To the Members of the Friends of the Greenville County Library System (FOL) from the FOL Board of Directors

Thank You! Every membership makes a difference.

Your membership may have come through a generous financial gift, participation in a FOL fund-raiser such as a book sale or from your tireless service as one of our valued volunteers. In whatever way you play a part in the Friends, your membership helps build and strengthen the foundation for the Friends to invest in our library and community.

Mission: The mission of the Friends of the Greenville County Library System is "*to support the Greenville County Library System by promoting informed interest and providing financial assistance.*"

Fulfilling the Mission

The Friends of the Greenville County Library System intentionally seeks out and supports a wide diversity of library initiatives — buildings, equipment, community programs, staff scholarships, etc. —not only to fulfill the mission of our organization but also to help achieve the broadest impact of that support.

Memberships plus revenues from FOL fundraising activities (book sales) have made possible the following major investments in the Greenville County Library System over the last two fiscal years (July 2024-June 2026.)

Grant of support for new Blue Ridge Branch: $18,000.

In December 2025, Greenville County Library System opened its newest facility, the Blue Ridge Branch Library located in the northern part of the county. Prior to the opening of the branch, this area of the county had been served by the library system's bookmobile.

From the initial announcement of this branch, the Friends of the Library fully endorsed this expansion, designating a financial pledge towards opening needs.

FOL provided approximately $18,000 for patron checkout kiosks, each of which displays signage recognizing the FOL gift.

The Friends are proud to play a role in the transformative effect of the Blue Ridge Branch. In just the first nine months, this branch added over 1,400 new patron accounts, hosted adult programs for 300+ participants and welcomed more than 31,000 visitors through its doors.

Overhead Bookeye Scanner, South Carolina Room/Hughes Main Library: $26,000.

In 2026, FOL donated funds for a new scanner in the South Carolina Room providing a significant technology upgrade for both public and staff. This equipment enables digital imaging of fragile materials, such as historical papers, periodicals, book pages and community yearbooks, by "overhead means" avoiding risk of damage to the original item.

The high-resolution scans produced by this equipment can be easily transferred to a USB drive or shared by email for archival preservation or collaboration with other educational institutions.

Long-regarded as a hub for regional and genealogy research, the South Carolina Room reports near daily use of this scanner from visitors digitizing genealogy resources, local history materials and irreplaceable items such as family letters and scrapbooks.

Communications and Event Promotion: $3,400.

FOL funded the purchase and installation of two large event information screens now in use in the Hughes Main Library. In addition, FOL covered mailing costs for the GCLS quarterly "Event Guide,"

Youth Services Summer Reading/Program Supplies: $30,300.

One of the keystones of FOL support is as a sponsor for the Summer Reading Programs. Special events — such as LEGO® tournaments, puppet and magician shows — are held at each of the library's thirteen branches to motivate reading for children ages pre-school through teens, and to encourage library visits for families.

One of the most popular of the 2026 Summer Reading programs was a visit from the Wildlife Rehab of South Carolina which featured actual rescued animals and included learning about the work of this volunteer organization.

In 2025, Summer Reading participants numbered more than 24,000; in 2026, that number exceeded 27,000.

Adult Programming: $16,800.

FOL funding played a major role in making possible three free programs offered to the community: *The Southern Author Festival, Tracing Your Roots — A Family History Event* and the *Tribute Poetry Workshop* led by Greenville's Poet Laureate, Glenis Redmond.

These notable programs reflect FOL's commitment to supporting the library in bringing quality programming and speakers who inspire lifelong learning.

Scholarships and Staff Support: $13,000.

Over the last two years, contributions from FOL to the Greenville County Library Staff Education Fund at the Community Foundation have helped provide 11 scholarships for GCLS staff members. These scholarships provide financial assistance to employees of the library who are pursuing bachelor's or master's degrees.

Additionally, FOL funding was allocated to the Library System's professional development day for all staff.

Advocacy for South Carolina Libraries

Joining with other Friends organizations across the state, Greenville FOL invests in communications that tell the important story of public libraries. This investment helps maintain critical funding levels for all public libraries across the state.

Memberships

Membership numbers of the Friends remain very strong. This count varies from month-to-month as individuals and families join and renew. Last fiscal year saw 201 new memberships with 182 renewals. During the last fiscal year 690+ memberships were active.

The Board of Directors offers its deepest appreciation for your commitment to the

Friends of the Greenville County Library System.

We look forward to partnering with you to fulfill our shared mission in 2026-27.

For comments or questions about our current operations, please email us at friends@greenvillelibrary.org.

President, 2025-26 Vicki Davis

President, 2026-27 Sterling Laney

Our current Board of Directors is listed on the library's website:
www.greenvillelibrary.org/friends