

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NCW LIBRARIES CELEBRATES FRIENDS GROUPS

NCW Libraries will celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week (Oct. 15-21) by showing its appreciation for the hard work and dedication of library volunteers and supporters across NCW.

Friends of the Library groups are nonprofit, charitable organizations that operate independently from the library district and work to support library operations in their communities. In all, 23 of NCW Libraries' 30 branches are supported by active Friends of the Library groups.

The Friends groups support libraries in a variety of ways, from volunteering their time to building new libraries – and everything in between, such as:

- The Friends of the Winthrop Library were central to raising the money and building a showcase new library that opened last year.
- The Wenatchee Friends of the Library raised more than \$1.5 million toward the remodel of the Wenatchee library.
- The Royal City Friends of the Library just broke ground in September on a new library to replace the small, 1950s-era space in its current location. They have committed to raising funds to build a 4,000 square foot library with dedicated space for children and teens as well as a community meeting room.
- The Leavenworth Friends provide an annual scholarship for students pursuing a future in the library field.
- The Republic Friends of the Library group are actively working toward building a new library. They have raised more than \$190,000 in grant money so far and logged more than 72,000 volunteer hours in their efforts.
- The Friends of the Grand Coulee library regularly donate funds to purchase equipment that enhances library programming and impacts local students.
- In the unincorporated communities of Peshastin, Curlew, and Manson, the Friends own or lease the building that serves as the library branch and provide for the building's annual upkeep.

Many of NCW's Friends of the Library groups have annual or semi-annual book sales that are widely anticipated in their communities. The Leavenworth Friends of the Library recently completed its annual 10-day book sale in downtown Leavenworth, a decades-long tradition that coincides with the Washington State Autumn Leaf Festival.

The event is just one example of the fundraising and advocacy work that Friends of the Library groups do across NCW Libraries' five-county system. "The Friends of the Library groups that partner with our libraries to support library staff and increase our impact to the communities we serve are a vital part of the work NCW Libraries does", says Executive Director Barbara Walters. "They range in size from just a few volunteers to over 50 dedicated members in some communities, but in every case, they represent faithful volunteers who love their community, love their library, and are dedicated to providing access to library resources and engaging programs."

Friends of the Library groups regularly buy prizes for the annual Summer Library Program, provide refreshments and volunteer at library events, buy books to give away to school children, and sponsor community gatherings such as holiday parties.

If you are interested in joining a Friends of the Library group in your community, please contact your local library.

Enclosed picture information:

Leavenworth Friends of the Library at the recent book sale (Sept. 22-Oct. 1) in downtown Leavenworth

Royal City Friends of the Library breaking ground on a new library building in late September.

Chelan Friends of the Library at their annual book sale earlier this month

MORE INFORMATION

www.ncwlibraries.org

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