



Assuring the Future, Enriching Lives

Endowment Campaign
and Legacy Society



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION
OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

The Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County

Enriching Lives, Shaping the Future

Our Mission

The Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County provides critically needed funding for the Beaufort County Library system unavailable from government sources. This vital support enables the Library System to achieve its goal of maintaining its position as a first-class library meeting the needs of the citizens of Beaufort County.

Who We Are

Board of Directors

The Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County

Patricia Hand, *Co-Chair*
Woody Rutter, *Co-Chair*
John Donkersloot, *Vice Chair*
Eve Peterson, *Treasurer*
Sally Steedman
Julie Zachowski
Tom Miller

Our Impact

Donating to the Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County is not just about improving facilities and purchasing books. It's about people: the approximately half a million people served by the library system every year--the impact it makes on the quality of their lives and the portal to opportunities it provides them through its resources.

Here are a few of the ways Foundation support has enriched the lives of the residents of Beaufort County over the last decade:

- Book purchases for all branches of the Library system including over 100 large print books for the Bluffton and Hilton Head Library branches and 1,000 teen and children's books for the St. Helena Branch Library.
- Funding for the *WeeRead* Project designed to bring early childhood literacy resources and training to caregivers of children ages 1 to 3. Nearly 600 caregivers were given early literacy training at the Bluffton and Hilton Head Branch Libraries.
- Funding for the Early Childhood Literacy and First Read programs for pre-school children who have had little exposure to reading.
- Funding for the *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* initiative that encourages parents and caregivers to read aloud daily to young children, critical to preparing them for a successful start to kindergarten.
- Funding for the Hilton Head Branch Summer Reading Programs.
- Funding for the Library's countywide 2016 *The Big Read* celebration featuring author Zora Neale Hurston.
- Funding for Innovative Launchpad Educational Learning Tablets for adults and youth enabling borrowers to explore, learn, and play. The Tablet includes apps that are designed to challenge users' memory, problem-solving skills, attention span and much more. The Tablet replaces outdated desk top computers and can be checked out of the Library.
- Funding for capital equipment expenditures including Library signage, IT equipment and state-of-the-art 3D printer.



Going to the library is similar to breathing FRESH AIR. The information housed here ignites hearts and minds, creating an informed group of citizens. Please continue supporting this worthwhile, much-needed library. Thank you. - BCL patron

Our Vital Role in Enriching the Quality of Life of the Community

With the support of the Public Library Foundation the Beaufort County Library System has become an indispensable community service, an important hub and meeting place of its community. Its work is one of the cornerstones of Democracy, touching the lives of the vast majority of County residents and empowering its citizens of all backgrounds, creeds, ages and beliefs with vital resources to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

It is a vital ingredient in the County's ability to meet the 21st century learning needs of the county's residents. It plays a key role in assuring that its younger residents receive the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in a competitive global economy, and its older ones a place they can rely upon as a dynamic center for lifelong learning opportunities.

By the Numbers: A Major Impact on the Community

With over 125,000 library card holders, nearly 2/3 of the population of Beaufort County has a library card.

In Fiscal Year 2015/16:

- Over half a million people visited one or more of the five branch libraries
- Nearly 800,000 books, DVDs, audio books, and electronic titles including e-books circulated out of the Library.
- Over 25,000 people attended the Library's public programming



Children who go to a library are twice as likely as those who don't to read well. It is not just picking up a book. It is the social experience of reading, talking about the books, browsing, comparing what you have read with family and friends. Librarians are gate keepers in that process. They open doors to new worlds, new possibilities.

—The National Literacy Trust

The Library System provides dozens of programs and services for adults, children and teens free of charge.



Adults

- Book clubs and Author Talks featuring local and national authors
- Health and Wellness programs
- Jazz band performances, free tax preparation, talks on local history and movie showings
- Computers and technology workshops including Basic iPad, and 3D Design and Printing
- Mango: a fun and enjoyable way to learn a new language
- Hoopla: access to 550,000 digital movies, e-books and audio books
- Preloaded educational tablets with games for adults and children that improve memory and problem solving skills
- Exploring family roots with the genealogy database Ancestry.com

Teenagers, Children and Babies

- Teen Book Club, Chess Club for Kids, and Story Times
- Arts and Crafts Programs like Crafternoons, Teens and Tweens Tie Dye, and Drop In Crafts for Kids
- Science and wildlife programs like Lowcountry Raptors, Hunting Island Nature Center Animals and Teen Tech Week
- Bouncing Babies and Toddler Tales Storytimes
- Children's' Books Film Fest

Library Facilities

- Five Branches: *Beaufort, Bluffton, Hilton Head, St. Helena and Lobeco*
- Public WiFi at all locations



- 203 public computers
- 9 public meeting rooms
- 73 full-time equivalent staff positions

Online Resources

- Lowcountry Digital Library for local history
- Mango, a state of the art Language Learning Library
- 52 Educational and Research Data Bases
- *Well-Read* biweekly podcasts
- My Next Book reader's advisory

“We have the best library in South Carolina – with great staff. I use this library two or three times a week and appreciate the value of our children’s library (which is always so busy)...it is a joy to see so many children reading and checking out books. - BCL Patron”

How will your support of the Public Library Foundation help?

Your financial support of the Foundation's Endowment Campaign will make a difference in the lives of thousands of Beaufort County residents by:

- Providing a high level of programming and services that enrich the quality of life of Beaufort County's citizens.
- Providing access to cutting-edge technologies and educational resources necessary to the attainment of knowledge and skills in a competitive global economy.
- Purchasing books, DVDs, audio books and electronic titles including e-books circulated out of the Library.
- Providing vitally needed computer upgrades and replacements of outdated computer workstations with state-of-the-art tablets that can be checked out of the Library.
- Supporting critical renovations and improvements of branch libraries for expanded and improved services for library patrons and staff.
- Establishing a scholarship fund for a Library staff member to attend and graduate with their Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of South Carolina.

Challenges Confronting the Library

The Library system faces considerable challenges to continue to meet high standards of service into the 21st Century. The Foundation will play a vital role in helping it meet many of these challenges including:

- Aging facilities in critical need of deferred maintenance, repairs, renovations, physical improvements, and expanded physical space for library patrons and staff
- Long term sustainable funding. In 2011 there was a nearly 30% drop in the Beaufort County funding allocation to the Library, a severe financial crisis. It has taken nearly 5 years to restore county funds to the level of 2011. There is no guarantee County funding will continue at current levels, and the Foundation funding will need to play a crucial role in sustaining the library in times of severe cutbacks.
- Reducing wait times on popular adult fiction titles by adding new adult titles through the lease program.
- Increasing purchases of new materials, programs and services.
- Expanding hours that the Library is open to the public.
- Critical need for at least one additional branch library to better service and meet the needs of County's growing population across all demographic categories.



Thank you for your children's programs. The reading programs have created a love for books and learning. The play groups have allowed my children to make friends and feel a part of the community. - BCL Patron

Leaving a Legacy

Assuring the Future Enriching Lives

The Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County's \$250,000 Endowment Campaign

Your endowment gift is a high impact, philanthropic investment that continues to help your Library now and in the future. Here are some ways you can help.

Charitable Bequest: A Gift That Costs You Nothing During Your Lifetime Charitable bequests to the Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County are easy to make, flexible, and may provide you with tax savings. There are several options:

Residual Bequest You can choose to donate all, a part or a percentage share of the balance of your estate to the Library Foundation after disbursements to your family and other beneficiaries.

Specific bequest amount You can designate a specific dollar amount to the Foundation.

Contingent bequest You can designate the Foundation to receive all or part of your estate if your named beneficiaries predecease you.

Life Insurance Policies and Retirement Accounts You may also support the Foundation by naming it as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy you no longer need or a retirement account. Both options can sometimes provide significant tax benefits.

Outright Gifts of Cash or Securities

Gifts of cash or securities to the Foundation enlarge its endowment now with the immediate impact of increasing its current giving capabilities to the Library system, while also assuring the donor that their gifts will have a lasting impact into the future. It also may provide the donor with immediate tax deductions.

When making gifts of cash or securities, or when naming the Foundation as a Beneficiary of your estate, life insurance policy or retirement account, please indicate the legal name of the Foundation as:

Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County
Federal Tax ID #14-1925-218
311 Scott St., Beaufort, SC 29902



Libraries supply books, videos, and other materials as always, but they also are fulfilling new functions: access to information for small businesses, help with homework and afterschool activities for children, and employment information for job seekers. Librarians are responding to the needs of their patrons in many new ways, notably by guiding them through the wilderness of cyberspace to relevant and reliable digital material. — *The Council on Higher Education*

If you are interested in discussing in confidence a bequest or other gift contact Ron Roth via e-mail at the Foundation at plfbc@outlook.com. You are encouraged to review and return the enclosed, confidential Bequest Intention form to Ron Roth, Beaufort County Library, 311 Scott St., Beaufort, SC 29902.

The Public Library Foundation's Legacy Society *Enriching Lives, Shaping the Future*

In Honor of Pat Conroy

Beloved Lowcountry writer Pat Conroy's lifelong love of libraries began as a child, when his mother would promptly bestow her children with library cards and armloads of books in each new town where his father, a USMC fighter pilot, was stationed. Mr. Conroy wrote often and beautifully of the importance of libraries and reading. The Foundation's Legacy Society honors and continues his commitment through its support of the Beaufort County Library system and its mission.

Those who remember the Foundation through a will, trust, or other planned gift, are invited to join the Foundation's Legacy Society. The Legacy Society provides a way to recognize and thank donors during their lifetimes, and ensure that their wishes are properly documented.

Participation in the Legacy Society can be an inspirational experience, and may encourage others to look toward the future and how they too may have an enduring impact on the future of the Beaufort County Library System.

Those supporters who complete a simple, *Statement of Intent* form to leave a bequest or planned gift to the Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County receive the following benefits:

- Special recognition in the Foundation newsletter unless anonymity is desired.
- Invitation to the Legacy Society's Annual Appreciation Luncheon
- Invitation to donor receptions and other special donor events.
- Complimentary subscription to the Beaufort County Library's quarterly Guide to Events and Services.
- Invitations to Foundation Estate Planning Seminars presented by local financial planning experts and access to them for confidential gift planning consultations.

“I was born
to be in a
library.”

- Pat Conroy

My Reading Life



A library could show
you everything if you
knew where to look.

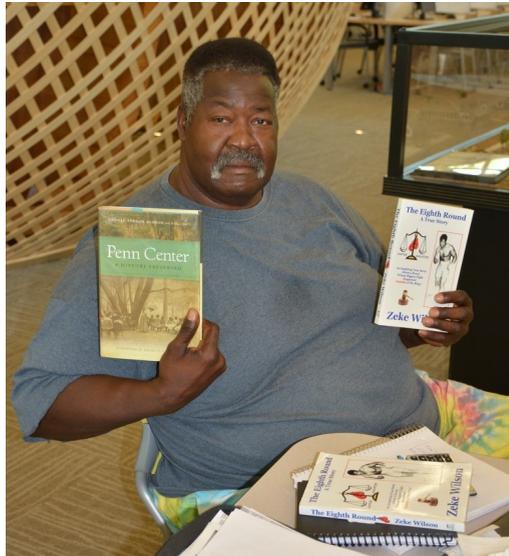
- Pat Conroy

My Reading Life

Libraries serve a vital social service by helping bridge the gap between the haves and the have nots, especially when it comes to literacy and computer skills training. Libraries offer services and products that level the intellectual playing field. That means that they allow people of any income level or background to access high-quality information, to use computers, or to borrow what they want. The existence of libraries ensures that knowledge and technology are available to everyone, not just to those who can afford their own. This is more than charity work; this helps raise the education levels of society as a whole.

The Council on Higher Education

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