

FRIENDS OF THE SUN CITY LIBRARIES, INC.
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

“So, what’s up?” Ever heard that expression before? It has to be one of my least favorites. First, most public personalities start every sentence with “so!” Second, “what’s up” is so nondescript, it generally leads nowhere as a conversation opener. All of this said, and bowing to public popularity, allow me to ask this question today, “Friends, what’s up?” The answer to that question is “everything.” Allow me to explain by telling you about 2015.

Bookstore sales are up. Despite probably the lowest used book prices in the area, let alone when we have a sale, Books Around The Corner sold \$38,783 worth of books in 2015. That is up from \$33,354 in 2014, a 15% increase.

Donations to the Bookstore are up. There is no way to put a number on it, but the stuffed shelves, the tall piles in the workroom, and the overflowing storage room tell the story. Sun City residents are generously providing us books, magazines, CDs, and puzzles in record numbers. Our appreciation for them continues to go up in the same way.

Book Buddy activity is up. This homebound program continues to reach out to more Sun City residents. The numbers are small in comparison to the community size; but the impact is big. The ability to have library materials delivered to your door, accompanied by a big smile and a warm welcome, is priceless to that small part of our community which really needs it.

The number of volunteer hours are up. Library volunteers, Bookstore volunteers, Book Buddy volunteers, and Board of Directors volunteers gave back with 10,206 hours, a 5.8% increase over last year. The Friends leadership attempts to show thanks through three major appreciation events; but no event could begin to say “thank you” enough for their hard work.

Friends money for Library programs is up. In both Libraries, the Friends expended \$29,859 for programs, author visits, magazine subscriptions, summer reading programs, and supplies. This represented a 69% increase over 2014.

The number of Board members is up. Two new members were added bringing our total to nine. These hard working volunteers set the direction for

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the Friends, dividing the work of four officers and six standing committees between them. Our term limits, however, cause us to have a continual recruitment process. Are you up to supporting your Libraries and having a lot of fun in the process. Join us; it's time for you to step up.

Friends publicity is up. With two lead stories in the *Independent*, we became much more newsworthy. Increased advertising and circulated posters brought customers to the Bookstore. Our promotional items and book marks continued to get the word out about our activities. A new Bookstore map helped shoppers find their way. The development of checklists for public appearances improved our ability to be prepared for such events. The initiation of a Friends Presentation is ready for implementation.

Utilization of the Friends web site is up. While still not as popular as U-Tube, 3,366 unique visitors did check in to see 'what's up' with the Friends. Links to our site were made with the Maricopa County Library District and the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

SO. . . ., that is WHAT'S UP with the Friends of the Sun City Libraries. Our organization is very proud of these achievements. We believe, however, the best is yet to come. The UP and coming year cannot help but be better, because the team of the Friends volunteers, the MCLD, the RCSC, and the citizens of Sun City, Arizona have a winning formula of supporting each other for the good of all of us. How could you not feel UP about that!

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