

ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 10/1/2017--9/30/2018



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Annual Meeting--September 23, 2018

Alachua County Library District Headquarters

Gainesville, Florida

The 2017-2018 fiscal year has been a very good year for the Foundation. And a year of learning for me as new President. I have been able to rely on the Board of Directors for guidance and knowledge of the work that has been done in the past years. It is most important to have many folks with institutional knowledge to keep the organization moving forward. We are fortunate to have on our Board those many dedicated members. We have continued to build our Foundation assets slowly. Of course, we have been assisted by the market growth. We hosted our sixth annual Non-Event Gala. Katherine's Tree continues as a viable and visible symbol for the Foundation, which now has a Spring event to recognize and honor leaf recipients. Our current membership of 108 Associates elect the Board of Directors, including four officers and 17 other members (three of whom are ex officio) to conduct the Foundation's business. An Executive Committee composed of the four officers and committee chairs sets the Agenda for the Board. The members of individual committees--membership/nominations, community relations, investment/finance, development and events--carry out the

specific tasks on behalf of the Board. We recently supported the new Library Partnership building by providing funding for the Snuggle Up Center and the Teen Zone with a contribution of \$45,000.

Finance Committee

Under the leadership of Mitzi Austin with co-chair Brian Gendreau this committee continues to work with our financial consultants, UBS to maintain a strong fiduciary oversight of our investment portfolio. We updated our tracking benchmark to a multi-asset investment product designed for institutional investors such as pensions and endowments. We fit very well into this model.

Fundraising

The Mission of the Foundation is to “provide supplemental funding to the Library with an emphasis on long-term support and planned giving.” Furthermore the vision of the Foundation is to “enhance the Alachua County Library District’s ability to enrich lives of everyone in our community.” Simply put, our role must continue to support and enhance the Library services from needs identified by our Library Director. We will continue to support those special projects that come to us from the Library Director.

As a volunteer organization, we have very few fund- raising expenses. We do pay for our brochures and material needed for our special events but this is very limited and as the annual treasurer’s report notes totaled only \$1506.

Non-Event Author Gala

For the sixth year the Foundation has held an author non-event gala instead of holding an author gala. The creative committee composed of Eve Ackerman, Mitzi Austin, Cecilia Caton and Doris Hargrave featured the celebration of Henry David Thoreau’s 200th birthday. The non-event raised almost \$9000. Not only does this event raise money for the endowment but serves to publicize the Foundation and its work.

UF Campaign for Charities

The Foundation has been fortunate to continue as one of the community agencies included in the UF Campaign for Charities. This requires a lengthy application to the University but the effort is well worth it. Last year’s campaign generated

\$8286, and we will again be part of the 2018 UFCC's campaign. Hunt Davis and Barbara Scott staffed the Foundation table at the UFCC Kickoff Breakfast and Agency Fair held recently. On September 18th I staffed the Foundation table at the City of Gainesville GRU/GG Charitable Giving Campaign Breakfast.

Katherine's Tree

Katherine's Tree, which embodies a spirit of giving and sharing, provided a significant mechanism for raising funds with its minimum of \$2000 to purchase a leaf on the Tree. Joanne Auth is tireless in updating and maintaining the electron and hard copy records of Katherine's Tree honorees. The reception on March 11, 2018 recognized seven new leaf recipients. Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Kosman Foundation for the past eleven years we recognized Erin Phemester with the Guy Hudspeth Award and a leaf as an outstanding member of the ACLD staff. The Friends of the Library again made a gift for two leaves to honor Tom and Mary Ann Evans and Bill Watson as outstanding volunteers with the Friends of the Library. Other leaves were donated by family members to honor their mother or husband or grandmother or just their general support of the Library.

Foundation Funding

We have received other charitable foundation funding as well. For the past several years we have been the subject of very generous support from the Ehrhart family Foundation.

Projects

Although we had committed the funds in 2017, the Tower Road Branch project was not completed until 2018. The Grand opening was held on February 17 with a new Snuggle Up and Teen Center. The newly completed Library Partnership Building was opened on August 11, 2018 with a new Snuggle Up Center.

Visibility

Making the community aware of the Foundation is an ongoing project. It is one that requires all of us to be a part of. Our receptions, our events such as the non-gala fundraiser are a small part of this effort. We are fortunate to be able to work with the Library staff on our marketing efforts. Our web page constitutes another

important vehicle for promoting the Foundation. (www.acldfound.org) It is kept up-to-date by Hunt Davis and John Tucker who are also instrumental in publishing our news in the FOL newsletter. The Friends of the Library is a very strong partner in our efforts to support the Library. The group does a tremendous job in sharing their newsletter with us.

Looking Ahead

- Continue to grow the Endowment to support the needs of the Library District
- Recruit new Associates
- The non-event gala in the fall
- Katherine's Tree in the Spring
- Work with the Library Director to identify new projects for Foundation support

What you can do

We need all the assistance we can receive from all of you plus any new folks that you can recruit. It is important that we continue to grow the dollars into the Foundation as there are always needs for the Library.

Submitted by Bill Burger

Chair, ACLDF Board of Directors

September 23, 2018