The Library Foundation challenges our donors to build a thriving community and inspire lifelong learning through financial gifts that support the Springfield-Greene County Library District.

Last year, the Library Foundation turned 25 and donors celebrated with us. The $25 for 25 campaign raised more than $10,200 for new library materials. The Foundation granted an additional $10,000 to support the library collection. In total, the Library Foundation distributed more than $104,000 to the Library.

Other foundation-led activities:

• The Springfield Symphony Orchestra performed at the Library Center to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. In addition to the concert, the Library Foundation supported the World War I speaker series.

• The Republic Branch Library purchased new computers with a $21,183 distribution. Community Foundation of the Ozarks awarded a $2,300 Senior Mental Health Grant for the Movies and Memories project. It provides socialization for seniors and people with dementia. Kits are available for checkout.

• The Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library received more bike racks and a ‘tween area.

• Harry and the Potters performed to kick off LibraryCon. The Library Foundation sponsored the concert, and supports LibraryCon every year.

• Guests of the first annual “One Big Party” fundraiser, which celebrates the reading experience of one great book, reveled in Greek wine, food and dancing in honor of “Circe” by Madeline Miller.

• The Library Foundation also supported Racing to Read, the Heirloom Seed Library and the Local History Department.

The Library Center is a little more magical thanks to a generous gift from David H. Jones. The MagicBox® is an interactive display cabinet that combines the physical and digital, giving you a new perspective on history.

2018-2019 LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD

Joselyn Baldner
Teresa Blair
Terry Breazeale
Laurie Edmondson
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Holly Holtman
Bruce Robison
Richard Russell
Julia Schreiber
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Ex-Officio

Regina Greer Cooper, Library District Executive Director
Andrea McKinney, Board of Trustees member
Bill Kastler, Friends of the Library
Melissa Adler, Development Director
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library’s major gift to the community became a reality in February 2019. Responding to neighbors’ requests for library service on the west side, the Friends provided major funding for the 24-hour Library Express, a book, music and movie walk-up kiosk on West Chestnut Expressway.

The Friends’ many gifts — funded through their used book sales — greatly extend the Library’s capacity. Their fall 2018 and spring 2019 book sales grossed $302,656.90.

Here are some of the benefits the Friends provided through its $181,226.59 in gifts and grants that year:

- Missouri and the Great War Exhibit
- One Read author of “Circe,” Madeline Miller
- Summer Reading Program entertainers
- Library’s Welcome Videos for Refugees and Immigrants
- Concerts by Geezer, Blue Train, Bluefield, Phillip and the Flatheads, Finley River Boys, the Shandies, SouthWynns, Bob Holden Jazz Ensemble, Music at Midtown: The Cider Sessions with D. Clinton Thompson, Michael Cochran, Emily Higgins and Molly Healey, and Red Bridge Bluegrass
- Springfield Symphony’s Brass Quintet in “Holiday Horns”
- Holiday Concert by the Mother Road Ukulele Ensemble
- Grant funding for branch libraries
- Updates to the Library Station Reading Room and cyberbar
- Platform 9¾ for Library Station Circulation Department
- 100th anniversary of Armistice Day with members of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra

Judges with the Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Awards named the Friends Small Nonprofit of the Year. The Friends group was called a “quiet, but vital source of support for one of this region’s important services.”

2018–2019 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

Bill Kastler, President
Andrea Still, President-elect, Wee Read Chair
Joyce Kastler, Treasurer
Donna Howell, Secretary
Pat Woodward, Membership Chair
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

THE LIBRARY UPPED ITS GAME with some very special programming this year to bring the community together.

• On the 11th day of the 11th hour of the 11th month of 2018, in the middle of the Library Center, the Springfield Symphony performed a concert commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. In the concourse, patrons viewed the travelling World War I exhibit created by our Local History & Genealogy staff and art director.

• Once again, LibraryCon took over the Library Center with over 4,000 attending the annual event.

• The African American Read-in celebrated its 10-year anniversary with programs, an exhibit and a nationally known illustrator.

• Our community One Read featured the book “Circe” and its best-selling author Madeline Miller, who spoke to more than 200 fans.

• And a series of special Harry Potter 20th anniversary programs for children and adults culminated in the addition of a permanent Platform 9¾ to the décor of the transportation-themed Library Station, much to the delight of patrons.

We sought to grow our role as contributors to the region’s and state’s workforce development. The Library also partnered with the Springfield Underground, a co-working space, and was given a grant to offer a series of workshops for entrepreneurs and small-business owners. And our ongoing free computer classes continued to provide training in digital skills for job seekers.

The Friends of the Library celebrated their two largest grossing sales totaling $302,656.90. They also received the Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Award for Small Nonprofit of the Year. The Library also received the largest distribution to the Library since its $2.5 million ReNew Brentwood capital campaign. These two dedicated groups tremendously add to what we can do for the community.

This has been an important year of working with others to make our community stronger. Please join us at the Library — inside our branches, or out in the community — as we strive to bring you lifelong learning and enrichment.

— Regina Greer Cooper

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

Library staff began filming videos to welcome non-English-speaking families to the Library. Each video, funded through a Small Business Resource Fair, was in Arabic, Burmese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. The videos and print materials are available at thelibrary.org/welcome.

Kids flocked to Maker Camp at the Library Station to play with squishy circuits, snap circuits and flying saucers.

Over 5,000 fans of sci-fi, fantasy, superheroes and pop culture icons flocked to LibraryCon 2018. Fans dressed to meet their superheros and visit with 47 exhibitors, vendors, authors and illustrators.

A Springfield Cardinals book drive that rewarded donors with $1 game tickets brought in over 300 books for children and teens served by Library Outreach staff.

The MagicBox® premiered at the Library Center with an interactive exhibit honoring the end of World War I. The Library’s newest acquisition was a gift to the Library Foundation from Springfield lawyer David J. Jones. The display cabinet combines physical and digital artifacts.

More than 400 people at Relics Event Center heard YouTube sensation and Los Angeles-based mortician Caillou Lou autopsy talk about death customs from around the world. She kicked off the series Death & Dying: Conversations on End-of-Life Matters.

Some 300 children and adults at the Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Springfield Public Library Central Branch heard Mayor Ken McClure and others read from “A Visit from St. Nicholas.”

The annual Holiday Store for Kids at six branches, sponsored by the Between Friends Gift Shop, helped children shop and buy holiday gifts at kid-friendly prices.

The Springfield Symphony filled the Library Center with a musical tribute to World War I and the centennial anniversary of the 1918 Armistice Day.

The Library Foundation fundraiser, OPA! One Big Party, provided a modern twist on the traditional holiday celebration for kids and adults.

The annual Holiday Store for Kids at six branches, sponsored by the Between Friends Gift Shop, helped children shop and buy holiday gifts at kid-friendly prices.

Library staff began filming videos to welcome non-English-speaking families to the Library. Each video, funded through a Small Business Resource Improvement Grant, featured a translator speaking in Arabic, Burmese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. The videos and print materials are available at thelibrary.org/welcome.

The Library launched “Your Next Read,” a new online service to help patrons describe their reading preferences and find their next favorites.

Google came to the Library Station for Grow with Google, digital training to help people grow their digital skills and job prospects.

Missouri Reps. Crystal Quade, Sonya Anderson, Steve Helms, Mike Moon; and Sens. Lincoln Hough and Eric Burlison were on the summer schedule with children at branches for Stories with Your Legislators.

Neema Barume served a summer internship with teens and staff at the Library Station as part of the Public Library Association’s Inclusive Internship Initiative. Neema’s family is from the Democratic Republic of Congo and she was born and raised in a refugee settlement in Tanzania.
2018–2019 LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Catherine Moore, President
William Garvin, Vice President
Michele Risdal-Barnes, Secretary
Cindy Waites, Treasurer
Steven Ehase
Ashley Norgard
Andrea McKinney
Emily Denniston
Don Chenevert Jr.

2018–2019 BY THE NUMBERS
3,249,723  Items checked out
1,934,371  Visitors
1,407,575  Website views
391,028  Books and materials in collection
131,377  Audiovisual items in collection
268,760  Checkouts of digital media: e-books, audiobooks, videos and music via OverDrive and Hoopla
6,414  Total number of programs
128,922  Total attended library programs
98,858  Total attended children’s programs
139,589  Reference questions answered
95,969  Card holders
26,201  Meeting room reservations (public)
11,334  Volunteer hours

SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
4653 S. Campbell Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 65810
thelibrary.org

MISSION STATEMENT
Building a stronger community by enabling lifelong learning and enrichment.

OUR VISION
A thriving library that is an integral part of the lives of the community.

TOTAL REVENUE & OPERATING RESERVE CARRY-FORWARD.......... $15,068,740
Taxes .................................................. $13,385,009
Overdue Fines and Fees.............................. $191,334
Grants/Contributions/State Aid............ $574,984
Service Fees........................................ $214,098
Miscellaneous Income and Interest..... $703,315
Operating Reserve Carry-Forward ...... $501,261

TOTAL EXPENDITURES........ $15,068,740
Salaries and Benefits................................. $8,735,459
Library Materials ...................................... $1,949,342
Other Operating Expenses .............. $1,045,480
Facilities............................................. $669,006
Equipment and Capital Improvements ..................................................$650,377
Debt Service ........................................ $ 91,550
Professional Services and Misc. Expenses
.......................................................................... $1,126,265