

Friends of the Citrus County Libraries Set Another Record

Thanks to tremendous public support of the recent Fall Book Sale, the Friends of the Citrus County Library System (FOCCLS) raised an unprecedented \$38,000 for our libraries.



Over a thousand bargain-hunting book lovers shopped the five day event, praising the quality, selection and organization of the sale items. Their contributions will help fund the purchase of new books, print and audio, periodical subscriptions and other assistance for local libraries.

Blue dots affixed to books, CDs, DVDs and other materials identify the additions to the library collection made possible by these funds. Popular selections include best sellers, audio books and large print volumes. Look for these at Central Ridge, Coastal and Lakes region libraries.

The fall sale continues a tradition of success which began six years ago with the formation of Friends of the Citrus County Library System. With the addition of proceeds from this fundraiser, the combined FOCCLS partners of Central Ridge, Coastal and Lakes Region in the semi-annual book sales have raised \$264, 500, over a quarter million dollars for the Citrus County library system.

Another successful outcome of the sale was the contribution to other worthy causes. In addition to helping our libraries, sale patrons supported childhood literacy by donating more than 300 books which will be distributed to childcare centers by the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast. The Friends also contributed boxes of books to Operation Paperback for American troops overseas. And in response to a request from The Department of Community Services, we collected two boxes of self-help books for the Drug Court Library to aid in rehabilitation of non-violent drug addicted offenders.

The FOCCLS volunteers celebrate all these successes, but they don't rest. The Book House at the historic Hernando School Community Center operates year-round. Volunteers work two mornings a week sorting, pricing and packing boxes for our next sale, April 4-8, at the Citrus County Auditorium.

People have asked how to contribute items for the sale. Simply drop off your gently used books, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles at the checkout desk of Central Ridge, Coastal or Lakes Region libraries. To those avid readers who have finished their fall purchases, please consider recycling and returning your books to the library for resale. We also need more children's books. If your children or grandchildren have outgrown some of those early childhood selections, please clear the shelves and toy boxes and donate the books for the reading pleasure of other youngsters.

FOCCLS is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions. A receipt is available upon request. For more information, call 746-1334 or 527-8405

We look forward to seeing you next spring, and thanks again to the residents of Citrus County for your continuing support of our libraries and the enhancement of learning!