



## FRIENDS OF CROOK COUNTY LIBRARY

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*"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." Andrew Carnegie*

### **ABOUT THE FRIENDS**

The Friends of the Crook County Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership corporation established in 1997. The purpose of the corporation is to enhance the programs, services and materials of the Crook County Library through public awareness, cultural programs, and private funding.

The Friends are a group of dedicated volunteers who support the Library. Friends members share a love of books and learning, value the Library as a place of knowledge and inspiration, and cherish the Library as a vital community resource. Our by-laws are available online.

Recent contributions provided by the Friends –

- funding youth and adult programs such as the summer reading program
- the purchase of CD display cases
- help with the library census and summer reading sign-up
- trial subscriptions to software programs such as NoveList, Auto Repair Reference, and Spaces meeting room scheduling

### Lecture Series

The Friends co-sponsor a lecture series with the Bowman Museum, held in May (May at the Museum) and October (Saunders Memorial Lecture Series). The lecture series is free and open to the public and includes authors, historians, and other entertaining and educational programs. Martha Saunders, a long-time Prineville resident who was very active in the community, left the Friends of Crook County Library a generous bequest in her will which is used to fund the lectures.

## OUR HISTORY

In 1989, an informal Friends of the Crook County Library group was started with Cati Thomas serving as President. Other board member positions included Judy Pokorny as Treasurer, Betty Lallman as Secretary, and Melissa Potter served in Public Relations. The group met at the Library located at 200 NE 2nd Street, which was built in 1960. The first members joined in 1990. The group went along for a few years with 3 to 4 board positions, while steadily increasing membership.

In 1995 the Friends board expanded to our current nine board member positions. Under President Sandi Demaris, we became a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit membership corporation in May 1997. Around this time the Friends were really busy and began to play a more active role as an advocacy organization for the Library. Those efforts culminated in 1997, when Friends realized their long time goal of a new Library by creating a political action committee called LIBRARY Yes!, and championing a bond issue that funded \$2.7 million to build a 17,500 sq. ft. new library. The Friends accomplished major fundraising through projects such as memorial brick sales, Valentine's Day box lunches, and a Friends cookbook. The funds were used to help stock the shelves of the new library. The new Crook County Library opened its doors in November 1999.



First Friends board meeting in the under-construction library, 1999

*L to R: Sharon Gowen, Linda Collier, Linda Evans, Pam Pugsley, Susayn Fisher, Sandi Demaris*

The Friends continued advocacy efforts by creating an endowment fund in February 2000 with the Oregon Community Foundation. In a community foundation, donors pool their funds under shared management. The Friends endowment fund is a permanent asset, never to be spent, and is a great way to be a part of charitable giving in Oregon and also support the Friends. The Friends receive interest distributions from the fund which are used for library programs.

Through the ensuing years since the library construction, the Friends have donated over \$200,000 and countless hours of volunteer time to the Crook County Library. Notable contributions include summer reading programs, youth book clubs, community events such as Cinco de Mayo and the Saunders Lecture Series, construction of the Teen Room, stocking of the bookmobile, continuing education for library staff, purchase of equipment (computers, popcorn machine, DVD cleaner, cameras, etc.), magazine subscriptions, software programs, display shelves, and of course books.

Since its humble beginnings in 1989, the Friends mission has grown to encompass literacy advocacy, fundraising, and library support to serve all of Crook County. Our commitment to raising the standard of excellence for our library will continue.

## **HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS**

We are a dynamic group of volunteers. We have projects and activities all year long and we welcome new members and volunteers. Please contact us to participate! There are many ways to volunteer with the Friends of the Crook County Library. Whether it's volunteering in the Chapters Store, sorting and organizing books, working a book sale or serving on the board of directors - volunteers are always needed and welcome.

