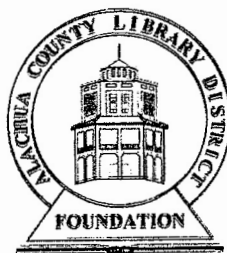


ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 10/1/2016– 9/30/2017



Annual Meeting – September 17, 2017 Alachua County Library District Headquarters Gainesville Florida

The 2016-2017 fiscal year has again been a very good one for the Foundation. Two years ago when I started as Chair of the Foundation we had just completed a very successful, two-year fundraising campaign that enabled us to achieve our overall goal of a million dollars Endowment. We have continued to build on this base to an endowment total of \$1,200,994 as of August 31, 2017. This past year we have provided \$45,800 towards a children's Snuggle Up Center and \$15,000 for the Teen Zone area at the Tower Road Branch that is currently being renovated. We hosted our fifth 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 110 Associates elect the Board of Directors, including four officers and 18 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

The number of Associates has increased to 110 including household Associates. The membership committee has an ongoing objective of increasing the membership to strengthen the Foundation's programs and initiatives.

Finance committee

Under the leadership of Treasurer Mitzi Austin, this Committee recommended changes in our policy for disbursing funds. The formula for calculating our contribution to the Library was altered such that we could make larger contributions, as long as our Endowment does not drop below one million dollars. Further, our investment vehicle with UBS was changed to obtain higher returns and the bank where we hold our checking account was changed to Harbor Community Bank.

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, able to allocate all 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 \$1,629 in expenses excluding the \$70,800 transferred to the Library for Tower Road Branch. The library staff has been most helpful in this regard, as from time to time we have been able to call upon them for complimentary professional services (e.g., designing our brochures, making posters).

Non-Event Author Gala

For the fifth 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, Cecilia Caton and Doris Hargrave organized a celebration to mark the 100th Anniversary of the publication of Frank Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*. Our non-event galas continue to grow in popularity. Perhaps it is the familiarity of Floridians with bugs that made everyone donate generously. This non-event raised over \$10,775 which again surpasses the previous year’s contributions. 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 \$7,523, and we are again part of UFCC’s 2017 campaign. Barbara Scott and I staffed the Foundation table at the UFCC Kickoff Breakfast and Agency Fair two days ago.

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. We thank Joanne Auth, for updating and maintaining the electronic and hard copy records of Katherine’s Tree leaves’ honorees. The reception on March 12, 2017 recognized nine new leaf recipients. Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Kosman Foundation for the past ten years we recognized Melanie Aultman 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 Sandy Mann and Sue Roland as this year's outstanding volunteers. Other leaves were donated by community members and Foundation Associates for various reasons. A wife wishing her husband a Happy 80th Birthday, a grandmother honoring her 8 years old grandson, a neighbor honoring two little boys for their love of books, and Board members donating in appreciation of Libraries.

Foundation Funding

We have received other charitable foundation funding as well, including \$5,000 from the Ehrhart Family and \$10,000 from the Wilder family. The latter was a targeted donation for audible books and was passed on to the Library in its entirety.

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 *Gainesville Sun* in March and May 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's web page (www.acldfound.org) constitutes another important vehicle for promoting the Foundation. It is kept up-to-date by Hunt Davis and John Tucker who are also instrumental in publishing our news in 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 as a way of making our presence better known. Hunt and I accompanied the Library staff to Tallahassee in support of Library legislative day and met with our state legislators.

Events

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

Looking Ahead

- Continue to grow the Endowment to support the needs 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.

Contribute to the Foundation through UFCC.

Submitted by Pushpa Kalra

Chair, ACLDF Board of Directors