



RICHLAND LIBRARY
Report on Philanthropy
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015



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Give freely.

Richland Library has a strong history of community support, which allows the library to provide a wide variety of resources and services that improve the quality of life for everyone. There are several ways to support your library:



Make a great library better by supporting the Richland Library Foundation.

To implement new and groundbreaking ideas – on an innovative level – the library must develop philanthropic support from those with an affinity for the library. An exceptional steward of the public funding it receives, Richland Library is grateful for that generous support. However, private support helps ensure a higher level of service both now and in the future. It makes the difference between a good library and a great library. In addition, private support lessens the burden on Richland County taxpayers while providing a world-class library.

Want to learn more? Visit RichlandLibrary.com or call 803.929.3424.



Let your voice be heard by joining the Richland Library Friends.

The Richland Library Friends is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to spearheading advocacy efforts on behalf of the library. The Friends also provide financial support for innovative library programming through revenue from their quarterly book sales and other events.

Ready to join? Visit RichlandLibrary.com or call 803.988.0885.



Be a part of something great by volunteering at the library!

From sorting books to providing technical skills and literacy tutoring, the library relies on volunteers of all ages to achieve our mission and meet the diverse needs of our customers and community. Last year, 1,145 volunteers contributed more than 23,000 hours, a value of almost \$450,000. The commitment and talents of our junior, teen and adult volunteers are appreciated throughout the year and are given special recognition at events in April and August.

Interested in volunteering? Visit RichlandLibrary.com or call 803.929.3436.

Foundation Board 2014 – 2015



"This past year has been a historic one for the Richland Library Foundation. We finished the year by completing our very first major gifts campaign, raising over \$500,000 to fund Learning Centers at five Richland Library locations – Blythewood, North Main, Northeast, Sandhills and St. Andrews. The Learning Centers will be an innovative hybrid model of two existing services at the Main Library – the Teen Center and the Business and Job Center.

The success of the Learning Centers campaign was made possible by the hard work of dedicated members of the Foundation Board with support of library staff. Learning Centers made possible by the campaign will enhance services for teens and job seekers for many years to come and be a lasting legacy of the Richland Library Foundation."

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Friends Board 2014 – 2015



"As demonstrated through its advocacy and fundraising efforts, the Richland Library Friends embodies the community's love of Richland Library. During the last fiscal year, the Friends provided over \$100,000 in support of the library. One of the projects supported by this financial contribution was the 2015 Friends' Summer Learning Challenge, which included over 18,000 participants. In addition, the Friends Annual Meeting featured author and Congressman James Clyburn, who discussed and signed copies of his book, *Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black*. The next chapter for the Friends promises to be just as exciting, as the library moves forward with its construction plan, and the Friends take steps to change their mission to provide more support through advocacy."

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“Residents have come to expect that their library will be there to meet their needs in a variety of ways, including serving as a community center and providing services for people of all ages within a safe and nurturing environment. You can’t go wrong by investing in the library; it’s for everyone.”



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Nancy McCormick, Donor

“I moved to Columbia in 1976, and one of the first things I did was get a library card.”

Since that time, Nancy McCormick said she loves letting people know about Richland Library’s leadership role in the community. “It is really hard for me to imagine how different this community would be without the library’s huge resources and technological innovations.”

While McCormick said it may sound like a cliché, she believes Richland Library brings people together. “The library is a democratic institution – anyone can go there.”

As a child in rural Florida, McCormick looked forward to the bookmobile’s weekly visit. Now, she values not only books but free access to opera CDs and DVDs, movies, and television series. “Being a frequent user of the library has saved me thousands of dollars over the years. Whenever anyone asks me about living in Columbia, I always brag about our great library system.”



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Tracy Dye | AKA, Gamma Nu Omega Chapter, Organization Donor

No stranger to the public library system, Tracy Dye calls it her “favorite place” – one that she continues to visit on a regular basis. She has been a customer at Richland Library since the 1980s when she was a freshman at Benedict College. “Visiting Richland Library was just natural for me, and [it] made me feel safe in some sort of way. I love the opportunity to lose myself among the books and stories,” said Dye.

“The library provides the possibility of learning about one’s self and history in the archives section, launching a

business or finding employment in the business section, teaching a child to learn to love literature and to read in the kid’s section, and the possibility of continuing your

education through access to resources for college and graduate school entrance exam preparation,” said Dye.



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"Richland Library is a constant source for what's new and fresh. And whether through literacy programs, career development, community outreach or digital access, the library is in the unique position to serve almost every level of our community in distinct ways. The organization is always reaching out to those in our community and finding ways to tear down barriers to access."



2015 Ethel Bolden Scholar | Seneca Jackson

“Being named as the Ethel Bolden Scholar has been one of the greatest achievements of my life. Knowing that I embody many of the qualities that Mrs. Bolden possessed and admired in others drives me to be a positive force in the library community. As a recipient, I hope to use this recognition as a means to advance diversity initiatives in the library community and to build

stronger ties within the community. I truly want to thank the Richland Library Foundation for bestowing this honor upon me and recognizing my potential.”



Established in 2010 by the Richland Library Foundation, the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship recognizes Mrs. Bolden’s years of service to the Richland County community and its libraries. The scholarship provides \$2,500 in financial support to a student from an underrepresented ethnic or racial group, who is working toward the completion of a Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of South Carolina.

Terri and Raymond Bynoe, Donors



“When I was growing up, my Aunt Ethel (Ethel Bolden) would always read to us and bring us to the library,” said Dr. Raymond Bynoe. “She would make the books and stories so interesting, and we felt like we were a part of it. She opened up a whole new world to us. That memory brings me great joy. The memory of my Aunt Ethel packing us in the car, taking us to the library and sharing her love of reading and education with us is something I will always treasure.”

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“Richland Library belongs to the community, it adapts to the community, and it changes with the community. Whether you are a parent with young children, a business owner, a would-be entrepreneur, or a person who just wants to read and relax – whatever it is – the library is a valuable resource. It is central to our community and has done a fantastic job meeting the needs of Richland County and the area at large. It’s important to support a resource like this that does so much for our community and really asks for so little.”



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“Richland Library is one of the great things about the Midlands. I love walking through its doors and seeing the variety of people of all ages and from all walks of life. Books are only a part of what makes the library great. The research opportunities there, with the assistance of a very knowledgeable staff, make Richland Library truly special.”



Cheryl Holland | Abacus Planning Group Inc., Corporate Donor

Cheryl Holland has been a Richland Library cardholder for about 50 years. Her first memories of using the facility were in middle school. "I loved it because it was such a community gathering spot. It didn't matter. Everybody came to the library – every age, every aspect of our community, every socio-economic point. So, it felt like a hub," says Holland.

Holland feels that Richland Library plays a crucial role in the community.

"Whether people walk in the door, call on the phone, or visit an outlying facility, the library provides children and families a place to learn, job seekers a place to look for employment and so much more."



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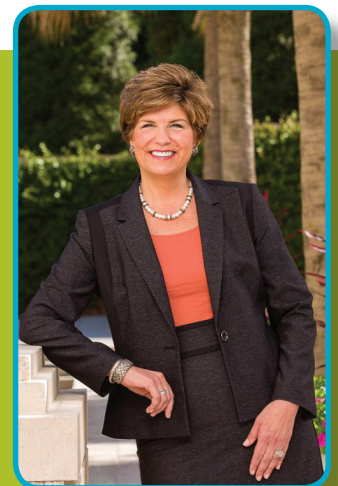
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“It is extremely important for First Citizens Bank to invest in the evolving needs of our community, and we recognize that Richland Library has been integral in understanding those changing dynamics locally and nationally. While people still want to hold a book and access resources and research materials, Richland Library has been very proactive, remaining at the forefront of our community’s development. From a technology standpoint, to

educating the area workforce, to providing unfettered access to resources for research and creating innovative pathways to education and literacy – the library is a wonderful place that is helping fuel our regional economic engine.”



Kittrell Lester Tucker, Planned Giving Donor

When asked to describe Kittrell Lester Tucker, her daughter Kittrell A. Tucker says without hesitation, “She was a true Southern belle,” a Southern belle with tenacious charm who cared deeply for her community.

In 2015, Ms. Tucker passed away at the age of 89, leaving behind a legacy of generosity and benevolence; donating nearly \$30,000 to the Richland Library Foundation.

Her generosity spurred from her deep love of Richland Library and her passion

for a job well done. Ms. Tucker was a librarian at Richland Library for many decades, retiring at the age of 71.

“Mother loved the library and its mission to serve the community. She loved the staff there, she loved the beautiful building she got to work in for years,” says Kittrell Tucker. It was this love that Kittrell says led her mother to invest in the library and its services. “She really believed that to help your fellow man, was to help the library.”



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“Moving here to the Midlands 24 years ago, I was very impressed with what I learned about Richland Library and its many services – but now having been a recent recipient of several unique services, I am truly amazed.

We are indeed fortunate to live in a community where our library system offers so much. From the youngest of our children to our senior citizens, there is indeed ‘education for all’ with an emphasis on providing access to the

latest technology. I would encourage everyone to give of your ‘time, talent and treasure’ to Richland Library, so that we may continue to provide innovative and community-building opportunities for all our citizens. Together, we can make an even greater impact.”



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