for the library staff by providing light refreshments several times during the year. The Friends are very grateful for all the hard work and dedication of the staff! In order to keep city leaders informed of the work of the Friends and to show our appreciation for their support, the social committee served the annual city council breakfast which was held in February.

The **Membership and Volunteer Coordination Committee** promotes membership in the Friends of the Library, maintains membership and volunteer records, and keeps an updated supply of membership brochures on hand. In October 2019 the committee sent a letter informing current members that their membership had lapsed or was about to lapse. The response to that appeal was positive. We are pleased to report that as of March 15, 2020, we have had 184 renewals and 15 new memberships for a total of 199 members this fiscal year, up from 163. In an effort to recruit new members, we attended story hours and library events where we exhibited an updated Friends' display board explaining what the Friends do to support the library. We also distributed brochures inviting attendees to support these programs. We are working with library staff to enable patrons to join or renew their membership in the Friends' organization online. Members are given the opportunity to volunteer in various capacities when they complete their membership form.

We are appreciative of the many community members who volunteer in the Book Nook and who assist library staff and Friends' Board members with library programs and events. We are grateful to Friends' members for their support; their investment of time, energy, and financial

support helps provide equipment, supplies and over 600 programs annually that make the Cedar Falls Public Library such a stellar community asset.

Book Nook Friends raise money for the library through sales of used books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and puzzles at the popular **Book Nook**. We encourage community members to shop at the Book Nook as well as to donate items to fill our shelves. The Book Nook is staffed by volunteers during these hours:

Monday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

2019-2020 INCOME

Book Nook	\$36,861.70
Membership	9,945.00
Other	<u>723.72</u>
TOTAL	\$47,530.42

2019-2020 EXPENDITURES

Library Programs	\$26,519.79
Book Nook	244.59
Membership	586.71
Communication/Advocacy	275.00
Literacy Promotion	882.00
Library Staff Support/Appreciation	407.28
Administration	<u>1,393.92</u>
TOTAL	\$30,309.29

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library meets monthly. The 2019-2020 Board members were Maelou Baxter, Mary Ellen Beckman, Mary Bozik, Carol Brown, Vicki Edelnant, Margaret Empie, Amy Frohardt-Schafer, Nancie Handorf, Donna Jordan, Cynthia Kenyon, Sara Lair, Sheryl McGovern, Steve Palmquist, Kay Thuesen and David Walker. Non-voting members were Sue Doody, Cindy Snell and Kelly Stern. We thank them for their dedication to the board and the library.

Check out our web page – <https://cedarfallslibrary.org/friends-of-cedar-falls-public-library/> and our Facebook Page. Search “Friends of the Cedar Falls Library.” We’d love to have you “like” us!