

# Thank you to the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library!



As another year draws to a close, the Jacksonville Public Library administration and staff once again wish to extend sincere thanks to the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. Because of the Friends' generous support in 2015, \$95,337 was spent by the library to offer the following important resources to its customers:

## Microfilm Replacement Phase 2 (\$42,902)

For many of our customers, the library is a starting point to travel into the past, and they rely on access to microfilm reels in order to research local and family history. The Friends' funding was used to replace approximately 450 rolls of *Florida Times-Union* microfilm that was deteriorating and not available digitally. The new microfilm makes running the machines easier and provides clearer resolution and higher-quality printed copies.

## Summer Learning Program Presentations (\$11,150)

Thanks to funding from the Friends, 8,203 children and teens were able to participate in a fun-filled 2015 Summer Learning Program designed to maintain reading skills and prevent summer slide. For the younger kids, the program "Every Hero Has a Story" included kickoff parties, superhero storytimes, and comic hero creations. Teens enjoyed the program "Unmask!" with teen book clubs, superhero movie madness, crafting comics and creative writing.

## Summer Learning Program Books and Incentives (\$8,000)

As an added incentive to read during the summer, the library offered a free book to children and teens who participated in the program and accomplished the required reading. The Friends' funding allowed the library to purchase and distribute approximately 1,500 books as prizes during the 2015 Summer Learning Program.

## Refreshment Fund and Branch Anniversary Community Events (\$7,450)

The library used these funds to support customer-focused activities as part of our ongoing strategy to build and maintain strong customer relationships, infuse a bit more fun into our amazing programs, and say a special thanks to our customers. This year a portion of the funds also supported branch anniversary celebrations. Community residents and library supporters were treated to refreshments when they attended seven branch celebrations in 2015: 10-year anniversaries at Argyle Branch Library, South Mandarin Branch Library, Maxville Branch Library, West Branch Library, and the Main Library; a 30-year anniversary at Highlands Regional Library; and a 50-year anniversary at Dallas Graham Branch Library.

## Adult Programs (\$6,815)

Friends funded a variety of programs for adults, including a series of Readers Theater productions celebrating Stetson Kennedy, Black History, Black Music and Hispanic Heritage months, Women's History and National Poetry months. Customers were treated to Cultural Fusion Year of the River concerts, Banned Books Week Readers Theater, author appearances and materials supporting the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions series.

## TumbleBook Library Database Subscription (\$6,000)

The library's youngest customers gained another year of access to TumbleBook Library, a database of animated, talking picture books that teach the joy of reading through animation, sound, music and narration. This third year of Friends' funding also allowed an upgrade to the premium subscription, which includes

graphic novels, math stories, and a much larger volume of nonfiction, e-books and educator resources.

## Staff Development Day (\$5,000)

The library held its biennial Staff Development Day on April 20, 2015, to provide continuing education on customer service, allow staff to reconnect socially and re-energize, and meet as an organization to share experiences, problems and solutions. The day included breakfast, a keynote speaker, workshops, a final large-group exercise, staff gift bags and more than 20 door prizes.

## Roundabout Books (\$3,000)

Roundabout Books, an existing and successful program for K – 12 students, provides access to high-interest reading materials for youth in after-school programs and summer camps. The funds were used to refresh books and provide portable book shelves.

## Employee Recognition (\$1,054)

Staff nominations are received quarterly and an Employee Recognition Committee meets to review and select winners of one of five awards based on the Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership—Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, Encourage the Heart, Inspire a Shared Vision and Model the Way. In FY 2015, Friends' funding helped support 30 nominations, 22 Leadership Award winners and four Employee of the Quarter awards.

## Florida Braille Challenge Regional Competition (\$1,000)

This funding helped the Main Library host for the first time the North Florida Regional Braille Challenge in January 2015. More than 60 students—in kindergarten through high school—along with hundreds of chaperones and parents participated in the 15th anniversary of the event. The competition drew the largest number of participants than any previous challenge of its kind, with students from Duval and Clay counties, as well as the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine.



## Adult Summer Learning Programming (\$1,000)

Summer learning isn't just for kids! Residents of all ages—including adults—were able to "Escape the Ordinary" with a variety of programs featuring author visits and theatrical performances. Friends' funding supported a documentary screening and discussion with a film producer and historian.

## Online Stock Photography Graphics Subscription (\$716)

With the Friends' support, the library was able to purchase an annual subscription for stock images to enable our graphic designers to add attention-grabbing photos and clip art to the hundreds of digital and printed marketing materials produced to promote the library's resources, services and programs.

## Funding for South Mandarin Branch Library (\$1,250)

With the help of the Friends of the South Mandarin Library, the library was able to purchase several items to support its ongoing programs: a popcorn machine, cart and popcorn supplies; a Christmas tree to decorate for the holidays; and a rug for the Children's Train Table.