

## Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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### Libraries and Materials Selection

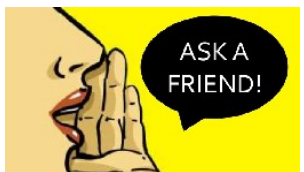
Libraries welcome everyone to find resources “for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community.” The freedom to read and learn is essential to a democracy.

Each library has a materials selection policy that has been approved by the local governing board. The selection criteria are a blend of general, specific and technical qualities. Librarians create collections that reflect a diversity of ideas and authors, as well as appealing to a wide audience and providing access to information as well as leisure reading.

With limited budgets, librarians are very fiscally responsible with purchases. General criteria to select material include meeting community needs, cost, format, relation to existing collection, patron requests, and professional reviews.

Content criteria include age appropriateness, authority, clarity, objectivity, currency, technical quality, originality, and authenticity.

Public libraries serve diverse populations, reflecting ethnic, religious, racial, and socio-economic diversity. Public libraries are creating collections using a wide variety of formats that serve their communities and make the best use of resources. Visit your local library to find the great variety of resources there.



**Q -** May Friends offer incentives for membership?

**A -** Incentive considerations include what they are and who paid for them. Some incentives may not cost any real dollars. (Join the Friends and be the first to know what’s happening at the Library and with the Friends.) Some incentives might be donated (such  
*(continued on p. 2)*

### FOLIO Annual Meeting

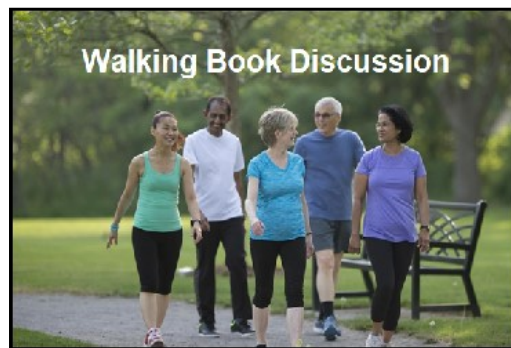
The Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA), will be Friday, March 11, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tulsa. Registration for the day is \$60 at oklibs.org. Online reservation deadline is Feb. 21. Hotel reservation deadline is Feb. 7.

OLA programs begin at 8:00 a.m. with sessions, such as, Mad Lib Storytimes, Memory Kits for cognitive decline, and Basic Photography. Speaker Moises Echeverria at 9:15 a.m. shares how libraries help connect, provide access, and facilitate human connection. This library champion is CEO of OK Center for Community & Justice. Exhibit time is also scheduled in the morning.

FOLIO has these great programs planned:

**The Author and Award Program** is at 11:15 a.m. featuring FOLIO scholarship and awards winners and author Traci Sorell. This award-winning author has written several books for children and middle grades about her Cherokee culture, including *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* and *Powwow Day*.

Lunch is on your own. The **FOLIO Membership Meeting & FOLIO Board Meeting** is at 1:45 p.m. Friends members may share their Friends group’s activities.



**Encouraging Health and Literacy through Nature** is at 3:00 p.m., featuring Friends and library staff who have **StoryWalks®**. Learn how they brought together multiple partners for this wonderful community service. Information about other outdoor healthy programs and services will be available, like bird watching kits, hoop-tastic, family games outdoors, gardening, dancing, sidewalk obstacle course and more.

## From the President. . .



Déjà vu in '22. That's rather what it seems like. Of course, there are differences from a year ago, but with the Omicron variant of the COVID virus running rampant, the light at the end of the tunnel that everyone saw as getting close in 2021 has once again receded into the distance.

As we begin a new year and reflect back on the past year, there are actually a number of reasons for Friends of Libraries to feel good right now. One is the lingering good feeling

about the fall FOLIO Board Retreat at St. Crispin's in mid-October. A presentation by the State Librarian Melody Kellogg and the Director of Library Development Jackie Kropp was very informative about the services available from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Oklahoma's public library environment. The Board meeting and planning discussion were productive.

For another, the Ready2Read@Your Library project is up and running. You will see more about it in this newsletter and in various places as we move further into the year, but we all know that offering appealing and stimulating library programs for young readers is one of the most important things libraries do. This new program, which will showcase vibrant story time practices in libraries, is going to make a real difference for children, parents, caregivers and library staff.

Another reason to feel good is that FOLIO has again met the match requirement for the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation grant for our Endowment. This is an accomplishment to celebrate, because the Endowment makes a huge difference in what we are able to do each year. It is truly a way in which a gift keeps on giving. Friends groups, people wanting to start a Friends group, scholarship recipients, libraries, and librarians all benefit from what the Endowment helps us to do. The scholarship winners are working in Oklahoma libraries now, completing their education and learning to improve services, collections, and materials in Oklahoma libraries.

At the FOLIO Board's January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, we had reports on scholarship applications and award nominations, which made one thing very clear: Oklahoma's libraries and Friends groups are soldiering on.

America's libraries exist because in a democracy people need to have access to information and have the freedom to read. The growing number of attacks on that freedom by people who want to control what other people have access to is cause for great concern. All Oklahoma Friends of Libraries need to be aware of these threats and ready to support our libraries and librarians whenever and however needed.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Tulsa on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, as FOLIO hears from author Traci Sorell, celebrates award and scholarship winners, has elections, and learns about the health and other benefits of StoryWalks® and nature programs, which Friends groups are supporting in many communities.

And on a personal note, I am feeling good about my ordination as an Episcopal deacon, which happened on December 21st. I want to say a special thank you for all the FOLIO Board members who pitched in and helped me when I needed a hand.

I am hoping that 2022 will be a brighter year for our libraries and each of you, with lots of good reading for all. Keep reading, stay healthy, and keep on being a Friend.

*Wayne Hanway, President*

### Ask a Friend *(continued from p.1)*

as coupons to local businesses, donated drink/lid cups, etc.) If Friends decide to purchase items for membership incentives (calculator, ruler, mug) as a benefit, then the membership donation acknowledgment would be less the cost of that item. Here are ideas for benefits that some Friends and libraries shared:

- Friends are "in the know". Let Friends know about library activities. Different modes are available. Perhaps give members a preference: emails, digital newsletter, or texts.
- Friends are "first buyers" at the Book Sale.
- Different levels of membership can get different benefits.
  - Newsletter - Basic membership level
  - First night tickets to book sale - Higher level
  - Invitation to author dinner - Highest level
- Express pass to programs - Registration is available early for Friends.
- A Children's Library Club gave logo bags with the mascot woodchuck pictured. The bags were donated by a local business.
- Discounts at local businesses by showing Friends membership card.
- No late fees for Friends members.
- Late fees reduced to \$.10 per day, instead of \$.25.
- Free copies (up to 10 per month for family).
- Photocopies reduced to \$.10, rather than \$.15.
- Computer printing reduced to \$.10, rather than \$.20.
- Free local fax.
- 10% off at Friends book and gift shop and 50% off on Saturday "Whale of a Used Book Sale Day."
- Allowed to check out 3 DVDs at a time rather than 2.
- Friends are allowed four-week check out.
- Friends get four free books at annual Book Sale.
- Invitations to special speaker events.
- Special membership categories at NYC Public Library with 10% off ticketed events and 10% discounts in library shop.
- 25% discount on online sales items.
- Super Friend membership category - For a \$100 or more gift, a bookplate is placed in a book in honor or memory of someone. The library staff selects the book and notifies the Super Friend.


Long Beach (CA) Public Library Friends
- During the membership drive new Friends members receive a tote bag or library mug.

Elgin (OK) Community Library Friends

## FOLIO Board Actions




The FOLIO Board met on January 7, 2022 via Zoom. Major actions included:

- Sandra Austin was elected as FOLIO Board secretary.
- The FOLIO Endowment has reached the \$6,000 goal to receive our challenge grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.
- Upcoming awards were reviewed. Most awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting on March 11.
- FOLIO Programs were highlighted. Everyone was encouraged to register as soon as possible. The deadlines are early.
- Library Day at the OK Capitol is being planned. Watch for info on Facebook.
- If your library has some positive publicity in the media, please send a copy or link to the OLA Advocacy Committee at [advocacy@oklibs.org](mailto:advocacy@oklibs.org).
- Needs for \$238 million in renovation or construction for libraries across Oklahoma have been identified. Ask your state legislator to support this proposal with the American Rescue Plan Act funds.



**Ready2Read®**  
**@Your Library**

This project is administered by the **Oklahoma Department of Libraries** and the **Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma**, and is supported by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** under the provisions of the **American Rescue Plan Act**.

Thirty Oklahoma libraries across the state are participating in the Ready2Read@YourLibrary project over the next 18 months. Libraries will have a story time demonstration from storyteller extraordinaire Valerie Kimble and receive materials for their professional and children's collections, as well as share resources and ideas.

A Ready2Read-OK Facebook group is available to learn more about pre-reading skills, story times, and ideas for early childhood programming. Anyone is welcome to join the group. Special thanks to the Pioneer Library System for permitting distribution of story time guidelines and activities to improve preliteracy skills for parents, caregivers and librarians.



## Helping Preschoolers with Reading Readiness

Libraries have had story times for many years. As early childhood educators have discovered the best practices to help children develop pre-reading skills, librarians have incorporated these into story times, resources, programs, available activities, information for parents and caregivers, and more. Sharing the love of reading with kids positively impacts the literacy rate.

Friends may certainly help infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in the community to be ready for reading before they reach kindergarten. Explore your community needs and discuss with your library staff as well as potential community partners.

- Purchasing additional materials for the children's collection, targeting especially early childhood resources where the library collection has gaps (maybe board books, flannel board stories for story times, picture books, etc.)
- Assisting the library with a pre-reading program. Many libraries have ongoing adult-child reading programs to encourage reading with preschoolers – 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Growing Like a Read (GLAR), Build a Reader, and more. Friends may ask what they can do to assist with incentives, printing, publicity, program sponsorship for parents' programs, or additional resources for the library. Ask the Library staff what's needed.
- Assisting with beginning a pre-reading program at the Library. If your Library does not have a pre-reading program, ask the Library staff what is needed: work with community partners; deliver books to child care center; provide funds for publicity, printing, incentives; etc. (Possibilities are limited only by your imagination.)
- Sharing story times, incorporating preliteracy skills where children are. If Library staff does not have time, Friends volunteers with training can plan and implement story times in housing complexes, day care centers, Headstarts, laundromats, etc. (incorporating stories, rhythm, activities, songs).
- Giving books to children provides a sense of ownership and emphasizes the importance of reading and learning. Friends may provide new books or leftover book sale books to help children build their home libraries. Studies have found that books in the home show children the importance of learning and increases their education completion and lifetime earnings.
- Start a Books for Babies program. Have a book, library card application and information, and tips on parents reading to children in a kit that is given to all newborns at a hospital.
- Establishing Little Free Libraries in areas where children cannot go to the Library. This is a take-and-share little library collection. Find ideas at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). Stillwater Public Library (<http://library.stillwater.org/LittleFreeLibraries.php>) has photos and addresses of their Little Free Libraries on the web site.
- Providing special services or resources for preschools - resource delivery, training, etc.
- Having parenting programs.

Friends should brainstorm, identify community needs and partners, and work with library staff to improve your area children's literacy rate and education attainment.

## News from Around the State

### Yale Friends Host

#### “Wild” Tea Party & Decorating Contest

The Friends of the Yale Public Library Association (FYPLA) hosted a “wild” tea party on December 7 at the library. The event showcased using local ingredients in foods and also in herbal teas. The food items, prepared by FYPLA member Tamara Walkingstick, included:

- acorn cranberry scones
- cornmeal, acorn & wild onion muffins
- “Wild Green Dip” Pinwheels
- “Wild” sandwiches
- persimmon bread
- wild plum tart with plum curd
- gluten-free peanut butter acorn meal cookies
- sunchoke dip and crackers



The herbal tea was prepared by Neva Alsip, and she provided samples of dried tea for all who wanted to try them. Her prepared mixture was delicious, and everyone enjoyed it very much.

The event was a huge success, with Tamara and Neva both giving short presentations. Tamara referenced several books at the library that contain different wild plants with recipes for cooking plus plant identification. Neva discussed several different types of herbal teas and what they are good for health-wise.

We even signed up a new Friends member at the event! It was a special afternoon, and we plan to have a larger tea in the spring.



(L to r: Tamara Walkingstick, Liana Teter & Becka Redding)

The FYPLA participated in the Yale Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree decorating contest. Several members took part and had a great time decorating the entry with the theme of Raggedy Ann and Andy. The Christmas parade theme was vintage cartoon characters. It is a special way to share the library with the community.

—Becka Redding, FYPLA Secretary

### Family Movie Night



Sapulpa Friends of the Library sponsored Family Movie Night in January.

### Raffle at Champion

Fall décor, pumpkin spice gift baskets, gift certificates and more were raffled by Friends of the Champion Public Library to raise funds.



### Elgin Held Silent Auction



The Friends of Elgin Community Library held a silent auction last spring and raised \$1,800.

Special thanks are always posted for those who volunteered and participated.

### Books for Babies in Elk City

Friends of the Elk City Carnegie Library delivers baby book bags to the Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City regularly. Judy Haught (left) and Linda Stineman (right) were delighted to share the handmade bags, books and info on why reading to children is important.



## Friends of Libraries Week Awards

Two Friends of Libraries groups have recently received awards for their efforts during Friends of Libraries Week (FOL), October 17-23, 2021. These fantastic groups worked tirelessly to have great events and encourage Friends membership throughout the week.

### SOKC Friends of the Library

The South Oklahoma City Friends won \$200 for their outstanding work during FOL Week. They celebrated with various activities, programs and a library display. The display was set up in the front of the library announcing “National Friends of the Library Week” with the theme “Thank you for being a Friend”. A photo spot was provided for customers to take photos with a “Golden Girls” cutout and photo props. They were asked to tag the library’s social media pages for further promotion. The display also provided make and take kits for customers to take home and share with their friends.



Library and Friends volunteers worked together to assemble friendship bread starter kits, friendship bracelet/bookmark kits and bath bomb kits, all of which were very popular. A library BINGO game was also provided for patrons. Of course, Friends applications were available for library customers. The Friends group maintained an ongoing book sale during the week. The Friends also helped to fund



two library programs during the week, including a “Finnish Breadmaking” program for teens and adults. A “Touch, Learn, Create” program was hosted for children and provided various sensory stations for ages 2-6. Children could spend as much time as they wanted at the stations, and parents were encouraged to walk through with the children to encourage interaction and learning. The Awards Committee made their decision to honor SOKC Friends of the Library based on these creative ideas and programs.

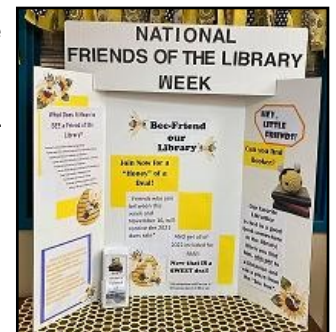
### Friends of the McLoud Public Library

The Friends of the McLoud Library also received \$200 for their outstanding work during FOL Week. Their theme of “Bee-come a Friend of the Library” was carried throughout all the weeks’ programs and publicity. The initial piece of their plan was the revamping of their membership brochure, done by the secretary with the help of a local college student. The group went all out following the Bee theme in various library displays. These included an eye-catching bulletin board encouraging membership, a large display cabinet filled with Friends information, books featuring bees and other bee-themed items. A beautiful display table and tri-fold display board also promoted various Friends’ activities held throughout the year. Honey



buns were even offered by members who staffed the table during the library’s busiest hours! In addition to the visual display items, FOML offered a bargain rate for joining the Friends during the week. Another

incentive for joining was the offer of a bag of books that could be selected from the book sale table. Also included was an entry into a drawing for a “honey of a basket” filled with bee-themed items, including honey and embroidered items made and donated by a Friends member. To encourage younger, future Friends there was a game of hide and seek to find Booker the “LibrarBee”. Publicity for the week included signage on the electronic board sign on the corner of Main and Broadway, and pictures of displays and events on their Facebook page.



The Friends of the McLoud Public Library were given the award based on their unique and creative use of a very eye-catching bee theme and how well it was carried out in all of their displays, events and programs.

Congratulations to these winners! In addition to the \$200 check, they will be presented a certificate from FOLIO at a future meeting of their group.

—Angie Lewis, FOLIO FOL Week Committee Chair

## Why Donors Give

Donors want to give to a cause they care about, especially when they know that they are part of a solution to meet a specific need. Friends need to communicate in a compelling way, showing potential donors that they can make a difference and what the impact will be.

The most important reasons donors give, according to NetworkForGood.com:

- Understand the Library’s importance. A connection to the mission is the single most important factor in giving. Donors perceive there is a need for the Friends’ mission in supporting the Library.
- Believe Friends will use the gift to stabilize and expand services.
- Recognize the impact of giving to the Library through Friends with the shared program outcomes.
- Know someone who benefited from the Library/ Friends’ work.



As Friends plan for fundraising, collect stories on how the Library services change lives and take photos of activities for great ways to share the Friends’ stories.

# Be Creative with Fundraising

## Re-thinking

Friends groups may be taking a second look at plans for the new year to keep everyone safe. Think about alternatives to still fundraise at safe distances. For example, instead of a mystery dinner theatre maybe have an online escape room. A Walkathon can be done in small groups with friends or individually.

The Shalom Project had an annual Big Chill festival in the park on National Ice Cream Day in July every year. Volunteers made ice cream and celebrities raised money to not sit on a block of ice. Local vendors and bands participated, making it a festive affair.

To adapt, they planned a hybrid fundraiser both in-person and virtual. Smaller mini-events were held with local businesses. A brewery developed a new brew and held a mini-session. A gelato shop named two new flavors and hosted a group. The entertainers, who usually participated, posted music online.

Their total earnings exceeded their \$50,000 goal with less overhead than they had previously had with the event. Success was credited to the volunteer energy and word-of-mouth enthusiasm of personally engaged people. The campaign was able to help people connect with their desire to assist in a difficult time. Those involved understood how the funds would assist people, and they wanted to help. Another success factor was that the project was fun. People were excited to participate in something enjoyable that provided a break from daily challenges.

-Network for Good

## Fundraising Trends

Several fundraising sites (candid.org, classy.org) shared fundraising trends for 2022 to help shift some Friends' expectations and planning.

- Virtual events are here to stay. They eliminate geographic limitations and engage new attendees. Virtual events lower the barrier of participation - convenient and less time off. Lack of major costs (like

venue) is a large cost reduction advantage.

- Recurring giving is more important than ever. Make sure existing supporters are fully engaged and motivated. Communicate with your donors and thank them often.
- Multiple options for donating unlocks generosity. Provide different options for giving.
- Donors should be given options on how they would like to be contacted - mail, email, text, etc.
- Technology-driven experiences will enhance events, like recording, streaming, and text communication.
- Workplace giving will evolve and grow in importance with corporate partnerships, team participation, matching money, and corporate-wide visibility.
- Virtual volunteers have become essential to nonprofits, making a difference in their own time and in their own space.
- Social media has gained prominence and is a valuable outreach tool. Make social media part of the outreach plan. Pick one social media platform to begin.

## Banned Book Ball

The Erie Regional Library Foundation held a "Banned Book Ball" on a Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donors received a tote, a banned book, and goodies from local businesses. Pop Luck created a custom-flavored popcorn (spicy popcorn with pretzels and chocolate), named "Popped at Fahrenheit 451." Advance orders were available. The family-friendly event had door prizes for the first 24 children.

For a donation of \$10 adults could participate in a Banned Book Jeopardy game over Zoom on Thursday. The winner received an autographed book.

Banned book enthusiasts who want to participate beyond the ball could receive a take-home murder mystery kit for an additional gift of \$5.

<https://www.yourerie.com/news/local-news/erie-county-library-to-hold-banned-book-ball-benefit/>

## Amazon Wishlist

The Unicoi County Public Library (TN) posted a wish list on Amazon and shared on social media. Over 300 people shared on social media, as well. The Library soon began receiving gifts from across the country - California, Utah, Ohio, Texas. The library has received over 280 purchases from their wish list and \$2,000 in donations. Suzy Bomgardner, children's and teen librarian, said, "It's this quiet philanthropy where people from all over, just out of the goodness of their heart, are sending something that is much needed to bless children in a county that needs literacy..."

The library is continuing its Amazon Wishlist and is taking ongoing donations via PayPal.

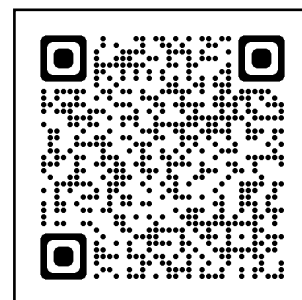
# GiveSmartOKC

Know More. Give More.

Did you know that FOLIO has a GiveSmartOKC profile with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation? So, what is GiveSmartOKC? GiveSmartOKC is an online database of charitable organizations in central Oklahoma. Each organization has a profile that displays pertinent information, such as the history of the organization, goals, programmatic activities, board/governance, and financials. Your next question might be, "Why do we need a profile and what does it do for FOLIO?" GiveSmartOKC increases visibility in the community.

When the development team at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation meets with donors, this is the resource they use when the donor is considering a charitable contribution in their estate or financial plans.

FOLIO's GiveSmartOKC profile also includes a donate button to help fund the endowment! To view the profile, simply scan the QR code with your phone.



Rachel Mouton, Manager, GiveSmartOKC, OCCF

## Need Help?

### Call your FOLIO Ambassador

FOLIO has Outreach Ambassadors who are ready and willing to talk or consult with your Friends' group or your officers. We want to help you be successful and strengthen your library. Let us know how we can assist you.



#### Northeast

- Jon and Sharon Douthitt  
douthittsharon60@gmail.com

#### Northwest

- Karen Neurohr  
karen.neurohr@okstate.edu

#### Southeast

- Dr. Bill Hagen  
whagen41@gmail.com
- Teresia Jors  
tjors@stratford.k12.ok.us

#### Southwest

- Judy Haught  
haughtjc@gmail.com
- Carla Garrison  
cgarrison@cableone.net



- *FOLIO Newsletter* deadline March 25, 2022
- Library Lovers' Month - February
- World Read Aloud Day - February 2 (info at <https://www.litworld.org/worldreadaloudday>)
- Take Your Child to the Library Day - February 5 (info on Facebook TYCLD)
- OLA Conference, Tulsa, March 9-11, 2022
- FOLIO Annual Meeting, Tulsa, March 11, 2022
- National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022 - Connect with Your Library
- National Library Workers' Day, April 5, 2022
- Money Smart Week, April 9-16, 2022
- Children's Book Week, May 3-8, 2022

## THANK YOU !!!!!

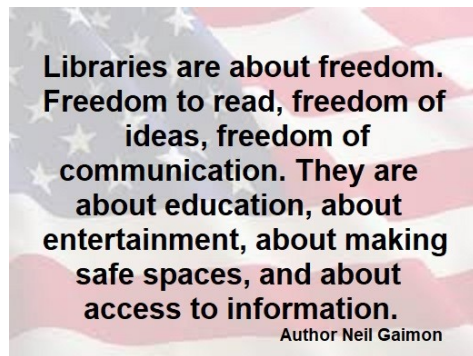
We are sincerely and everlastingly thankful to the following for their generous donations to the 2021 FOLIO Endowment Matching Grant Challenge. We have met our challenge goal!!

The following Friends made a contribution to the 2021 endowment campaign in response to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund challenge and we thank them. Some designated a special person or library to be honored or remembered and those are noted. The FOLIO Endowment continues to grow and FOLIO continues to grant scholarships, make Seed Grants, publish a quarterly newsletter and provide support to Friends .

- Friends of Mustang Library
- Friends of Tulsa City-County Library in Honor of TCCL Staff
- Friends of Tulsa Helmerich Branch Library
- Friends of Tahlequah Library
- Sandra Austin, Oklahoma City
- Margaret Bannoche, Tulsa
- Jane Bryant, Tuttle
- Nancy Chowning, Moore
- Margaret Collins, Canadian
- Peggy Cook, Norman
- Beverly Dieterlen, Bixby
- Sharon & Jon Douthitt, Claremore
- Eugene Earsom, Oklahoma City
- Dana Hendon Flora, Jenks
- Carla Garrison, Elk City
- Susan Gearhart, Chickasha
- Carla Gilbert, Tulsa –In honor of Jr. League Sustainer Book Club
- Susan Gilley
- Joshua Gillman, Blackwell
- Dr. Bill Hagen, Shawnee
- Wayne Hanway, McAlester
- Lynn Kay Harder, Claremore
- Mary Harkey, Georgetown, TX
- Judy Haught, Elk City, In Honor of Elk City Library Staff
- David & Jane Hendon, Jenks, in Honor of Gerry Hendon
- Melinda Howard, Oklahoma City
- Brenda & Larry Johnson, Oklahoma City
- Hannibal Johnson, Tulsa
- Teresia Jors, Sulphur, In Memory of Frieda Clark
- Carol Hendon Kidder, Tulsa
- Cletta Kinnear, Meeker
- Robert LaChance, Oklahoma City, In memory of parents
- Angie Lewis, Chickasha
- Cathy Luccock, Tulsa
- Joe & Carol McReynolds, Oklahoma City
- Susan McVey, Oklahoma City
- George & Karen Neurohr, Stillwater
- Charlotte Parrack, Perkins
- Linda Pye, Weatherford
- Marcy Robinowitz, Tulsa
- Anneva Sander, Seiling
- Sharon Saulmon, Oklahoma City
- Katherine Smith, Muskogee
- Jeannine Spencer, Okmulgee
- Pat & Gerald Stamper, Broken Arrow
- Laurie Sundborg, Tulsa
- Tom Terry, Shawnee, in Honor of Julia Ratliff
- Dorothy Turnauckas, Stuart
- Joyce Varner, Tahlequah
- Pat Weaver-Meyers, Ardmore
- Irene & Gary Wickham, Tahlequah
- Pat Woodrum, Tulsa

P. O. Box 702585  
Tulsa, OK 74170

## Return Service Requested



### Libraries Help Education Gaps

The *2021 Kids Count Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that Oklahoma ranks 42nd in overall child well-being and 45th in education (up three points since the previous year).

Of young children (ages 3-4) 57% are not in school, compared with 52% nationally. The fourth graders not proficient in reading were 71%, compared with 66% nationally. And the eighth graders not proficient in math were 74%, compared with 67% nationally.

Find the report at <https://www.aecf.org/resources/2021-kids-count-data-book>.

Libraries provide services to homeschooled youth and public school students. To assist youth, libraries provide:

- Traditional library resources (A variety of sources are available to assist children and young adults, i.e., books, DVDs, eBooks, eAudiobooks, etc.)
- Special online databases (For example, in Explora K-12 youth may find all kinds of resources on a wide variety of topics: animals, science, geography, math, art and more.)
- Computers and Internet access at the Library (Internet access permits children without reliable Internet to access school resources, assignments, research sources, etc.)
- Tutors (Online tutors are available to assist students with homework or questions on a broad array of topics.)
- Programs (Libraries offer programs and activities for children and youth, including STEAM programs

emphasizing science and technology, book clubs, family events, and outdoor events.)

- Story times (For infants, toddlers and preschoolers libraries provide story times, incorporating pre-reading skills and activities.)
- WiFi (Many libraries permit students to utilize their own equipment close by or in the library for fast access. Some libraries check out WiFi Hotspots.)
- Study spaces for tutors and students (Libraries provide small group and large group meeting rooms.)

Libraries continue to provide these wonderful services through a combination of local, state, and federal funds. Friends of Libraries continue to assist libraries to serve their communities with advocacy and funds for resources, services, and programs.

