

Consider Library Foundation in Charitable Giving Plan

By Jill Owens

The season of charitable giving doesn't end December 25th. It's not too late to think about some 2012 local philanthropy. There are a number of worthy foundations in Columbus, and I'd like to highlight one of them.

The Columbus Library Foundation formed to address the need for a larger facility. The demand had outgrown the Carnegie building, which held the Library from 1914-1977. Located on the same block of the current Library, just to the north, it is now used as law offices.

In 1976 the city purchased the public power buildings on 14th Street, and the Columbus Library Foundation raised \$100,000 to remodel the corner property into the library which is still in use today.

The Columbus Library Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization, has helped with projects large and small. Some examples include the remodeling of the children's room, and more recently the creation of a teen space. The Foundation has also purchased book bags for thousands of children who have gone through the Summer Reading Program.

The Foundation is grateful for gifts and memorials of any size at any time during the year. The Foundation alcove on the second floor holds the memory book and memory boards. Regular readers of this column have seen the monthly printing of donations and memorials.

Columbus has a great history of investing in the community. Supporting your public library is a great way to continue this tradition.

The Library Board, Director, and a planning consultant have just rolled out a five-year strategic plan (accessible at www.columbusne.us/library). A healthy foundation will keep the library in a position of readiness for the future. Benefactor forms and brochures are available in the library. Contributions in any form are welcome.

Consider a gift this year, while you still know what the tax laws are regarding charitable deductions.

Recent donations to the Library Foundation were as follows: Jan Fremarek, Larry & Sharon Kuncl, Dick & Patti Luebbe, Mary Norton, and Harry & Beatrice Rosche memorialized Leon Wragge. Dick and Patti Luebbe also gave in memory of Cliff Hopp. Chuck Sand was honored with a memorial from Phyllis Wragge. Donations given in memory of Lucille Ellison were from Jolaine Nielsen, Columbus Bank & Trust Co., Donald & Judith Dworak, Elaine Morgan, Jane Ellefson, and John Olson. Terry & Marlene Engel donated in memory of Esther Sander.

There were several recent donors to the Bookmobile. Home Builders Association of Lincoln donated in memory of Bernice Korth. Glynn Kay Hinrichs was honored by Victor & Arlene Wilke and William & Deana Policky. There were also some anonymous cash donations in memory of Glynn Kay Hinrichs.

Columbus Public Library received donations from the Columbus Woman's Club and the Calico Quilt Club. Scott & Katherine Hoyt also donated to the Library.