

Friends of Jacaranda Public Library, Inc.

Selected accomplishments from the past few years...

- Developed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with presenting authors that allowed Friends to sell books at library-sponsored programs. The MOU became a model for the library system and was eventually adopted as part of a system-wide policy on book sales.
- Completed transformation of youth department into a playground for marine and terrestrial creatures. Local artist Coleen Henry painted whimsical nature scenes around the youth department thanks to underwriting from the Friends. In 2009, the Friends invited Collen to paint a nature scene around the interior book drop.
- Sold between \$15,000 and \$20,000 annually in books and magazines via Friends bookshop to support special library projects and events.
- Sponsored volunteer appreciation and recognition efforts including gala luncheon in the spring, hot dog and ice cream social in the fall, Thanksgiving holiday cards, and monthly breakfast with the library manager awards.
- Partnered with community organizations like the College Club of Venice to enhance youth and young adult collections.
- Contributed to the Friends Alliance, a committee with representatives from all eight Sarasota County libraries. The Alliance meets monthly to report activities, discuss subjects of mutual interest, and collaborate on activities and events for system-wide benefit.
- Approved Friends purchase of center stops to keep books in adult fiction and large print collections stable and secure on the shelf.
- Purchased Freedom Scientific OpenBook® software and flatbed scanner that converts print material like books and magazines into speech for people who are blind or visually impaired.
- Rehabilitated the native plant walk by replacing worn or damaged plant signs, repairing the mailbox that contains native plant brochures, and investigated purchasing replacements for plants that have died.
- Replaced seven computers and monitors in the computer lab used for basic internet instruction, gaming for teens, e-government access, etc.
- Supported summer youth programs that enhanced reading skills and prepared students for academic success.
- Engaged Venice Dairy Queen® in quarterly youth department fundraising events.
- Added literature, science, and humanities *Video Lecture Series* materials to the library collection as lifelong learning aids.
- Acquired first bright board electronic display in library system for promoting library services, programs, and announcements.

Imagine what else we can accomplish with your membership and support!