

Celebrating Friendship

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The Faces of Friends



Left: J.J. White, seen here at the Friends booth at Open Streets Knoxville on October 29, decorates her school library for every season and holiday to make it a special place for her students. Right: Volunteers (left to right) Sarah Ford, Sherri Cotter, and Jean Idell greeted shoppers at several Friends book sales this year.

Self-proclaimed library nerd **J.J. White** is a library lover and a Friend of the Knox County Public Library. On Monday, you'll find her in the basement of Lawson McGhee Library as a member of the Friends Book Flow Team. On Tuesday and Thursday, she's the volunteer librarian at Freedom Christian Academy. On Friday, she's at Spring

them, talking about them, and, yes, smelling them!" She found a new way to share that love when she persuaded Friends to hold a book sale at the Holiday Hoedown at her school in November.

You've seen Friends like J.J. all over town this year. They were at used book sales and in the audience at author events and Books Sandwiched In. They took their kids and grandkids to library storytimes, to the Children's Festival of Reading, and to Summer Library Club events. They sat next to you at special library programs such as the Truth and Consequences Symposium, the Big Read, and Reading Close to Home.

Sometimes Friends are easy to identify. They're wearing a Friends t-shirt or a badge. They're helping shoppers at a used book sale or encouraging people to become members of Friends or serving guests at an author event. Others offer their Friendship simply by being members of an organization that loves and supports the Knox County Public Library.

The **ties that bind Friends together** are strengthened by the variety of people who have come together to acknowledge the **importance of the library in our community**. The reasons they became Friends are many. Here are a few:

- "My life has taught me that caring about reading, books, and libraries is rewarding."
- "It's the best value in Knoxville."
- "It's an investment in our community."
- "Literacy is an issue near and dear to my heart."
- "I can contribute to my community in a non-partisan way."

Whatever your reason, we encourage you to become a member of the Friends family in 2018. Join [online](#), or [download this form](#) and send it to the Friends office at 500 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902. And if you've already stepped up, our gratitude for your commitment is deep and wide.



Left: Martha Edington (left) and Flossie McNabb (right), owner of Union Ave Books, enjoyed a memorable evening with author Denise Kiernan (center) in October. Right: Coordinator Kristen Faerber (left), Jane Row (center), and Elnora Williams (right) were among the first to see the new Friends poster.



Laila Archer and Vicki Evans (left to right in both photos) have created a welcoming environment for the holidays; branch patrons were generous donors to this year's ESF Children's Book Drive.

It's beginning to look a lot like **Merry, Merry** in the Knox County Public Library. A system-wide program sponsored by the Friends, Merry, Merry ensures a jolly holiday at each branch when Santa comes to call.

Take the **Howard Pinkston Branch**, for example, where Manager **Vicki Evans** and her assistant **Laila Archer** are getting ready for a visit from Old Saint Nick on Monday, December 11. In addition to the photo opportunity with Mr. Claus, there will be refreshments and a craft for youngsters to enjoy. A winter evening storytime will follow on December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Visitors enter the branch through wreath-decked doors, and a bin inside awaits contributions to the **Empty Stocking Fund Children's Book Drive**. Howard Pinkston patrons donated more than six bags of books to the Friends-sponsored drive.

The Howard Pinkston Library may be unfamiliar to many Knoxvilleans, but a scenic drive along Martin Mill Pike in South Knoxville leads to the beautiful building in a pastoral setting. It's just past Bonny Kate Elementary School, adjacent to the Howard Pinkston Greenway and across the road from French Memorial Park. The children's room welcomes young readers with murals created by Julie Hinsley, the artist whose work also graces the Bearden Branch Library.

Vicki Evans discovered her life's work with KCPL 20 years ago. She and Laila Archer, her assistant, have staffed the Howard Pinkston Branch since it opened in 2000. "We work so well together," Vicki says, "that we often show up to work wearing the same color." Last Tuesday it was purple.

Every week the staff issues library cards to more members of this growing community, and Vicki loves having the chance to share the library's many services with newcomers. "Those services are not limited to what's in this building," she adds. Like Merry, Merry, those services are countywide.

Stockings a Little Fuller



Left: West Valley Middle School seventh grader Caitlin Hester worked with school librarian Janet Getz to organize a book drive for the Empty Stocking Fund. Right: The spirit of giving continued when West Valley students helped load books for transport to Lawson McGhee Library, where the books are sorted before distribution.

Ask **Caitlin Hester**, a seventh grader at **West Valley Middle School**, what prompted her to become a lover of reading, and you'll immediately embrace the answer as one you'd wish from any child: "When I was little, my parents read to me every night before I went to bed." It's just one reason she says that she continues to read today. "Who doesn't love reading?" asked Caitlin. "I mean, it's so fun."

Perhaps it's that love of stories and the comfort of her parents' voices at night that prompted her to link up with Friends of the Knox County Public Library to collect books for the **Empty Stocking Fund** (ESF) and help put books in the hands of children whose families will receive a basket of food at Chilhowee Park's Jacob Building on ESF Distribution Day, Saturday, December 23. Caitlin and her dad plan to be there to hand out books.

Caitlin began working with her school librarian, **Janet Getz**, to collect books for all age groups for ESF. By setting out collection boxes and making announcements about the types of books needed, the school was able to provide over 100 books ranging from board books for very young children to young adult novels for high school teens. They even have a few of Caitlin's childhood favorites in the mix. "I always loved books about Disney princesses," she told Getz when asked which books she loved when she was younger.

When Friends came to collect the books, Getz had no trouble finding students willing to carry boxes of new books to the delivery car. "Our kids have really embraced this project," she said. "And we'd like to do it again next year. Maybe even ask each student to contribute one book each. Oh, my. That would be 1200 books right there!" The future looks pretty bright when you pair Friends with West Valley Middle to collect books for the Empty Stocking Fund.



Young Henry Geidner's collection of Imagination Library books.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library aims to give away its 100 millionth book early in 2018, and the [University of Tennessee's Land Grant Films](#) plans to tell the stories behind that milestone in a documentary entitled *100 Million Stories*.

Journalism and Electronic Media Associate Professor Nick Geidner, leader of Land Grant Films, has a personal interest in the making the documentary: His son Henry, who is now four and a half, has been receiving Imagination Library Books since he was born. Geidner believes that the completed film will find a national audience through networks like PBS or Netflix.

As plans for the film take shape, the documentary team of Brock Zych, UT senior from Kingsport, and Abby Bower, junior from Knoxville, will travel all over the country conducting interviews and shooting footage of recipients of the books, authors of the books selected for the programs, organizers, volunteers, and, of course, Dolly Parton herself. In 1996 Dolly Parton began the program to encourage early childhood literacy in honor of her father, who could not read or write. Children in Sevier County were the first recipients of the books, but today over a million books each month go to children from birth until age five in 50 states and four countries. The Friends contribute \$5,000 annually to Imagination Library in Knox County.

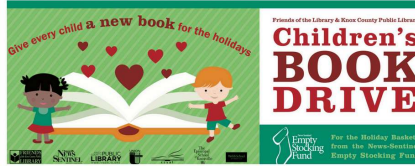
Land Grant Films hopes to [finance the film](#) with grants, corporate sponsorships, crowdfunding campaigns, and private donors. [Previous productions of Land Grant Films](#) include documentaries about Vietnam veterans from East Tennessee and infants born with drug addictions.

Holiday Happenings

Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.: [Empty Stocking Fund Saturday](#) hosted by Union Ave Books and Webb School of Knoxville.

Fund SATURDAY and Webb School of Knoxville

December 9, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
517 Union Ave. in Downtown Knoxville



a.m.–3 p.m.: East Tennessee Historical Society's **Holiday Open House** at the East Tennessee History Center.

Sunday, December 10, 2–4 p.m.: **Glimpse into Christmas Past** with the Knoxville History Project's Jack Neely and the Tennessee Archive of Moving

Image and Sound (TAMIS).

Library Foundation Board Meets



Attendees at the November 27 Library Foundation Board meeting (left to right): Ginna Mashburn, Lois Ross, Claire Serrell, Ginger Browning (retiring member), Willard Carr, Jeff Johnson, Jane Ray, John Smartt, Jr., and Jerome Miller (new member).

The **Knox County Public Library Foundation** Board said goodbye to retiring members and welcomed new ones at its meeting on November 27. Learn more about the Foundation and the role it plays in supporting the Knox County Public Library [here](#).

Shop for the Holidays at the Friends @
Rothrock Used Book Shop

STEP UP for Your Library

Become a Friend of the Knox County Public Library



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Friends♥KCPL is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Communications Committee of Friends of the Knox County Public Library. Members of the committee who contribute to the e-newsletter include: Martha Gill (co-chair), Martha Edington, (co-chair), Deanne Charlton, Beth Fisher, Ryan McCray, Stacey McCray, Rusha Sams, Claire Serrell, and Joyce York.

About Friends of the Knox County Public Library: Friends is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a love of libraries, books and reading in the Knox County area. The organization raises funds to sponsor community outreach programs, represent the interests of Knox County library patrons, and support a variety of services offered by the local library system that would otherwise not be available due to budget or staff restrictions.

Friends of the Knox County Library has this e-mail address either from our membership roster or from email sign-up sheets. If you are receiving this message in error, please accept our apologies and unsubscribe below. Thank you.

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