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).