

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Baxter County
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Investing in Your Place to Grow

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Mission Statement

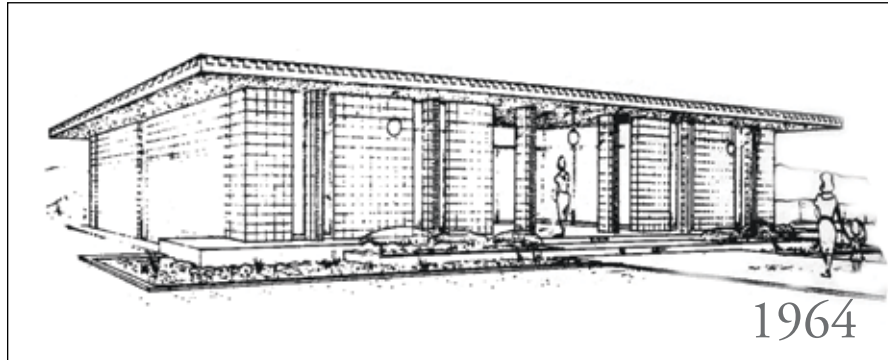
The Baxter County Library provides
lifelong resources
that educate, inspire, and entertain
in a welcoming environment.

Visit Our Web Site: www.baxtercountylibrary.org

Baxter County Library

Your Place to Grow

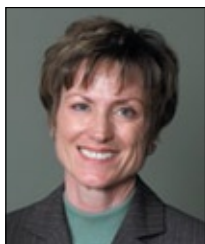
Baxter County Library was built and continues to grow because of the vision and generosity of individuals. From a Library housed in the courthouse and run by volunteers in the 1930's to a permanent facility built in 1964, we preserve our heritage and celebrate our growth through 2007. We continue building for the future of Baxter County, where the Library truly is *Your Place to Grow*.



Year in Review

Baxter County Library Board of Directors

The Library Board, appointed by the County Judge, serves as an administrative board governed by state law. The Library Board sets policies and oversees the administration and budget of the Library.



Deborah Knox
Chair



Dr. John Ahrens
Vice Chair



Dr. Richard Burnett



Sally Gilbert



Sonny Sharp

Your Library

The Library Board continues to demonstrate responsible stewardship of Library resources. Library operations are funded mainly by a dedicated one mil ad valorem property tax, which has remained at the same rate since 1952.

Realizing that our community needs access to technology, 17 computers for public use are equipped with word processing, spreadsheet, and other software plus high speed Internet access. During the Community Needs Assessment, Library users said they wanted more current information on programs and services, so a new website was rolled out that has up-to-the-minute information about services and programs, many new pages and helpful links, and free access to more than 30 online subscription databases. Online registration for most Library programs was implemented (for example, over 200 participants in Summer Programs were registered in one morning).

Through a partnership with Arkansas Workforce, “JobLink” services are available to Library patrons to assist in job searches and improve workforce literacy. Baxter County Library serves as the access point for the public to the online Law Library provided by the Bar Association and for entrepreneurs to access the resources of the Small Business Development Center.

At the request of the Library Board, the Baxter County Quorum Court members passed a resolution confirming that upon the sale of the current Library building, the proceeds can be used toward the endowment of the proposed new facility.

The Baxter County Library Board worked with the Mountain Home City Council who approved buying the existing library building for \$500,000, contingent upon the Library Foundation obtaining a Capital Grant and completion of the new library facility.

General Library Statistics	2005	2006	2007
Library Visits	134,556	145,725	153,672
Total Circulation (Mountain Home)	232,778	237,952	251,359
Total Circulation (Gassville)	4,447	3,834	4,329
Computer Users	17,567	32,848	34,640
Website Visits	12,866	15,996	20,271
Online Database Searches	30,224	35,221	45,938
Adult Program Attendance	1,752	3,509	6,059
Teen Program Attendance	0	506	894
Children's Program Attendance			
Children	4,359	4,710	4,497
Adults	1,831	1,297	1,866
Total	6,190	6,007	6,363

The Library experienced record numbers of both patron visits and items circulated.



Programs

The Library is a multi-generational hub, hosting a range of cultural and educational events, from a “Quilted History of the Underground Railroad,” to the Arkansas Discovery Network traveling exhibit “Museum on Wheels.” Programs this year offered unique opportunities to Library patrons.

Theme based summer programming included reading programs for children, teens, and an inaugural reading program for adults.

There was a special emphasis on teen programming in 2007, including the Teen Library Council, Open Mic nights, a Teen Read-a-Thon, Teen Tech Week activities, and teens who read to and performed puppet shows for the elderly.

Community Outreach

Quality programs allow for a quality Library story, and community outreach efforts were a major focus in 2007. Staff members traveled throughout the county to present Library resources to schools, groups, and organizations.

Students from elementary grades to college level, educators, and fellow librarians visited the Library for programs on Library resources.

Community partnerships were formed and strengthened to aid in the Library’s role as an economic development agent active in addressing such issues as literacy, workforce training, small business vitality, and community quality of life.



Excited children holding tickets eagerly await entrance to Summer Reading Program Grand Finale activities.



Teen Tech Week featured a GPS workshop, followed by a Civil War-themed scavenger hunt at a local park complete with re-enactors.

Your Library Foundation

Library Foundation Trustees

The Library Foundation was formed in 1999 to support the Library through special events, planned giving, bequests, and special campaigns. It is an Arkansas not-for-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax deductible charitable foundation.



Carol Landrum
President



Sonny Sharp
Vice President



Judy Moen
Secretary



Beth VanderStek
Treasurer



Catherine Sawyer
Coordinator



Deborah Chatman



Clint Czeschin



Jackie Edmonds



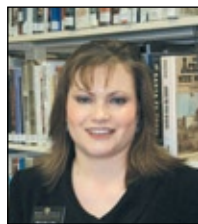
Steve Johnson



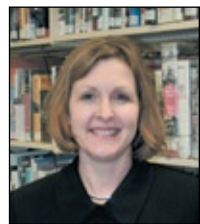
Gwen Khayat



Deborah Knox



Shonda Litty



Lynn McAlister



Roger Pitchford



Katie Risk



Julie Wright

The beginning of 2007 marked the launch of the Library Foundation's Capital Campaign to raise at least \$2 million for a community endowment fund for a new facility. Library Hill, the new Library site, located at the intersection of Highway 201 South and the Sheid-Hopper Bypass, will be convenient and accessible.

The planning process for a new facility continued when the Foundation received an additional Planning Grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for an architect, a construction advisor, and a sustainability study. That study was conducted by the University of Arkansas Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). It found, with a 95% level of confidence, that with the implementation of new technologies, the existing revenue streams and endowments would sustain hours and services at current levels for eight to ten years.





Library Foundation Capital Campaign Chair, Deborah Knox, announced \$450,000 was raised during the Friends and Family phase of the campaign. “This is a celebration of an important phase as 100 percent of Library Board members, Foundation Trustees, Library staff, and the Friends of the Library Board have made commitments to the campaign.”

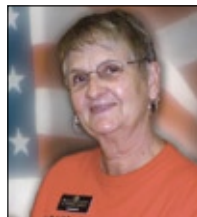
Resolutions supporting the Library Foundation campaign have been approved by the Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce, Baxter County Quorum Court, Mountain Home City Council, City of Norfolk, City of Cotter, City of Gassville, City of Lakeview, City of Salesville, City of Briarcliff, and the North Central Arkansas Regional Economic Development Board.

Gifts and Commitments	
Foundation Fundraising Events	\$20,887
Memorials/Honorariums	\$2,615
Endowment Campaign	
Commitments (balance)*	\$1,145,740
Received	\$333,991
TOTAL	\$1,503,233
*includes City of Mountain Home purchase agreement	

Your Library Staff



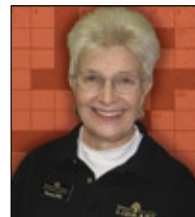
Back: Gwen Khayat, Melva Derrickson, Vincent Anderson, Susan Nixon, Linda Stowers, Brenda Knight, Pamela Samman, Deborah Edmonds. Middle: Judy Transue, Janeea Shrable, Bobbi Brown, Danita Stine. Front: Kathleen Altazan, Catherine Sawyer, Velma Ward, Kim Crow Sheaner. Not pictured are: Patricia Brown, Madelyn Burrow, Laurie Fahlenkamp, William Fletcher, Paul Foreman, Erica Gray, Allen Hall, Paula Oliver, Larra Wagner, Christi Wharton, and Carla Winter.



Lenora Peoples



Haven Jorgensen



Penny Ellis

In 2007, three long time staff members retired. Lenora Peoples, the longest serving employee of the Library, began her career in March, 1974. She was head librarian 1980-1990. The Library experienced growth during her tenure, including expansions in 1983 and 1993, as well as computerization in 1998. She retired in August from her position as Circulation Manager. Haven Jorgensen retired in September after 17 years of service in Circulation, and Penny Ellis retired as Reference Librarian in November after 26 years of service.

Library staff was reinforced with a new Reference Librarian, Vincent Anderson; Circulation Supervisor, Brenda Knight; and four additional part time employees in the Circulation Department. This proactive step was taken to keep up with the ever increasing demand for resources and services.



Friends of the Baxter County Library

Friends of the Library Board of Directors

The Friends of the Baxter County Library recruit support for and promote involvement with the Library. Their monthly meetings feature educational speakers, and they recruit and organize volunteers to help with quarterly used book sales, their main fundraiser.



JoBelle Zimmerman
President



Janet Wheeler
Vice President



Joanne Carlstein
Secretary



Alice Feicht
Treasurer



The Friends were named to the Margie Dahlke Supporter's Circle of Honor for their commitment to the *Investing in Your Place to Grow* campaign. Friends of the Library members pictured are (from left) JoBelle Zimmerman, Jerry Condrey, Marie Betzold, Mary Lou Duseberg, Margie Kelly, Maureen Rozelle, Joanne Carlstein, and Judy Moen.



FOL book sales have become a community event, and are so well attended that the parking lot and meeting room overflow.

The Friends of the Baxter County Library (FOL) is an organization of active, dedicated volunteers established in 1980 who raise funds through used book sales. All proceeds from the book sales benefit Library programs and resources, and provide funds that would not otherwise be available.

Program or Materials Provided	Donation
Children's Services	\$725
Special Programs/Exhibits	\$2,275
Materials	\$1,902
Equipment	\$1,550
Staff Development Workshops	\$850
TOTAL	\$7,302

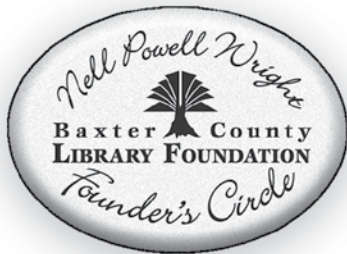
FOL showed their whole-hearted support with two significant commitments to the *Investing in Your Place to Grow* campaign in 2007: a check for \$20,000 in April, and a commitment in November for an additional \$50,000, over the next four years, both from book sale proceeds.

In addition to their fundraising work, FOL sponsored educational day trips in the spring and fall for members and the public.

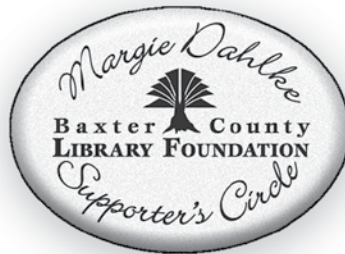
Levels of Giving

Circles of Honor

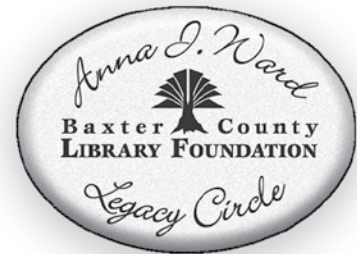
The Library has established three levels of recognition to honor those who have shared the legacy of community stewardship through their support for the Library. Baxter County Library was built and continues to grow because of the vision and generosity of individual donors.



Nell Powell Wright, local attorney and Chancery Judge, led the initiative to generate funding to build the original library and served for 28 years as the first chairman of the Baxter County Library board. She passed that vision to her daughter, Julie Wright, who now carries on her mother's legacy by serving as a Library Foundation Trustee. The circle named for her honors the commitment of those who have donated or bequeathed \$100,000 or more.



Margie Dahlke, our first Librarian, initiated programs still enjoyed today, including story time and summer reading programs for children and travelogues for adults. She routinely traveled to general stores throughout the area establishing satellite collections. The circle named for her honors the commitment of those who have donated or bequeathed \$50,000 to \$99,999.



The Anna Ward family exemplified generosity by donating a parcel of land in the early 1980's. Proceeds from the sale of that land, plus an additional donation, were instrumental in a 4,800 square foot addition to the Library in 1983, which was dedicated to the memory of Anna J. Ward. The circle named for her honors the commitment of those who have donated or bequeathed \$25,000 to \$49,999.



First National Bank & Trust joined the Nell Powell Wright Founder's Circle of Honor, exemplifying significant community support and leadership.



Investing in Your Place to Grow



Vision

The Baxter County Library is a bridge to expanded horizons, opened minds, and enriched lives.

Looking Forward...

2008 will be a transitional year for Baxter County Library as we continue planning for a new facility on Library Hill.

The 2008 Goals:

- Increase community support for the ongoing operation of the West Seventh Street facility and for a \$2 million program endowment of a future facility at Library Hill
- Increase public sponsorships to underwrite books, recordings, videos, periodicals, programs, and software
- Continue to grow quarterly book sales
- Continue with annual Foundation seasonal events
- Enhance programs for children, teens, and adults
- Become a net access point for the North Central Arkansas Regional Development /Small Business Development Center
- Research new exhibits and grants to fund them
- Recruit and train additional volunteers
- Create awareness through special events

Library leaders are committed to meeting the needs of this community for literacy, education, workforce training, technology, small business vitality, and enhanced quality of life.

Please visit our website at www.baxtercountylibrary.org for events, information, and opportunities to invest in your Library.



Baxter County
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Investing in Your Place to Grow

P.O. Box 1014

Mountain Home, AR 72654

870-508-8349