



FRIENDS' NEWS

Friends of the Surprise Libraries, Inc

December 2016

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Friends Grant Committee

In 2006, Friends established a grant committee to find ways to support local elementary school libraries. In 2008 the program was expanded to include high school libraries; and then in 2011 the program expanded to teachers, and other educators involved in supporting literacy. Since 2006 Friends has donated books, teaching supplies, educational games and programs totaling \$233,358.21.



Manuel De Leon chairs the Grant Committee meetings monthly. In 2016 Friends was able to help local teachers and their students with \$33,661.74 in school grants. \$2,403 supported the summer reading program at Nadaburg Unified School District.

El Mirage School Library

Bucks into Books

In April, Friends received a request for \$2,400 from the El Mirage Elementary School Library. El Mirage is the second oldest school in the Dysart School System. Their library books were so worn out from the kids reading them; the bindings were broken.



Dysart Unified School District has not funded books for the libraries for at least two years, and there was no funding planned for the 2016-2017 school year. Even with the override passing and all the local stories about schools needing funding for early learning literacy. There was no money for books for the kids to read.

Aly Cline, President, went to visit the El Mirage Elementary School Library and found that the need was greater than the \$2,400 requested. She asked for a

meeting with the school's PTO group and recommended a fundraiser with Friends matching the funds raised by the school.

The PTO was not experienced in fundraising and felt the low income of the local area would not bring in a good result. With the help of Gary Cline, Treasurer, Patty Carberry, El Mirage Elementary School Media Specialist, and the support of Fernando De La Ossa, Assistant Principal and PTO chair, a fundraiser began August 1st.

Students, Teachers, Administrators and local business and community leaders were asked to donate their loose change with each classroom competing for bragging rights and a pizza party.

By the end of August, The school had raised \$2,807 Mid First Bank donated \$1,250 as part of their local community outreach. The local El Mirage Domino's Pizza donated \$642 in pizza for grade level Pizza Parties. West Thunderbird Mini-Storage donated \$100 and local El Mirage City Council Members donated \$370.

Friends matched \$3,517.33; bringing the total money raised to \$8,284.66.



"289 pounds of coin" said Gary Cline, Treasurer, who collected the money from the school each week and accounted for the fundraising by teacher and grade level. "This was a greater result than we could ever have imagined", said Patty Carberry.

The new books are requested by the school, Friends purchases them from vendors who prepare them for the library with bar codes so they can be checked out by students. As of December 2016 Friends had purchased \$6,147.96 in books for the El Mirage Elementary School Library; leaving them with \$2,136.70 to spend on books in 2017.

Community Outreach

Scholarships

Friends expanded their community outreach in 2013 to include funding a scholarship to a local High School Graduate. Dysart Education Foundation (DEF) administers the grants by using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) standards; screening the applicants and forwarding the funds to the student's college. Friends has supported three scholarships of \$4,000 in 2013,

2014 and 2015. In 2016 Friends increased the amount of the Scholarship from \$4,000 to \$6,000 or \$750 a semester for 4 years.

This year one of our volunteers donated \$1,000 for an additional scholarship for a “young woman” student.

Friends has been partnering with ALTRUSA International for the last 4 years; funding a High School Equivalency program through Rio Solado College. This year ALTRUSA had not used all the funds donated, and asked Friends if those funds could be used to send 5 elementary school girls to attend STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) camp held for 5 days on the ASU campus.

The students from Canyon Ridge Elementary made a presentation to ALUSA and Friends Board upon their completion. This expansion into STEM literacy is new for Friends, but the Board has already committed to fund ALTRUSA in 2017.

Volunteer Appreciation



This year's event was held at the Valley Vista High School Cafeteria. Where the Culinary Arts School prepared and served a wonderful meal for the 55 volunteers who attended.



**Valley Vista Culinary Arts
Students and Teachers**

Each year Friends chooses volunteers to recognize. Each year it is a difficult decision. This year two new volunteers, just receiving their one year pins, made it even harder. Each worked more than one shift, and total hours worked this year were within 3 hours over a whole year, with more than 230 hours. So.....

This year Friends awarded **TWO** Volunteers of the Year! Bernice Irwin and LuAnne Ulwellen.



Aly Cline and Bernie Irwin



Aly Cline and LuAnne Ulwellen

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. YOU are the Heart of our organization!

Excess Books

One of the biggest issues at Friends is what to do with our excess books. So many folks donate large amounts of books, magazines and other media to Friends and it can be a challenge to decide what to do with them. Due to space limitations we are not able to keep every book that is donated. In 2016 The Board voted to donate some of our excess books to the Veterans Administration. Volunteers Diane and Bob Barish, Lynn Peters and Gloria Spanagel coordinated the donations.

This year Friends donated 4,338 books to the Veterans Administration. Additionally our free, grade level appropriate, books to teachers also moved some of our excess children's and teen books directly into local classrooms.

2017 has some new opportunities for our excess books. Including donating to Dysart Community Center and Nadaburg School District's take a book kiosks. More details will be coming on these programs in 2017.

Family Name
Street Address
Address 2
City, ST ZIP Code



**RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE**