

# **The Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library**

## **Annual Report**

### **2021-2022**

The Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library is an organization of volunteers who work to support the library and its mission.

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 numerous events each year.

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

**The purposes of the Friends of the Cedar Falls Public 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**

The Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library thank our members and the community for continual support of our local treasure, the Cedar Falls Public Library.

The Friends were honored to receive several donations this year from memorials, from Community Foundation donor-directed funds and from the many Friends members. Your support is exceptional and so much appreciated.

The Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library work tirelessly to raise money to support the library. This year \$40,000 from the Cedar Falls Community Foundation: Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library Fund made possible the purchase of new youth bookshelves, and an additional \$10,000 supported Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The Friends' board met via Zoom several times in this new world of social distancing, promoting personal safety within our community. We appreciate the community's patience as we and the library have responded to the needs of the community even as Covid-19 has changed our processes and procedures.

The Book Nook provided income to the Friends by selling books, puzzles, and movies, even though hours and access to the Nook during Covid-19 were limited. The majority of our income comes as a result of the Nook sales. Book Nook volunteers commit many hours to managing the materials donated by our patrons, organizing the materials, and keeping the Nook open to the public four days each week.

The Communication Committee has focused on increasing our presence on social media. We now post several times each week on Facebook and Instagram, keeping our followers up to date on activities sponsored by the Friends.

Local celebrities helped us focus on the benefits of the Library, the Book Nook, and the Friends' group. This year TC, the UNI Panthers' mascot, might have been the most popular celebrity to visit the Nook.

In the fall a subcommittee started planning several events to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library in 2022-2023. You can see the events on the Friends' calendar on the [website](#). We hope you will join the celebration by attending these events.



## Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library

The Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library cultivate a love of learning and celebrate the joy of reading by supporting library services for the community.

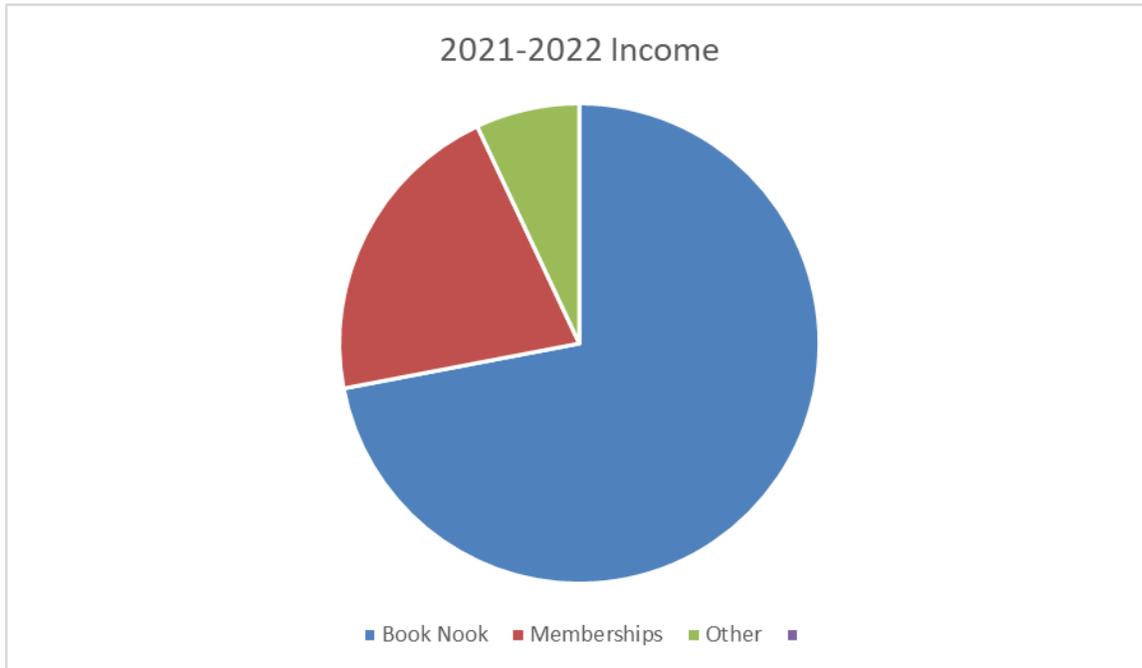
Join the Friends today!



# The Treasurer's Report

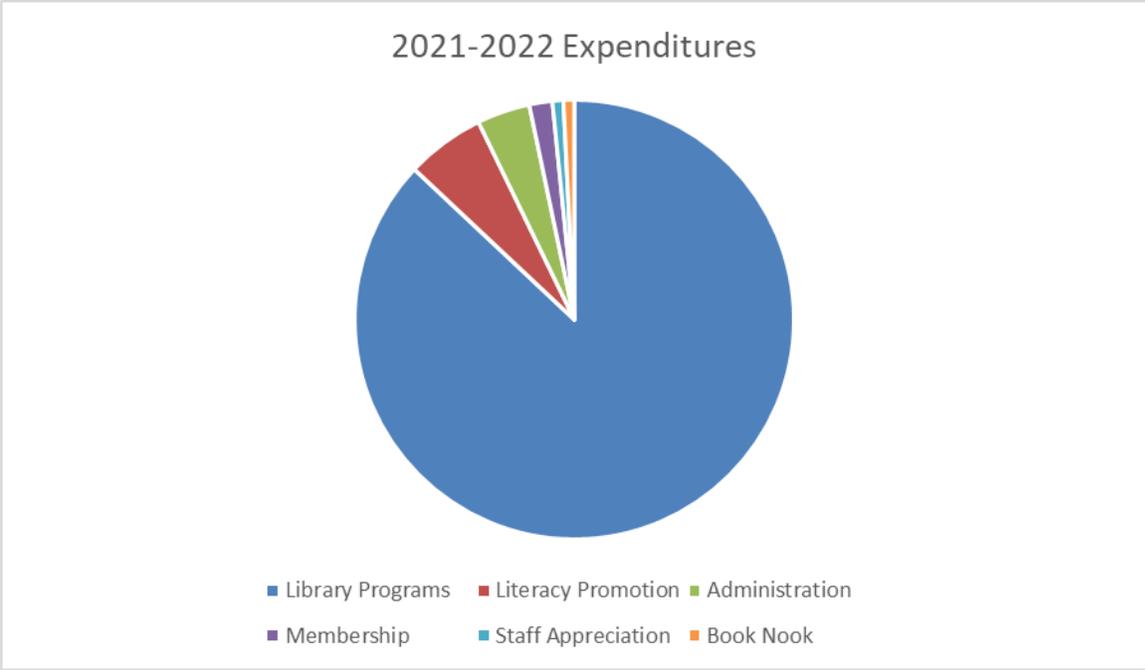
## 2021-2022 Income

Book Nook	\$32,874.46	72%
Memberships	\$9,721.32	21%
Other	<u>\$3,022.57</u>	7%
Total	\$45,618.35	



## 2020-2021 Expenditures

Library Programs	\$14,436.51	87 %
Literacy Promotion	\$972.00	5.8%
Administration	\$652.32	3.9%
Membership	\$303.80	1.7%
Staff Appreciation	\$129.72	0.8%
Book Nook	<u>\$127.04</u>	0.8%
Total	\$16,621.39	

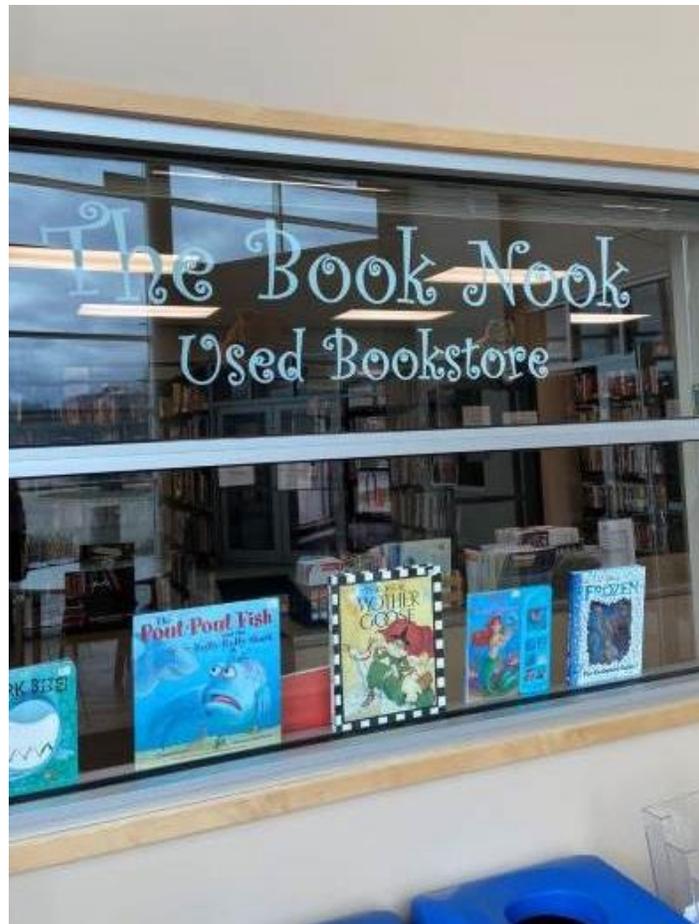


**The purpose of the Friends is to support the library. We did that in many ways during the past year.**

### **Financial Support**

The Book Nook provides essential funding to the library. It offers literary options for library patrons, their students, and children. Featuring a wide variety of materials from books to magazines to puzzles, it provides low-priced options for those who enjoy reading and owning materials.

This year offered a special challenge to volunteers when the library underwent new carpet installation. It was necessary to clean, sort and reshelve books in time for the reopening. Despite Covid restrictions, over 40 loyal Friends' volunteers made it possible to continue to serve the customers and support the library.



## Membership

The Friends experienced the largest growth in membership in the past several years. There are currently 130 members; 109 of those are renewals and 21 new members. To maintain those members, courtesy reminders of expiration dates are sent.

To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends' founding, those who join with a donation of \$40 or more for the first time, or increase an annual donation by \$40 or more, will receive a \$5 Book Nook gift certificate that they can pick up in the Book Nook. Additionally, business memberships are now available.

Library patrons who indicated an interest in participating in Friends' activities were contacted by the membership committee. As a result, additional people are now involved in special projects and social media outreach.

## Community Outreach

**The Communication and Advocacy Committee** continued its efforts to inform the Friends and the community of news, initiatives, and events.

The committee facilitated a proclamation by Mayor Green at the October City Council meeting. It cited many of the ways the Friends help the library and the community. The proclamation was received by Vice-President Rhonda Braley.

The Committee's use of social media greatly increased. The use of Instagram, in addition to Facebook, created a much larger audience for Friends' news. The Facebook page now has 310 followers, and recent posts often reach over 200 viewers.

To enhance recognition of the items purchased by the Friends, the committee ordered a reprint of the Friends' stickers for use by library staff on books purchased for Book Discussions and on library "take-aways."

The committee created a poster for the National Friends of Libraries Week for viewing on Channel 15. Local celebrities were asked to come to the Nook to have their picture taken and share the role that libraries played and now play in their lives. The list included UNI President and Mrs. Nook, Fire Chief John Bostwick, Mayor Green, Jason Weinberger, Ron Steele and TC, the UNI Panthers' mascot. The pictures and a short narrative were posted on the Friends' Facebook page.



## **New Friends Logo**

To continue to publicize the contributions the Friends make, we have authorized the design of a new logo to be used on a variety of items such as the *Book Page* magazine and library craft take-ways. The graphic is designed to reflect the excitement of Friends' contributions.

## **Activities and Events Sponsored**

**The Friends supported numerous events and programs for all ages.**

### **Youth programs and events included:**

- Book clubs for grades 3 through 6
- Word Wizards
- Teen Take & Make Crafts
- Dungeons & Dragons, Minecraft & Other RPGS for Teens
- Teen Book Club
- Teen Nights
- Tween Time
- Fairy Tale Engineering
- Island of Misfit Toys: Warped Workshop

### **Adult programs and events included:**

- A celebration, "Remembering Tunis Speedway"
- Morning and Evening Book Discussions
- Zine Machine: A DIY Workshop
- Valentine's Card Class
- Subscription to *Book Page* magazine

## **Equipment Purchased**

- Browsing Bin Bookshelves in Youth Department
- Inflatable Movie Screen

Planning has also begun for **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**. The Friends (through Community Foundation funds) have donated \$10,000 thus far for support of this project.

## Items funded by the Friends



## **Board of Directors 2021-2022**

### **Officers:**

President—Kay Thuesen

Vice-President—Rhonda Braley

Secretary—Anne Hoekstra

Treasurer—David Walker

### **Board Members:**

Mary Ellen Beckman

Kay Thuesen

Mary Bozik

David Walker

Rhonda Braley

Carol Brown

Vicki Edelnant

Margaret Empie

Amy Frohardt-Schafer

Anne Hoekstra

Sara Lair

Sheryl McGovern

Nick Nenow

Cindy Snell (Trustee Liaison)

Kelly Stern (Library Director)