

Annual Report 2016 Friends of the Fletcher Free Library

The Friends of the Fletcher Free Library supports the mission and the work of the Fletcher Free Library in whatever way is deemed appropriate, which include raising money for special projects, acting as advocates for the Library within the community, and promoting the Library as a center for lifelong learning. How did we do this in 2016? We supported library programming, professional development, as well as promoted specific initiatives to enhance the role of the library in the community. This annual report summarizes the achievements of our organization in the past year.

Board and Membership

There are currently 139 active members of the Friends. Patrons and members of the community are welcome to join on a rolling basis. We thank all members for their support during 2016.

Board members for 2016 were:

Joan Conroy	President
Kirsten McNeil	Vice President
Ann Warrington	Treasurer
Robin Twery	Secretary
Amanda Hannaford	Member At Large
Ellen MacLellan	Member At Large
Hilary Silver	Member At Large
Anne Nixon	Member At Large

Financial Support for the Library

The Friends’ Board annually allocates resources to the Library for investment at the discretion of the Library Director. This procedure facilitates the library’s ability to plan and prioritize programming, professional development, and investments in special projects more effectively. For 2016, the Board allocated \$24,000 covering a 12 month period (July 2016-June 2017). The allocation is determined annually by the Friends’ Board at their February meeting. The level of funding allocated each year will be based on the availability of funds as stated in the Friends’ end of year financial statements and Treasurer’s report.

Library Support in 2016

Summer Reading Program (Youth Services) - \$14,285

The Friends, in collaboration with the Amy E. Tarrant Foundation, supported the purchase and printing of Summer Reading Program participant T-shirts; the customization of an open source program registration and reading log, in addition to a Kindle raffle prize as a reading incentive. The t-shirts printed by a local Burlington based company, are an excellent way to incentivize children to read during the summer months and beyond. We want to acknowledge the tremendous effort made by the Youth Staff and their tireless volunteers during the entire year, especially during the summer months.



Programming & Event Support - \$6,715

The Friends support a range of library programming, including program presenter stipends for Spanish Musical Kids and other program speakers throughout the year. The Friends also provided resources to assist the Library in its preparation to host the **Exploring Human Origins** Smithsonian traveling exhibit. **Special thanks to Barbara Shatara, Programming and Partnership Librarian for all her dedicated work at the Library.** In addition, we sponsor local museum passes that can be checked out to all FFL library cardholders (for specific dates arranged in advance and based on availability).

Professional Development - \$7,175

Investing in Library staff professional growth was a priority of our previous Library Director, Rubi Simon as well as our current Director, Mary Danko. Public Libraries across the country are undergoing significant transformation. The Friends support the Fletcher Free's efforts to ensure staff skills and knowledge reflect both current trends in the field as well as the needs of our community. We are so fortunate to have a tremendously hard-working and dedicated staff at our public library. Thank you!



Megan Butterfield, Youth Services clerk, with author Sherman Alexie at PLA 2016

"My visit to the Public Library Association's 2016 conference was filled with fascinating and inspiring workshops and experiences. My favorite workshop offered ideas for integrating movement into storytimes. Since returning to work, I have used participatory storytelling and movement on a regular basis during my preschool storytime."

Nga Pham, Library Technical Assistant

"Support from the Friends has allowed me to acquire professional experience outside of my daily routine. I am very grateful for this opportunity."



Special Projects - \$6,500

Over the past two years, the library has been increasing investment in facilities and infrastructure. The City has made investments that modernize and upgrade the Library's aging infrastructure. In 2016, the Fletcher Free developed and adopted a new brand identity reflecting more open engagement with the community. The brand includes new logos for the Library, the Friends, the Tech Center, the Teen Space and Youth Services. Our new brand identity is colorful and dynamic, and celebrates a long history of service to Burlington as a trusted community resource. The Friends, encouraging such efforts, are delighted with the outcome and were excited to collaborate with the City to support this branding project.



Library Outreach / Equipment - \$692

The library provides outreach services and programming to seniors in the community. In 2016, the Friends purchased an IPAD and scanner to facilitate the circulation of library materials around the city.

Community Outreach in 2016

Management of Donations

The management, sale and redistribution of donated literary materials continues to be the primary activity and funding source for the Friends. Approximately 22,000 books were donated in 2016. Donations also included hundreds of DVD's CD's and Audiobooks. The Friends also manage library books withdrawn from circulation. Volunteer hours for handling, sorting, pricing, packing and redistributing these materials are estimated at approximately 2,000 hours for 2016. Other volunteer activities include redistribution of books to local nonprofits as well as organizing and management of the seasonal book sales.

Book Stall

Sales from the Book Stall generated \$11,063 in income for the Friends in 2016. This is similar to the amount earned in 2015, \$11,728. Recently a committee of Friends members rearranged the Book Stall in hopes that people will be able to find books of interest more quickly. Books are now arranged by categories, indicated by colored tape placed near the bottom of the spine of the book. The stall continues to offer a broad range of Fiction and Nonfiction as well as Young Adult and Children's books. There is also a revolving collection of books selected on a monthly basis on a particular theme.

Book Sales

The Friends traditionally holds June, September, and December Book Sales. In 2016 the combined sales generated \$13,115 in sales. We have introduced a Food Drive for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf with the June mass market sale over the last couple of years with increasing success.

Bulk Book Sales

In 2016 we collected \$195 for books we donated to Better World Books. BWB sells and donates books to nonprofits around the world.

Donations to local Nonprofit Organizations

We continue to deliver donated materials and books to various organizations in Chittenden County. In the past year we have donated items to the following organizations: The UVM Medical Center, The Boys and Girls Club, Burlington Parks and Recreation for their summer camp programs, JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Program), The Howard Center, Burlington Police department, and COTS. If you are aware of a nonprofit that would like to participate in our program, please contact us.

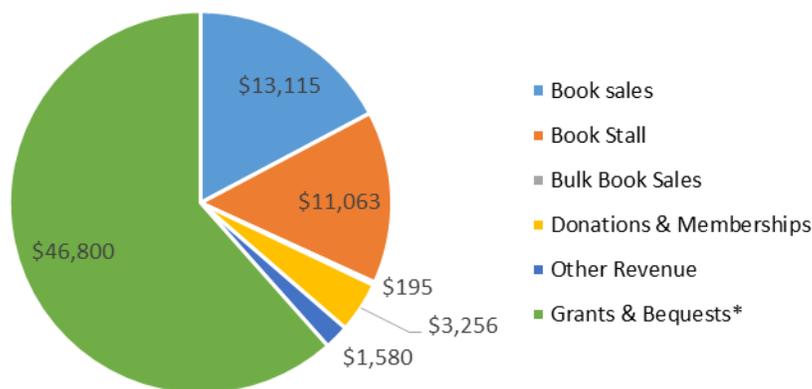
Participation in Library Sponsored Programs

We participate in events throughout the year including the Vermont Community Garden Network (VCGN) Annual Seed Swap. This past year we sponsored a raffle of gardening supplies free to all participants.

2016 Financials

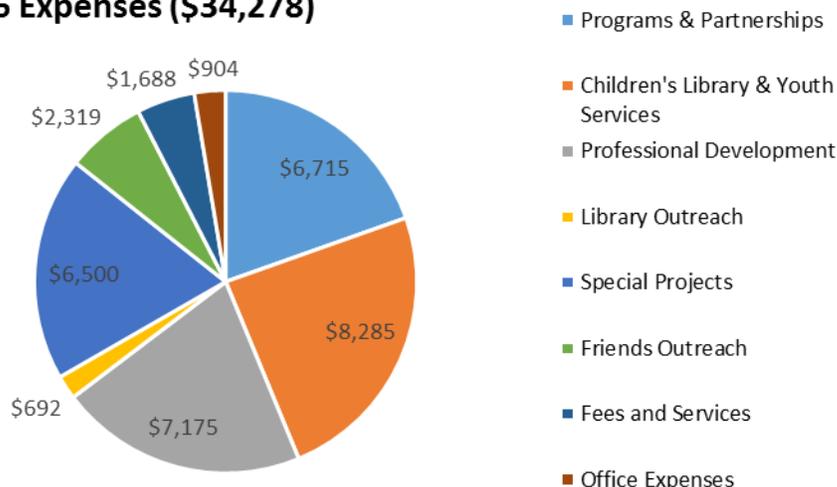
The Friends raised \$76,009 in revenue last year. Our expenses were \$34,278 for that same period. The sources of revenue and the nature of the expenses are summarized in the charts below.

2016 Revenue (\$76,009)



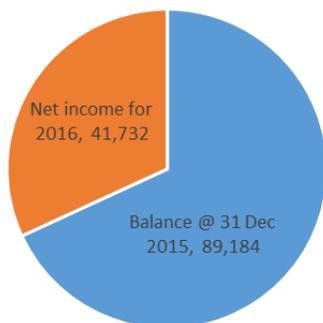
** Note: Revenue for grants and bequests in 2016 were higher than recent years due to a wonderful bequest from a patron Jean T. Walsh for \$36,516.*

2016 Expenses (\$34,278)

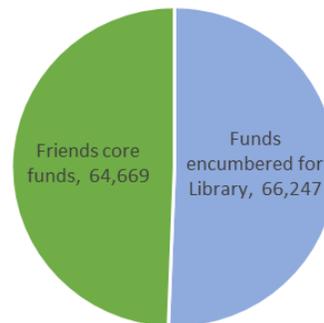


The charts below summarize the Friend's balance statement at 31 December 2016. The Friends' Board is proud to maintain a solid financial base while funding library programming and services consistent with our organizational mission. The Friends of Fletcher Free Library continues to strive for new opportunities to generate funds for investment in Burlington's public library.

Net Income for 2016



Total net assets @ 31 Dec 2016 (\$130,916)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Friends' Board would like to acknowledge Rubi O. Simon (our outgoing Library Director, to whom we bid good-bye to in September 2016) and Robert Coleburn (our Interim Director for the remainder of 2016 into 2017) for their tireless and inspirational dedication to and leadership of the Fletcher Free community. We would also like to acknowledge the passing of a valued and dedicated Friends volunteer, Anne Doherty. Anne always contributed her energy and humor while volunteering at book sales. She will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.