



## Why Have Friends of the Library?

Your library needs a Friends group because Friends can:

### **Advocate**

- ❖ Libraries need more advocates as budgets are cut or when they may be in danger of closing.

### **Increase public awareness of the library**

- ❖ Friends provide the opportunity for people who have a passion for their library to give time to benefit the library in their community.

### **Partner with other community groups**

- ❖ Friends have friends with whom they can share their enthusiasm about volunteering for the Friends and who may decide to become members as well.

### **Raise funds**

- ❖ Examples of successful fundraisers include: book sales, bake sales, yard sales, harvest festivals, silent auctions, film festivals, as well as capital campaigns and other major fundraising projects.
- ❖ Funds go towards purchasing items for the library, such as:
  - Books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs
  - Materials for the children's area, such as furniture, rugs, and Maker Space materials
  - Specialized materials, such as software (JAWS and ZoomText), or digital audio players for people with vision loss
  - Walkers
  - iPads

### **Sponsor events and programming**

- ❖ Friends sponsor, plan, or host a variety of programs and events, such as Books for Babies, the TD Summer Reading program, or Adopt-a-Book programs.

### **Assist during special events**

- ❖ Friends can assist the library by looking after refreshments, offering tours of the library or “meeting and greeting” at special library functions and celebrations.

### **Help with library services**

- ❖ Some Friends groups have volunteers who enjoy delivering books to individuals who can't get out to their library (homebound or outreach service).