

To our Friends of the JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thank you for your generous support, and for helping to make us the
Florida Library Association's Library of the Year!

LOOK WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE IN FY17!

Winning FLA's Library of the Year is a great accomplishment for Jacksonville Public Library. The award recognizes outstanding service to our community, innovation and commitment—all of which is influenced by the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. The Board of Library Trustees, JPL administration and staff extend a sincere thanks to the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. Because of your generous support in 2017, \$100,240 was made available to spend on important resources to enhance and enrich the lives of customers of all ages, and ultimately, to help us earn Library of the Year.

SUMMER LEARNING \$35,000

Summer Learning programs offer extensive entertainment, enrichment and educational activities, an incentive for reading and logging books. With a goal of eliminating the summer slide, it results in improved literacy skills and a lifelong love of learning to ensure Jacksonville children succeed in school. Last year Friends' funding helped support the library's Summer Learning program, which had more than 9,754 children and teens logging nearly 103,500 books read and 55,213 attending programs.

REFRESHMENT FUND \$10,000

These funds are used to support customer-focused activities as part of our ongoing strategy to build and maintain strong customer relationships, infuse more fun into our programs, and say thanks to customers. Community residents and library supporters were treated to refreshments at a number of programs including the lively downtown Art Walk activities and gallery openings, the Augusta Savage sculpture unveiling, the Friends' 60th Anniversary Celebration, and more.

JAX MAKERSPACE \$9,000

The Jax Makerspace at the Main Library got off to a good start with the Friends providing funds for technology needs, furniture, fixtures and equipment. The space is open to anyone who wants to explore, collaborate and create with programs, activities, demos and more that run the gamut from arts and crafts to music and robotics. Interactive gallery exhibits have drawn large crowds. We've purchased new audio recording equipment, sewing machines, and ukuleles, which are all a hit with customers. Over 7,500 people attended Jax Makerspace programs in FY17.

EARLY LEARNING TOYS \$9,000

Through the use of this money, the library was able to replenish early learning toys and manipulatives that aid in early literacy activities, as well as support the Play and Learn spaces in our Children's Departments.

LIBRARY AWARE \$6,440

The Friends helped fund one year of a three-year renewal subscription to Library Aware, the library's main promotional tool used to create flyers, e-blasts, bookmarks, the library e-newsletter, and other marketing collateral. Library Aware is also the platform for NovelList e-newsletters, which help customers learn about—and connect to—library books that appeal to their specific interests.

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS \$5,000

The Friends helped fund a variety of programs to enrich the lives of adults. These programs included author talks, concerts, Great Decisions series, Financially Fit series, Lawyers in Libraries and many more. Enhanced by Friends' funding, the library hosted complementary programs for other events such as JAX READS!/NEA Big Read, Jax Book Fest and the month-long exhibit *Lawyers without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany under the Third Reich*.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING \$5,000

This money helps underwrite an educational staff in-service day for all JPL staff. The event is planned a year in advance. Nearly 400 employees attended Staff Development Day held May 1, 2017, with the theme: Passion + Purpose = Impact. Funds also were used for Youth Services Training Day, webinars, and other important staff training.

GAMING SYSTEMS \$5,000

These funds help us purchase gaming systems such as PlayStation 4 and other games to enhance programs for teens at targeted library locations. Games used in a library setting can help young adults connect with library staff, as well as develop teamwork, social and organizational skills.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION \$3,073

The Friends' funding allowed us to give Barbara Gubbin, who served as the JPL director for 12 years, a proper sendoff for her retirement. Hundreds came out to thank and remember Barbara for her dedication to the library and for her many achievements, including being selected for the American Library Association's 2017 Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr. Award. We were grateful for funds to provide catering and more for this memorable event.

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS \$4,926

Thanks to the Friends, when it comes to programming, JPL kicks it up a notch to make every event as special as it can be. Funds were used for a variety of items, from a popcorn machine, bubble machine, and helium tanks to keep balloons filled and floating, floor pillows, and more! We also purchased a much-needed portable microphone and speaker.

OUTREACH/MOBILE DEVICES \$3,000

The library is on the move, going outside the walls, taking library services to people where they are. With Friends' support, the library was able to expand its number of mobile devices such as iPads, laptops and scanners to assist with outreach efforts. The equipment is also used for other internal programs such as technology related classes in the Jax Makerspace, and throughout the library system.

ONLINE STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY \$2,400

The library purchased an annual subscription for a wide selection of stock images, which are used in digital and printed materials to promote our library's resources, services and programs.

BLACK HISTORY CALENDARS DIGITIZATION \$1,400

The Jacksonville Black History Calendars, archival treasure troves of African-American history and information, are now available online in digital version on our website. Friends' funding was used to digitize each calendar from 1997 to present, making this valuable resource easy to find and access.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS \$1,000

Professional membership opportunities help strengthen our library by bringing people together, providing leadership for development, promotion and improvement of library and information services. This funding goes toward staff whose positions require participation in organizations outside their profession such as the assistant director of Community Relations & Marketing's membership to the American Library Association.

