

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