

2017 Annual Review

If we could give 2017 a theme, it would be the **Year of Outreach**. With the benefit of a fully staffed, committed Board of Directors, an awesome volunteer base, and an extremely synergetic working relationship with library staff, the Friends were able to focus our efforts in 2017 on expanding our outreach. Many of our accomplishments in 2017 involved reaching out to new patrons, tapping into new venues, and doing what it took to make new ideas come to fruition. Following are a few examples.

Our Outreach

The Friends implemented a new Outreach Committee in FY17 which tested and purchased easy to use, portable audio visual equipment, and developed a professional PowerPoint presentation and handouts suitable to present to any club or organization. Working with the library staff, the committee reached out to the entire community via newspaper, email, mail and in person, letting it be known that we had information to share.

It didn't take long for the community to respond. We had several large presentations booked within weeks, and feedback on the first few was phenomenal! It was amazing how many people did not know about our libraries, our bookstore, our programs, or the many other services that the libraries and the Friends provide.

Every outreach opportunity provided a chance to get the word out. In 2017 we did just that by:

- participating in many community events, including Discover Sun City, Fun Fairs, Expos, and more
- manning a booth with the library at the Sun City Farmer's market
- setting up our first FaceBook account
- providing outreach materials and information on our suncitylibraryfriends.org website, now entering its third year and enjoying increased Unique Visitors (6,989 in 2017, compared to 3,366 in 2016) and Page Views (13,633 in 2017 compared to 7,247 in 2016)

Our Libraries

In FY17, our combined Sun City libraries:

- served 195,239 customers and circulated 405,059 items
- presented 336 programs to 10,084 participants
- provided 4,228 hours of service with the support of 29 Friends volunteers

These numbers represent an increase in virtually every category from FY16 statistics.

Our Programs – Book Buddies

In 2017, the Friends of the Sun City Libraries celebrated the 8th year of continuous service with our Book Buddy program which:

- hand delivered library materials to 20 home bound Book Buddy recipients
- provided 500 hours of service with the support of 20 Book Buddy volunteers

Our Programs – Book Friends

In 2017, the Friends of the Sun City Libraries started an exciting new program, called Book Friends. This service provides resident care centers with volunteer readers, specializing in carefully curated books that bring memory care patients the most enjoyment. In FY17 Book Friends:

- presented 40 reading programs to memory care patients
- provided 55 hours of service with the support of four Book Friend volunteers

Our Book Store

Our Books Around the Corner bookstore stepped up to the plate in 2017, and supported our expanded outreach by having their biggest year ever with:

- \$40,945 in sales,
- the support of 40 bookstore volunteers who provided 5,792 hours of service
- our first online book store (E-bay)
- our first Books Around the Corner FaceBook account
- new scanning software and equipment for state-of-the-art valuations
- spruced up bookstore furnishings, labels and art gallery

Our Donations to the Community

The Friends made a concerted effort to put more of our assets out into the community, and increased our total donations to:

- \$48,569 (a significant increase over 2016), including \$5,000 to the Del Webb historical Society, and \$2,900 to community support
- \$40,669 to the Sun City Libraries, including programs and equipment that ranged from drums, balloons, mystery nights, genealogy and computer training (to name just a few of the 336 programs presented in 2017) to book carts, laptops, charging stations, subscriptions, and prizes (to name just a few of the library purchases funded by the Friends in 2017)

Of course, all of this would never be possible without the support of the community and our wonderful Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. volunteers, who now number 100, and who provided an astounding 10,604 hours of service in 2017.

In summary, 2017 truly was a year of outreach, and we hope that it will result in 2018 being our year of increased community awareness and utilization of our great libraries and Friends organization.