

Report on Philanthropy

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016



**RICHLAND
LIBRARY**

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Give freely.



Richland Library is championed by three distinct support groups that work closely with the library in all areas where support — financial, advocacy and volunteer — is needed. All three types of support allow Richland Library to provide a wide variety of resources and services that improve the quality of life for everyone.



DONATE

Richland Library Foundation

The Richland Library Foundation exists to further the mission of Richland Library through increased financial and stakeholder support for innovative services and programs. In addition, private donations lessen the burden on Richland County taxpayers while helping to provide the community's best source of innovative and impactful learning opportunities. Simply put, Foundation support helps make the difference between a good library and a great library.

*Want to contribute?
Visit RichlandLibrary.com
or call 803.929.3424.*



JOIN

Richland Library Friends.

The Richland Library Friends fulfill a critical advocacy role for Richland Library among its key stakeholders. Their financial support, generated through book sales, memberships and other initiatives, helps provide innovative library programming, including the Summer Learning Challenge as well as author events throughout the year.

*Ready to join? Visit
RichlandLibrary.com or
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VOLUNTEER

From pulling books that customers have put on hold to providing community outreach to homebound customers, the library relies on volunteers of all ages to achieve our mission and meet the diverse needs of our customers and community. Last year, 667 volunteers contributed more than 18,483,000 hours, a value of almost \$390,725,000, all while navigating the ongoing construction system wide! The commitment and talents of our junior, teen, adult and Richland Library Friends' volunteers are appreciated throughout the year and are given special recognition at events in April and September.

*Interested in volunteering?
Visit RichlandLibrary.com
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Foundation Board 2015-16



“This past year was another success for the Richland Library Foundation. Some highlights from 2015-16 include winning the prestigious “Friend of South Carolina Libraries” award from the South Carolina Library Association in recognition for our efforts to secure funding for our Learning Centers Campaign. The campaign raised more than \$500,000 to fund innovative teen and job center support at five Richland Library locations. The Richland Library Foundation also awarded the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship for the fifth time, helping to ensure diversity in South Carolina libraries. In addition, we completed work on a three-year strategic plan focused on supporting the mission of Richland Library with increased financial and stakeholder support for innovative services and programs.



Adam Davis | Chair

All of these accomplishments are important in their own way, but none could have been possible without the generous support of the hard-working residents of Richland County. The support that you are providing to the Richland Library Foundation will provide a legacy for years to come. Thank you for another wonderful year.”

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"I am proud to announce that 2015-16 was a banner year for the Richland Library Friends. The year began with almost 300 members and guests attending our annual meeting where dancers from the Columbia City Ballet performed selections from the critically-acclaimed **Off the Wall**, and WIS News 10's Meaghan Norman interviewed renowned SC artist Jonathan Green. We raised more than \$70,000 with our hugely popular book sales, which allowed us to continue our sponsorship of the Summer Learning Challenge and a variety of author events. As newly renovated and constructed library locations open, look for a learning center funded by the Friends. For over 40 years, the Friends have supported library programming and services, and we are honored to play a part in the library's exciting future."



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-
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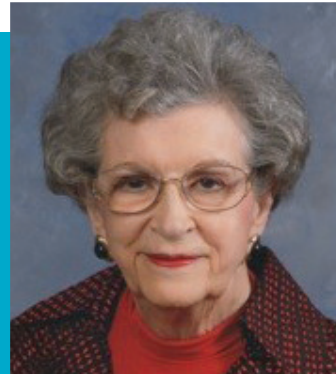
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“It’s very accessible. It’s easy to use. The system with all the locations is just one of the finest because it takes the library into the neighborhoods where the people are. The locations are sort of grown to meet the interests and the needs of that particular neighborhood, and I think that’s a wonderful system.”



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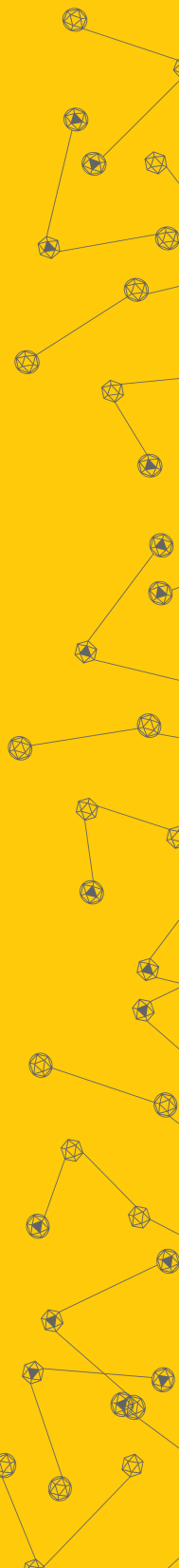


The Cheerful Giver through Central Carolina Community Foundation

In 2016, a gift of \$10,000 was presented by The Cheerful Giver — an anonymous donor — through Central Carolina Community Foundation to the Richland Library Foundation’s campaign on learning centers.

“His whole purpose is this: inspire giving and inspire others to give, like he does,” said Heather Sherwin of Central Carolina Community Foundation. “It doesn’t have to be big, but all giving helps lift up human beings...he wants this community to thrive.”

Specifically, Richland Library has designated these funds toward a learning center at the new Ballentine location (1200 Dutch Fork Road), which is expected to open in spring 2017. The campaign on learning centers formed back in 2013, and it supports service innovations, helping Richland Library function as a space for all ages. By outfitting areas inside our buildings with the right technology and programs, learning centers are going to maximize Richland Library’s ability to meet the diverse needs of our community.



Ethel Bolden Scholarship

2016



“Applying for the Ethel Bolden scholarship was a natural choice for me. Ms. Bolden believed in the library’s duty to empower the community it serves to accomplish anything they set their minds to and to access whatever they need to make that happen. This is the same fundamental belief that has led me to choose librarianship as a career and life choice. Earning this scholarship has helped to propel me on that path. The experience of being honored with this award was both uplifting and humbling.”



Shinelle Polite, 2016 Recipient

The Richland Library Foundation established the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship in 2010 in honor and recognition of Mrs. Ethel Bolden’s years of service to the Richland County community and its libraries.

The \$3,500 scholarship seeks to provide financial support for students from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, who are working toward the completion of a Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of South Carolina.

“My Aunt Ethel was a quiet activist and a gifted storyteller who loved libraries and their ability to transform lives. I know she would want nothing more than to ensure that a student could gain access to resources and financial support to pursue a career in librarianship. She would want to keep her legacy of encouraging literacy and academic excellence going.”



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Lucy Hampton Bostick Award 2016



After receiving an overwhelming response of nominations for the Lucy Hampton Bostick Award, the Richland Library Friends recognized the 2016 recipient — Helen Fellers — during their Annual Meeting.

“I don’t cry easily,” explained Fellers. “I’m 82-years-old. I’ve been through an awful lot of wonderful things in life, and maybe some bad ones, but nevertheless, I cried when they said you are going to get the Lucy Hampton Bostick Award.”



Helen Fellers

The award recognizes a South Carolina author, someone who has written a significant literary work on South Carolina, or someone in the Midlands who has significantly advanced the interest in books or libraries.

“Books and people, or putting a book in somebody’s hand — whether it’s a child or an adult — starts them on a real adventure, and it has been such pleasant work,” said Fellers. “It has been such fun.”

The only candidate nominated by three different people, Fellers’ career includes more than 50 years dedicated to library services, volunteering on numerous literacy boards and committees, recognition as the Story Lady and Reading Rooster for 15 years and a personal connection to Lucy Hampton Bostick.

The award honors Lucy Hampton Bostick, long-time head librarian in Richland County and former Richland Library director from 1928-1968. Bostick is credited with fostering interest in Southern literature and history, improving cultural life in Columbia, and promoting library appreciation throughout the state.



Pictured: Lucy Hampton Bostick, the Lucy Hampton Bostick Award Medal, Fellers with medal

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“Anyone who devotes their time to volunteering with a great group knows that ‘it works to work together.’ It is very rewarding to be a long-time member of the Richland Library Friends in our mission of providing support to Richland Library. Through my decade of volunteering at the Richland Library ‘book barn,’ I’ve had the honor and joy to work with a truly dedicated, resourceful and generous group of Friends. We are like a family, and to witness and be a part of how our time, talent and resources benefit the library and enrich the community is truly phenomenal; I count it time well spent.”

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“I started to think about individuals who are graduating high school and graduating college. To have a resource that will help with everything from creating a resume to job interviews to how to actually look for a job, that was something that was very impressive to us and something that we really wanted to be a part of and support because that is a big, big cornerstone — we think — for our community. And [we’re] just very impressed with what the library is trying to do to help folks and coach folks with job resources and career advancement.”



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Books 2 Boys

In 2016, Richland Library joined with City of Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia Parks and Recreation to expand reading opportunities for boys in the Midlands. The Mayor's Books 2 Boys initiative is an innovative approach to a traditional book fair where boys, ages 6-12, are able to choose from reading material, hand-selected by librarians at Richland Library, and geared toward topics and genres that may be of interest to them. To date, Books 2 Boys has given more than 1,600 books to boys in the city.

The Mayor's Books 2 Boys initiative is supported by a gift from CIGNA insurance and falls under the My Brother's Keeper milestone of having boys read at grade level by third grade.

"Books 2 Boys is a perfect example of what can happen when community partners work together to address community issues. If we can make reading as popular or as fun as sports to boys, we'll change their outlook and futures. Each time I see a young boy get excited about picking up one of the great books the program provides, I am reminded that it takes a village. It takes all of us together, using our combined resources and talents, to create a strong, viable city."

Mayor Steve Benjamin

Annual Giving and Planned Giving Societies





Richland Library Literary Circle

Thinking about your next gift? We'd love to place your name in the Literary Circle. The Richland Library Literary Circle is a group of individuals and organizations dedicated to ensuring that future generations enjoy the same high level of library programs and services that exist today at Richland Library.

While the core level of annual membership is established at \$500, The Literary Circle offers other levels for those who wish to contribute more:

- **Limited Edition Level** **\$500 – \$999**
- **Leather Bound Level** **\$1,000 – \$2,499**
- **Gold Leaf Level** **\$2,500 – \$4,999**
- **Platinum Leaf Level** **\$5,000+**

In addition to supporting one of the top libraries in the country and the community's best source of innovative and impactful learning opportunities, your contribution will be recognized in a number of ways.



Richland Library Legacy Society

There are many ways to support your library, but for many, making the Richland Library Foundation a beneficiary of their estate is the most practical and effective way. A planned gift clearly demonstrates how much you value the library, and it sets a lasting example for other philanthropic-minded individuals throughout Richland County and beyond.

*For more information contact Tina Gills, CFRE,
Development Director at 803 . 929 . 3424.*

Meet the Richland Library Development Team



Richland Library's Development team is responsible for all philanthropic support for Richland Library. We oversee the efforts of the Richland Library Foundation and Richland Library Friends; coordinate library and Friends volunteers, and manage the grant writing and reporting process. Please contact us to discuss the various ways you can support Richland Library.



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