Some Typical Fund-Raising Activities and Programs of Friends Groups

- Selling mugs, tote bags (cloth and/or plastic), refrigerator magnets, basic office supplies (pencils, pens, paper, diskettes, paper clips and binder clips, rubber bands, post-it notes), gum, candy, and snack foods, entertainment coupon books

- Placing donation canisters at your events or at businesses in your community

- Setting up book donation bins at your library and around your community

- Furnishing local funeral homes with memorial gift envelopes

- Holding a returnable can/bottle drive

- Serving refreshments at children’s programs in the library (Friends groups often underwrite the cost of such programs—why not be a presence there, too?)

- Organizing and running book discussion groups, movie discussion groups, current events discussion groups, etc.

- Encouraging for gifts of books in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions (each donation should be acknowledged by placing a bookplate in the titled purchased)

- Working as guides/greeters during Parade of Homes

- Participating in parades, art fairs, and other community/cultural events

- Book delivery to homebound residents
• Reading aloud to nursing home residents
• Providing mailing envelopes to “snowbirds”
• Applying for grants
• Recording survey information for the library (provides a good opportunity to increase your group’s visibility and solicit potential new members)
• “Search-a-Book” service (locating a particular title among donations for a small fee)
• Ice cream social
• Bake sale/holiday cookie exchange
• Garage sale/barn sale/attic treasures sale/trash and treasures sale
• Raffles
• Gift baskets (including “Born to Read” gift baskets for newborns)
• Assembling and publishing a cookbook (general or specialized, e.g. desserts only, large-print, appetizers only, etc.)
• Plant exchange/plant sale
• Annual banquet with speaker/entertainment
• Providing support for genealogical research (indexing local newspapers, underwriting microfilming costs, sponsoring programs devoted to genealogy)
• Concerts, plays (one to three characters), historical “impersonators”
• Lecture series

• Book and author luncheons (often in collaboration with other groups to share costs and volunteers)

• Helping with library maintenance chores inside and out (including creating and/or caring for gardens)

• Victorian-themed tea parties, “teddy bear teas” for children

• Craft shows

• “Antiques Roadshow” events

• Auctions (regular or silent) featuring antiques, books, and/or art

• Spelling bees, trivia contests

• Bridge tournaments

• Garden tours

• Holiday events (home tours, craft shows, “Celebration of Trees” [display of decorated trees that are auctioned off at end of event], wreath sales)

• Assembling and publishing a book on local history

• Dinner theater events (catered meal, local amateurs put on a play—can involve staff, Friends, and other supporters)

• Poetry readings/contests

• “Fun Run” or walk-a-thon

• Bingo games (ongoing)

• Writers’ workshops
• “Buy a Brick” fund-raisers (supporters purchase engraved paving bricks to be placed outdoors on a walkway or in a garden area) and “Library Tree” fund-raisers (supporters purchase engraved brass leaves that become part of an indoor, wall-mounted tree)

• Gift shops (collectibles, educational toys, cards, crafts, jewelry)

• Cafés/coffee bars