

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Baxter County
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Investing in Your Place to Grow

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Your Library Foundation



Carol Landrum
President



Sonny Sharp
Vice President



Judy Moen
Secretary



Beth VanderStek
Treasurer



Catherine Sawyer
Coordinator

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 foundation.

In 2008 its main focus was continuing the campaign to raise the \$2 million Restricted Fund for Programs, which must be fully committed before the new building can be occupied. Foundation Trustees continued to make significant progress toward their goal under the leadership of Deborah Knox as Campaign Chair. KTLO hosted the first public fundraiser with a Radiothon in April. The community donated unselfishly in support of the campaign. Eaton Industries, the Library's future neighbor, awarded a grant of \$20,000 to enhance children and teen materials collections in the new building.

For use in the fundraising campaign launched in 2007, the Library Foundation commissioned Rigdon Graphics to design a portfolio of printed materials including an Annual Report. That Annual Report won the American Library Association's Best of Show award in a 2008 national contest with more than 300 entries. The Fundraising Materials received Honorable Mention in the same competition.

The Library Foundation continued its two successful annual fundraising events - the Texas Hold 'Em Tournament and the Lob for the Library tennis tournament and added the Tour de Libre Bicycle Fun Ride. Proceeds from these events are used to offset the Foundation's operating expenses.



Bobbi Brown



Clint Czeschin



Steve Johnson



Deborah Knox



Lynn McAlister



Katie Risk



Deborah Chatman



Jackie Edmonds



Gwen Khayat



Shonda Litty



Roger Pitchford



Julie Wright



The Tour de Libre Bicycle Fun Ride will become an annual event.



Receives \$9.8 Million Grant



Campaign Chair Deborah Knox announces the grant award at a press conference.

Three years of hard work and dedication paid off when Baxter County Public Library Foundation was awarded a \$9.8 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to build, furnish, and equip a new, 35,500 square foot, two-story Library.

The grant could not have come at a better time. Besides providing badly needed room for improved Library services, this project will give the local economy a welcome boost by using a local general contractor and local subcontractors whenever possible.

This unprecedented gift comes with a requirement that the Library Foundation

establish a \$2 million Restricted Fund for Programs, which the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation will generously match with a Restricted Fund for Maintenance. More than \$1.3 million has been raised, but the entire amount must be committed before we can occupy the building. Commitments may be paid over a period of five years.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is named. Headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada, it is one of the largest private foundations in the United States.

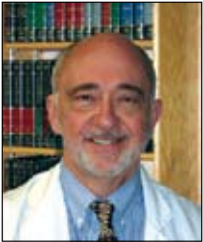
Gifts and Commitments in 2008	
Foundation Fundraising Events	\$18,231
Memorials/Honorariums	\$3,085
Restricted Fund for Programs	
Commitments (balance due)*	\$637,806
Commitments and Gifts Received	\$684,744
Total Commitments and Gifts Received	\$1,322,550
*DWRF recommended that the Library Foundation hold the City of Mountain Home purchase agreement on the existing Library building to be used for any overages during construction.	



Deborah Knox
Chair



Dr. John Ahrens
Vice Chair



Dr. Richard Burnett



Sally Gilbert



Sonny Sharp

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.

Library Operations

Completing the design for the new library took priority in 2008. To facilitate planning for the new building, Library programs were trimmed and refined to reallocate staff workload. The Library Board and staff carefully considered the flow of functions in public areas and staff areas to maximize design efficiency. Evaluation of software for the administration of public computers began so that as many issues as possible can be worked through in advance of the move.

The Library, along with the entire community, experienced the effects of a changing economy and skyrocketing gas prices in 2008. Library visits and program attendance numbers were down slightly from 2007. In a survey conducted at the conclusion of the Summer Reading Program, parents cited increased gas prices as the reason for limiting their children's participation in summer activities at the Library. Patrons shared how they maximized their Library experience by staying longer, checking out more materials and doing more things each visit. However, website visits and database searches were up. The enduring value of the Library is never more evident than in tough times when people depend on the Library for the many resources it provides.

General Statistics	2005	2006	2007	2008
Library Visits	134,556	145,725	153,672	147,539
Total Circulation (Mountain Home)	232,778	237,952	251,359	265,533
Total Circulation (Gassville)	4,447	3,834	4,329	4,131

Public Computer Statistics	2005	2006	2007	2008
Computer Users	17,567	32,848	34,640	32,177*
Website Visits	12,866	15,996	20,271	44,770
Online Database Searches	30,224	35,221	45,938	68,238

Program Attendance	2005	2006	2007	2008
Adult Program Attendance	1,752	3,509	6,059	5,074
Teen Program Attendance	0	506	894	1,255
Children's Program Attendance				
Children	4,359	4,710	4,497	4,194
Adults	1,831	1,297	1,866	1,693
Total	6,190	6,007	6,363	5,887

* Computers experienced two weeks downtime for maintenance

Library Programs and Services



Intergenerational Puppet Show in honor of Grandparents Day



Teens perform readings from challenged or banned books during Open Mic night



MLK Day of Service Volunteer Fair links volunteers and nonprofits

In 2008 Baxter County Library began a new emphasis on multi-generational themed programming designed to meet the recreational, educational, and cultural needs of the people of Baxter County. First quarter programs followed a Native American theme, with visits from experts who conducted craft workshops for adults and children, a Trail of Tears presentation, and a GPS scavenger hunt for teens complete with Native American artifacts.

Summer Reading Programs were expanded to include Teens and Adults. Everyone “Caught the Reading Bug” as they read for prizes donated by local businesses. Children and teens enjoyed an array of summer workshops and classes ranging from music and knitting to money management.

Several art exhibits, including the Arkansas Arts Center Artmobile, could be enjoyed by all ages. A monthly book discussion group for adults, “Issues and Viewpoints,” provided a venue for a lively exchange of opinions. In response to the community’s strong interest in family history, Beginning Genealogy classes were introduced in November.

The level of programs and services at the Baxter County Library would not be available without generous sponsors and grants. In addition to local sponsorships for Summer Programs, the Library applied for and received a generous grant from Eaton Industries to enhance the Children and Teen collections in the new building, a grant from Bank of America for the Teen program, and multiple grants from the Arkansas Arts Center.



Study groups cram for exams



Citizenship classes meet at Library



Fathers and Sons carve pumpkins



Miss Arkansas at the “Mommy May I” Tea



The new Library will be located at 300 Library Hill. Situated at the intersection of Highway 100, the new building will increase both its visibility and accessibility.

The New Library

The Schedule

Pre-construction work began in December with test wells being drilled for the new, geothermal HVAC system. Groundbreaking for the new Library is slated for Friday, March 6, 2009. Construction is expected to take 12 to 14 months with an anticipated move-in date sometime in the late Spring of 2010.

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Pre-construction work began in December with test well drilling for the geothermal HVAC system.





way 201 South and the Sheid-Hopper Bypass, this new location will allow the Library to

Construction Team

Through the concept design and grant process, the Construction Committee, chaired by Roger Pitchford, worked diligently with the architect and construction advisor “to create a timeless building designed to operate efficiently and minimize maintenance costs.” After a thorough vetting process, the Baxter County Library Foundation Construction Committee selected Gregory Company, Inc. as the general contractor to join its construction team. The architect, Jim Stufflebeam of Sapp Design Associates, has designed several public libraries, including those in West Plains and Springfield. Michael Parker of Nabholz Construction is the Construction Advisor. Local Interior Designer Lori Kauffman rounds out the construction team.

The Building

Plans for the new state-of-the-art facility feature expanded areas for children and teens, study rooms, comfortable reading areas, 35 public access computers, a coffee shop, gift shop, a local history and genealogy room, and well equipped community meeting rooms. With a modern, more user-friendly facility, the Library anticipates a 50 to 100 percent increase in patron visits based on demand behavior at other new libraries in Arkansas.



Library staff look over the architects' blueprints of the new building.

Going Green

The Construction Committee has followed best practices for sustainable design throughout. An example is the choice to go with a geothermal heating and cooling system for the building. This system will not only be environmentally friendly, but also reduce future operating expenses.

Your Library Staff

The staff of the Baxter County Library is committed to serving the people of Baxter County. Their dedication to program planning, collection management, circulation operations, and customer service is what keeps Library users returning time after time. The Baxter County Library staff includes 11 full time positions and 12 part time positions. In addition, a team of over 100 dedicated volunteers gave their time and talents throughout 2008, assisting the staff in a variety of tasks enabling maximum facilities use without increasing staff.



Gwen Khayat
Director



Danita Stine
Administrative Assistant



Brenda Knight
Circulation Supervisor



Susan Nixon
Cataloging



Vincent Anderson
Reference



Deborah Edmonds
Children's Librarian



Courtney Pickett
Teen Librarian



Kim Crow Sheaner
Outreach Coordinator



Pam Samman
Weekend Supervisor



Velma Ward
Circulation



Kathleen Altazan
Program Coordinator



Elisha Sharp
IT Coordinator



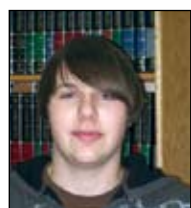
Judy Transue
Children's Assistant



Madelyn Burrow
Circulation



Karen Davidson
Circulation



William Fletcher
Circulation



Paul Foreman
Circulation



Allen Hall
Circulation



Lenora Peoples
Circulation



Jeneea Shrable
Circulation



Linda Stowers
Circulation



Leslie Teague
Circulation



Carla Winter
Circulation



Volunteers provide thousands of hours of valuable service to the Library, the Foundation and Friends of the Library.

Friends of the Baxter County Library

The Friends of the Library faithfully support the Baxter County Library not only with significant financial support, but by promoting involvement with the Library.

Their quarterly used book sales are highly anticipated events that bring in much needed funds for the Library. The book sales involve a tremendous coordination effort by many dedicated volunteers.

Proceeds from the book sales enable the Friends of the Library to support the Library in a variety of ways including funds for Library programs, materials, and staff development. They conduct monthly meetings featuring guest speakers on a variety of topics. In 2008, the Friends of the Library also hosted a day trip for members and the public to Little Rock, visiting the Old State House and the Historic Arkansas Museums with a luncheon cruise aboard the Arkansas Queen.

Friends of the Library Board of Directors



JoBelle Zimmerman
President



Janet Wheeler
Vice President



Joanne Carlstein
Secretary



Barbara Lamb
Treasurer



Bidders in the Friends' Sharing Your Treasures Auction took home some winners.



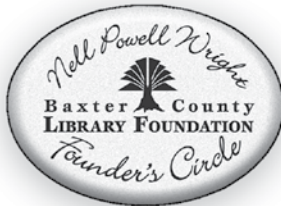
Patrons wait in line for bargains inside at Friends of the Library book sales.



Programs Provided by Friends of the Library in 2008	Donation
Children's Services	\$764
Special Programs/Exhibits	\$1,349
Materials	\$1,933
Equipment	\$3,143
Staff Development Workshops	\$1,907
TOTAL	\$9,096
Capital Campaign Commitment to Restricted Fund for Programs	\$70,000

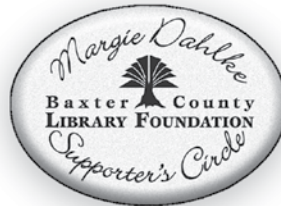
Levels of Giving

The new library will be named the Donald W. Reynolds Public Library in honor of the generous grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (DWRP) that made it possible. In addition to the three interior naming opportunities allowed by DWRP, the following levels of recognition have been established:



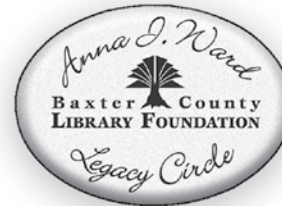
\$100,000 +

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.



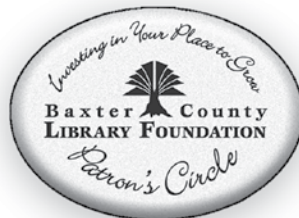
\$50,000 +

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.



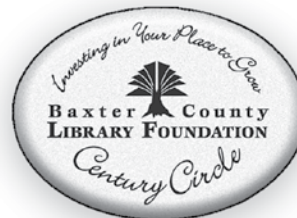
\$25,000 +

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.



\$10,000 +

The Patron's Circle honors the generosity of Library Patrons throughout the years.



\$5,000 +

100 people committed to donate \$1,000 per year for the next five years for a combined total of \$500,000.



Looking Forward

2009 will be an eventful year as we break ground for the new library and begin construction. We invite the entire community to share our excitement during the coming year.

2009 Goals:

- Complete Century Circle
- Seek widespread community support toward \$2 million goal for Restricted Fund for Programs
- Implement an Advisory Board that meets quarterly
- Continue quality programs, but at reduced levels as we prepare to move
- Evaluate existing programs and services
- Begin policy Review and Revision in preparation for new building
- Prepare collections for RFID tagging and moving
- Evaluate volunteer base and plan for enhanced volunteer opportunities in new building
- Continue planning for technology implementation in new library
- Continue to strengthen partnership with area schools
- Continue to develop partnership with Workforce Development
- Publicize use of Amazon.com via Library website
- Continue outreach to keep community involved and informed about the Library
- Continue advanced program planning and related grant applications

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

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

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



Concourse Sketch



Baxter County
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Investing in Your Place to Grow

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