

ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 10/1/2015 – 9/30/2016



Annual Meeting – September 11, 2016 Alachua County Library District Headquarters Gainesville Florida

The 2015-2016 fiscal year has again been a very good one for the Foundation. Completion last year of a two-year fundraising campaign that exceeded our goal of \$100,000, enabled us to achieve our overall goal of a million dollars Endowment. Last year at this time our reserves were a shade over a million. We have continued to build on this base to an endowment total of \$1,146,696 as of August 31, 2016. We have funded a children's Snuggle Up Center and a Teen Zone area at the newly renovated High Springs Branch that will be formally opened later this month. We hosted our fourth annual Non-Event Author 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 98 Associates elect the Board of Directors, including four officers and seventeen 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, while the members on individual committees (membership/nominations, community relations, investment/finance, development, archives and events) carry out specific tasks on behalf of the Board.

Membership

Despite some inevitable attrition the number of Associates has remained steady at 98. Although we lost 5 Associates and one household member we have gained one Associate and three household Associates. The membership committee has an ongoing objective of increasing the membership to strengthen the Foundation's programs and initiatives.

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 the lives of everyone in our community." Simply put, the purpose of our fundraising is to enhance the Foundation's ability to carry out its mission to further its vision for the Library District.

We are very fortunate as citizens of an enlightened Alachua County to have one of the country's outstanding library systems, and we are also fortunate that it does not need supplemental funding to carry out its basic functions. Rather, the Foundation's supplemental funding supports special projects that the library administration has identified and for which it has requested Foundation funding.

The other crucial aspect of our fundraising is that we are an entirely volunteer organization and, therefore, are able to allocate all of the funds we receive, other than membership dues, to fund library projects or into the endowment or special designated funds. As the Treasurer's Report notes, we had \$1,773 in expenses excluding the \$35,000 transferred to the Library for High Springs Branch. The library staff has also been most helpful in this regard, as from time to time we have been able to call upon them for professional services (e.g., designing our brochures) and providing meeting space such as this evening. This further reduces our expenses.

Non-Event Author Gala

For the fourth year the Foundation has held an author non-event gala instead of holding an author gala. A very creative committee composed of Eve Ackerman, Mitzi Austin, and Cecilia Caton organized a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Our non-event galas continue to grow in popularity. This year's "Tea Party" generated \$8,045, which was about 20% higher than the previous year's amount. Look for your invitation to another non-event author gala this fall. These galas are our only fund raiser so be generous in your commitment to the Library. In addition to raising money for the Endowment, the non-event author galas serve 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 has required preparing and submitting a lengthy application, but the effort has been worth it. Last year's campaign brought in \$7,812, and we are again part of UFCC's 2016 campaign. Jeanne Davis and I will staff the Foundation table at the UFCC Kickoff Breakfast and Agency Fair this Friday (September 16).

Katherine's Tree

Embodying as it does a spirit of giving and sharing, Katherine's Tree provides a significant mechanism for raising funds with its minimum of \$2,000 to purchase a leaf on the Tree. Thanks to the ongoing work of Joanne Auth, we now have excellent electronic and hard copy records of Katherine's Tree leaves' honorees and are able to provide current information for those who wish to place a leaf on the tree. The reception on March 13, 2016 reception recognized eight new leaf individual recipients. Thanks to the generosity of the Kosman Foundation, we have for the past nine years been able to recognize with a leaf an outstanding member of the ACLD staff with the annual Guy Hudspeth Award. The Friends of the Library again made a gift for leaves to honor two of their members. We also memorialized two of our own. Friends and family of Anne H. Little, grandmother of Katherine (the young girl after whom the Tree is named) and of Marjorie Alexander (longtime Associate and officer of the Foundation) donated the funds for two leaves to honor the memory of these outstanding lovers of the Library. Gerald and Katherine

Kidder expressed their appreciation of the Library's work by donating \$5000 (two leaves were named for them). Community members Bob and Carol Gwin memorialized their son Chris.

Foundation Funding

We have received other charitable foundation funding as well, including \$5,000 from the Ehrhart Family and \$5,000 from the Wilder family.

Projects

As noted above, the Foundation provided the Library District with \$35,000 for the Snuggle Up Center and the Teen Zone for the renovated and expanded High Springs Branch. We anticipate providing funding next fiscal year for the renovation and expansion of the Tower Road Branch.

Visibility

The Foundation continues to work at increasing its visibility in the community. The Katherine's Tree receptions and the Non-Event Author Galas serve this purpose, as does our participation in the UF Campaign for Charities. Nickie Kortus, ACLD Marketing & Public Relations, has been of great assistance with press releases that resulted in an article in the *Sun* in April about the Hudspeth Award and writing about Katherine's Tree leaves. Such stories enhance the Foundation's visibility. We are very fortunate to be able to call on her for such assistance.

The Foundation web page (www.acldfound.org) constitutes another important vehicle for publicity. Thanks to the efforts of Hunt Davis and John Tucker it has become an effective vehicle for promoting the Foundation. We also have a page in each issue of the FOL Newsletter.

As Chair of the Board I or another officer regularly attend the meetings of the ACLD Governing Board, the ACLD Trustees meeting, and the FOL Governing Board s as a way of making our presence better known.

Events

In addition to this Annual Meeting, the Foundation has sponsored two events this year. As already noted, last fall we held our fourth annual non-event author gala. In March we held a reception at the Library HQ to recognize Katherine's Tree leaf recipients and donors.

Looking Ahead

- Continue to raise and manage funds for the Foundation in support of the Library District
- Recruit new Associates
- The non-event author gala in the fall
- Katherine's tree reception in the Spring
- Work with the Library Director to identify new projects for Foundation support

What you can do: serve on the Board of Directors.

Use the literature on the table to recruit a new Associate

Solicit a gift for a Katherine's Tree leaf or for some other purpose.

*Submitted by Pushpa Kalra
Chair, ACLDF Board of Directors*