

FRIENDS OF THE SUN CITY LIBRARIES, INC.
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

At the beginning of 2014, the Friends Board of Directors adopted 10 goals. Looking back on last year shows, not only real progress on the 10 goals, but also ongoing programs flourishing and new ventures blossoming. This writTEN report, therefore, will focus on the FRIENDS 2014 TOP 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, with apologies to David Letterman.

10. The Friends continued to expand the Book Buddy program to reach more homebound Sun City residents. Publicity and personal contacts were increased resulting in more patrons and volunteers.

9. The Friends continued honoring its volunteers through three appreciation events: a March dinner, an August pizza party, and a Christmas luncheon. These events were very nice; but no event could begin to show enough gratitude for the hard work of these volunteers.

8. In both Libraries, the Friends expended \$17,663 for programs, author visits, magazine subscriptions, summer reading programs, and supplies. This represented a 45% increase over 2013.

7. The Friends developed a process for sales and distribution of promotional materials. Water bottles, tote bags, automobile sun visors, and note pads, all imprinted with the Friends name, were obtained for sale in the Bookstore. This was part of the publicity program.

6. The Board adopted a Board Member Selection Process to establish selection criteria, an interview procedure, and a Board application form. A Friends Bookstore Volunteer Handbook also was developed to assist volunteers in serving Bookstore patrons.

5. Books Around the Corner, the Friends Bookstore, took in a record \$33,354, thanks to the leadership of Bookstore Manager, Mary Anne McDonald. Sales at the Fairway Library continued to be successful, as well special sales in the Bookstore, just "Around the Corner" in the Bell Library.

4. Totalling the 2014 time commitment of volunteers in Book Buddies, Bookstore, and two Libraries reached 9,645. Even if these volunteers were paid Arizona's minimum wage, that would mean over \$76,000. Board members know, however, they are worth much more than minimum wage. Their contribution is significant, in more ways than monetary.

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3. The Friends established a web site with a stand alone domain name, Bookstore feature page, event calendar, map, and a primary source for Friends documents. A standard for current documents was established; and a master list of all current documents was initiated.

2. Through a cooperative effort with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Maricopa County Library District, and County Supervisor Clint Hickman, the Friends were able to avoid a Library financial crisis by providing \$65,000 to RCSC to continue the existing contract. The Friends' gift resolved the crisis, and enabled the two organizations to negotiate a new contract.

1. In a major spending project, the Friends provided the Maricopa County Library District \$146,740 for new shelving and new computers and stations in both Libraries. All agree they make a great difference and better serve Sun City patrons.

Each Director of the Friends Board played an equal role in these Top 10, as well as other accomplishments. Progress on improving the Friends mission was made because the Board worked as a team. Each member offers talent in a specific field making the whole greater than the parts.

The biggest contributor to the Friends Board of Director's success, however, remains Sun City citizens. They want the best library possible, and point the direction for the Friends Board to assist the Libraries in this desire. They donate their time in this City of Volunteers. They donate their books, AV materials, and puzzles to Books Around the Corner. They spend money the Bookstore which provides funds to support the Libraries. In summary, 10 goals led to our top 10 accomplishments; but the biggest 10 of all goes to Sun City citizens, who rate that 10.

Tom Everitt, President
Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.
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