Fact Sheet

Friends of the Library of Collier County, Inc. was formed in 1957 to establish a free public library system in Collier County. Friends fund the expansion and enhancement of educational, recreational and technological needs at all Collier County Public Library branches. Friends have contributed over $1 million since 2001 to meet library needs. The Friends have nearly 2,700 dues paying members and are one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Collier County.

Do you know?

Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Lee in 1963 donated a large block of land on Central Avenue to the Friends to be used for a public library. The Naples Regional Library is located on this land and remains owned by the Friends who lease it to Collier County for $1 per year.

Do you know?

Friends Events...

- Annual “Nick Linn Lecture Series” consisting of four nationally known authors with over 500 attendees per lecture with discount for Friends members.
- Bagels and Book Clubs Breakfasts
- Non-Fiction Lecture Series
- Member Receptions
- Complimentary Friends only Programs and Concerts

Do you know?

Friends provide or contribute towards...

- Adult and Children’s Books
- Genealogy Reference Books and Data Bases
- iPads for library users and specifically designated ones for children
- Children’s Furniture and Activity tables
- Children’s Summer Reading Program Software and Incentive Rewards
- Classic, Foreign and Documentary Film Series Screened by Regional Libraries
- Needs and improvements requested by each Library branch
- The West Wing Art Gallery at the Naples Regional Library

Do you know?

Friends pay for...

- Every public program in all Library Branches that requires out-of-pocket expenditures
- Library Employee of the Month Recognition Programs
- Library Volunteer Recognition Programs
Do you know?

Friends funded capital construction projects such as...

- Rose Hall and Reading Patio at Marco Island Branch Library
- Sugden Library Theater at the Orange Blossom Headquarters Library
- Sugden Reading Patio and Mackworth G. Rees Meeting Room at Naples Regional Library

Do you know?

Friends support...

- Adult Literacy Program Needs
- Audio/Visual Equipment for Programs
- Public Computers & Software for both Adults and Children
- LEAP which employs teenage students to provide tech & computer support for library patrons

Do you know?

Friends assist with...

- Children's Story Times Materials and Supplies
- Early Childhood Developmental Reading Program Supplies (beginning age 6 mos.)
- Library Office and Operating Supplies

Friends have played a key role in expanding informational, educational, and entertainment opportunities that broaden the horizons of Collier County's children, their families, residents and visitors.

Please consider becoming one of the Friends today. Your tax deductible membership is only $30 for individuals and $40 for families. By joining the Friends, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make the library a better place. Join us... Because Friends matter.