

**ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 10/1/2018-9/30/2019**



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**Annual Meeting-September 22, 2019  
Alachua County Library District Headquarters  
Gainesville, Florida**

The 2018-2019 fiscal year has once again been a good year for the Foundation. We have started to look to the next steps we should take to grow the Foundation, not only in membership but in assets as we must continue to be supportive of our great library system. We are very fortunate to have a very dedicated board of directors. As a President, I have felt very fortunate to have a tremendous number of individuals with a long institutional history of our organization. The dedicated folks continue to volunteer each year to keeping our Foundation moving forward in our support of the library. Our current membership of 108 Associates elect the Board of Directors\_, including the four officers and 17 other members (three of whom are ex official 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 the individual committees-membership/nominations, community relations, investment/finance, development and events -carry out the specific tasks on behalf of the Board. This past year we supported the Snuggle Up Center and Teen Zone in the new and enlarged branch in Waldo. We provided funding of \$55,000 for those two areas in this wonderful facility.

**Finance Committee**

Under the leadership of Brian Gendreau this committee continues to work with our financial consultants at UBS. We have established benchmarks and guidelines for the financial management of the assets, and in a time of often large market fluctuations this committee is on top of the guidelines we have managed. We are fortunate to have a chairperson who has an

extremely knowledgeable background for leading this committee. We have maintained our long-term goals for these investments, and it has done well for us. In the past two years we have provided over \$50,000 to the Library from our investments.

## **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 be to continue to support and enhance the Library service from needs identified by our Library Director. We have been supporting physical needs for the past several years. With the pressure on funding we see all over municipal services, we must look past physical needs and consider programing as a viable way to continue our support.

As a volunteer organization, we can control our fundraising expense and they continue to be very low. We do pay for brochures and material needed for our special events. Printing expenses were slightly over \$2200.

## **Non-Event Gala**

For the seventh year the Foundation has held an author non-event gala. This creative committee determined several years ago that with a very good imagination one could have a successful fund raiser and achieve the same or better results by a non-event. It is very successful for the Foundation and raised over \$7000 last year alone. This committee is composed of Eve Ackerman, Mitzi Austin, Cecilia Caton and Doris Hargrave. While this event raises money for the Foundation, it also serves to publicize the Foundation and its mission.

## **UF Campaign for Charities**

The ACLF has been fortunate to continue as one of the community agencies included in the UF Campaign for Charities This requires a lengthy application process but it is well worth the effort. This past year the campaign generated over \$9500 for our Foundation. We are one of 95 agencies participating in the campaign. You may have seen that the UF campaign leads the SEC in dollars raised. Quite a tribute to the process. We were represented at the kickoff luncheon by Past President Hunt Davis and his wife Jeanne, Membership Chair. They maintained a table showing what we do at the event.

## **Katherine’s Tree**

Katherine’s Tree which embodies a spirit of giving and sharing, provides a significant mechanism for raising funds with its minimum of \$2000 to purchase a leaf on the Tree. Since 1995 there has been 190 leaves purchased. I might add there are still leaves available. Joanne Auth is tireless in updating and maintaining the electronic and hard copy records of Katherine’s Tree honorees. The reception on March 10th, 2019, recognized eight new leaf

recipients. The Kosman Foundation continued its generous support of the Guy Hudspeth Award for a leaf in honor of an outstanding member of the ACLD staff. The winner this past year was Library Specialist Ann Le Zotte.

The Friends of the Library again made a gift for three leaves to honor, as outstanding volunteers with the FOL, John Ritter, Ellen Smith, and John Tucker. In addition, Charles Gendreau was recognized with a leaf by his son, Brian Gendreau and wife. And a leaf was given to board member Cecilia Anderson Caton by her husband Don.

Another foundation that continues to support us with their generosity is the Ehrhart Family Foundation. This Foundation has contributed for several years. We are very thankful for all these groups who support our efforts on behalf of the Library.

### **Visibility**

In a community with many worthwhile projects and organizations it is very important for us to continue our efforts to tell the story-not only of the Library but of our support in building long term financial support of the Library. We are fortunate to be able to work with the Library staff on our marketing efforts. Our web page ( [.addfoundation.org](http://www.addfoundation.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. The Friends of the Library is a very strong partner in our efforts. We thank them for sharing their newsletter with us.

### **Looking ahead**

In April 2011, the ACLD Foundation board gathered for the purpose of developing a business plan. Certain goals and objectives were developed at that time, including growing the assets of the Foundation. Now is the time to pick up and further those plans and increase our efforts to broaden our base, not only in funding the Foundation, but marketing our efforts and being very strategic about our efforts. Under the leadership of our new chair, Jon Reiskind, a working retreat is planned for late October. Helping to lead this focus is board member Marilyn Tubb.

Submitted by

Bill Burger, Chair

ACLD Foundation