



# The Foundation

## The Alachua County Library District Foundation

providing long-term support to the Alachua County Library District  
through major gifts and bequests since 1989

October 2021

### ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED, BUT MUCH TO REPORT

For the second year, the ACLDF Board of Directors felt it necessary to cancel the annual gathering of Foundation Associates, originally scheduled for Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. While the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our gathering in person, it has not disrupted the work of the Foundation over the past year – indeed, the very opposite. This past year has been a highly productive one for the Foundation, thanks to the generosity of contributors.

The Foundation has again received support from the Ehrhart Family Foundation, the Kosman Foundation (to support the annual Guy Hudspeth Award), the UF Campaign for Charities, the Amazing Give, and many individuals contributing toward Katherine's Tree Leaves or the Foundation's endowment. This ongoing support has enabled the Foundation to commit to funding the Teen Space and SnuggleUp Center for the upcoming renovation and expansion of the Archer Branch.



Library Director Shaney Livingston and Foundation Vice Chair Mitzi Austin show WiFi2Go kits [photo courtesy ACLD]

Totally unanticipated, however, were three major anonymous contributions totaling \$140,000. These gifts enabled the Foundation to fund the launch and subsequent expansion of the Library District's highly successful and widely publicized WiFi2Go program. In April the Library acquired and made available 100 mobile hotspots and then in August an additional 100. Over the first six months of the program, Library patrons have checked out the kits more than 1,500 times.

As Library Director Shaney Livingston noted, the program “doesn't solve the digital divide problem, but it addresses it.” And Library Public Relations and Marketing Director Rachel Cook stated, “I've been very inspired by the stories patrons have shared about how these hotspots are improving their lives.” Funding the WiFi2Go kits is a significant example of how the Foundation is implementing its Vision Statement: “Enhancing the ACLD's ability to enrich the lives of everyone in our community.”

