



The BEST *of* FRIENDS

Fall
2019

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Friends Launch New Campaign

To Share Books All Year Round

Last year, we asked you to help us fill Empty Stockings with books. You responded with such generosity that this year we already have enough books to fill stockings in December. But that bounty presents the Friends a new opportunity to put books in readers' hands year round through our [Books in the Community](#) program, and once again your financial support can help.

The Friends give away books to dozens of agencies in the area, but we seldom have books that those agencies ask for. When Centro Hispano and Knox County Sheriff's Detention Center requested books in Spanish, we had none to give them. When the Montgomery Village Library asked for up-to-date study guides that would help people prepare for the GED or qualify for employment, we could not provide them. When the Career Magnet Academy requested copies of Angie Thomas' popular novel *The Hate U Give*, we had to say, "We don't have any."

Why not? Our inventory depends on donations from private collections and

from the public library's withdrawals. Books that are current and popular today seldom find their way into those bins.

The needs of three agencies illustrate the range of requests that the Friends hope to fill with your monetary support.

Beaumont Magnet Academy. The books we provide often go into libraries that children are building at home with books that they pick out themselves. Such libraries, research shows, build literacy.

To that end, the Friends help to stock two Little Free Libraries at the Beaumont Magnet Academy with picture books, early readers, and chapter books. A recent delivery created excitement among three youngsters, one of whom asked if he could take two of the "new" books home with him. The teacher gently suggested that he choose one and put the other one in the Little Free Library for someone else to enjoy.

Knoxville Dream Center. The book mobile from the Knoxville Dream Center

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Books for Empty Stockings,



Little Free Libraries,



and Knoxville Dreams

For Coordinator Tracey Wiggins, ‘Library’ Is the Key Word



Tracey Wiggins, the Friends coordinator who came on board October 1, vividly recalls her first library card. It became hers when she was eight years old after she had filled out the application all by herself, and her love of libraries has never faded. The opportunity to share that love with the community drew her to the Friends.

Tracey’s professional experience with nonprofit activities like educational ventures, communications, and networking, as well as her proficiencies in record keeping, drew the Friends to her. She wants the Friends to know she is “very thankful that they have entrusted the job to me.”

Tracey is undaunted by the fact that the office printer broke on her first day on the job and that an important annual report was due in Nashville on that same day. She says that Kristen Faerber, the Friends former coordinator, has been great to show her the ropes, and Friends have been dropping by to welcome her.

The Wiggins family — Tracey, her husband Greg, and their daughter — are self-described “amateur homesteaders” living on two acres in South Knox County with 5 dogs, 10 hens, and one feisty rooster that has earned his keep recently by saving the hens from a hawk. The Wiggins’ big summer garden has been put to rest, but their marigolds are still blooming.

Tracey and Greg grew up in North Carolina but are happy now to call Tennessee home and take full advantage of being just a short drive away from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Greg, who completed his Ph.D. in entomology at UT-Knoxville, works with Friends Board member Suzanne Lenhart at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis office on the UT-Knoxville campus.

Eight-year-old Maribelle, named for both parents’ grandmothers and mothers, “all strong women,” is reportedly the 17th Belle in the family. Tracey says she read to her daughter even before Maribelle was born, and by the time the child was two years old, she had memorized her favorite books. Midway through Maribelle’s seventh year the little girl’s love of reading caught fire, and this fall she is deep in the Magic Tree House books.

Maribelle’s mom, who still remembers her very own manila library card sheathed in a clear plastic case, is happy to be among the books at home and at the Friends office.



Tracey Wiggins’ first week as coordinator at the computer, on the phone, with Sort Team members Glen and Sandi Daugherty, with Rothrock volunteer Patty Bruns, and with library staff member Erin Nguyen

Celebrating Friendship: Friends of Libraries Week

Friends of Libraries groups across Tennessee will again celebrate National Friends of Library Week this year.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs has proclaimed October 20–26 as Friends of the Library Week to recognize the work of Friends in support of the Knox County Public Library. Mayor Jacobs highlights the rich tradition of library services in Knox County for over 130 years and the dedication of Friends in providing community outreach, advocacy, and support for KCPL for 49 years.

At the state level, Gov. Bill Lee’s proclamation recognizes the gifts of time and commitment made by Friends of Tennessee Libraries and local Friends groups across the state. He further acknowledges the role Friends groups play in advocating for and promoting public libraries — institutions that are essential to democracy and life-long learning.

Tending the Garden of Library Friendship

The annual membership campaign of the Friends of the Knox County Public Library isn't about money. It's about nurturing the garden of library Friendship that was planted almost 50 years ago.

Our roots fostering a love of libraries, books, and reading in Knox County are deep. Past, present, and future presidents of the Friends recently gathered at the home of Julie Webb, honorary chair of this year's membership campaign, to reaffirm their commitment to that mission through community outreach, advocacy, and support of the Knox County Public Library and staff.

In the past year, Friends has tended that garden planted long ago in the following ways:

- Providing financial support for broad-based KCPL programs like Imagination Library, Books Sandwiched In, All Over the Page, Children's Festival of Reading, and Summer Library Clubs.

- Acting as a nonprofit fiscal sponsor to help KCPL win grants that support programs and events such as Movies on Market Square and the Children's Festival of Reading.

- Holding used book sales that make books and other materials available to the community at affordable prices while raising funds to invest in the library's programs.

- Donating thousands of books to organizations and agencies through the Books in the Community program.



Ten past, present, and future presidents of the Friends stand behind Julie Webb, honorary chair of the 2019–20 membership campaign: Elnora Williams, Bonny Naugher, Rusha Sams, Claire Serrell, Sharon Smith, John Williams, Ginna Mashburn, Maggie Carini, Martha Gill, and Suzanne Freeman. Photo by Joyce York.

- Working with partners to bring authors into the area and to stimulate an interest in books and reading.

- Promoting KCPL programs through our communications network.

Next month, you will receive an invitation by mail to help Friends grow in the coming year. Your Friendship makes a difference, so we hope you'll accept the invitation. With your help, Friends will continue to nurture its garden of support for our library as KCPL grows and adapts to meet the needs of our community.

'NEW CAMPAIGN' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

delivers books to various locations; last week volunteers took 160 books to the Emerald Academy, where youngsters want the books that are "hot" right now.

When the book truck went to an apartment complex off Sutherland Avenue, volunteers Becky Jenkins and Cindy Arp, both retired librarians, also cited the need for reading materials reflecting the diversity of pre-k through fifth grade students.

Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Books are important to the Community Coalition Against Human

Trafficking's direct services program Grow Free Tennessee, which provides survivors of human trafficking with individualized care. The majority of women who stay at the agency's safe house enjoy reading mysteries and romance, according to Lisa Bolton, director of youth services. "They have been especially thrilled to see newer books by authors like Kristin Hannah and Liane Moriarty."

The agency is also beginning to work with more young adults and teens, who, Bolton says, would enjoy "fun books that can help them 'escape' into another world.

The average age I work with is 15 and 16 years old, and many of those love to read."

Providing books to address the varied needs of the community is among the challenges that the Friends and its Sales and Distribution Committee face throughout the year. Our community will be stronger and healthier with your help. Please mail your donation to our chip-in campaign for Books in the Community in the enclosed envelope or make your contribution online at knoxfriends.org/donate-gifts.



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