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Broward County Commission Libraries Division Announces
Friends of the Library Groups Need Members

BROWARD COUNTY, FL - Good Friends Make Great Libraries – And Broward County Library invites you to join its family of special Friends during National Library Week, April 2-8.

The Friends of the Broward County Library, and its local Friends chapters, support the library with advocacy projects, fundraising efforts and community relations events.

While the Friends of the Broward County Library serves as the umbrella group, individual Friends chapters represent neighborhood library branches.

As advocates, Friends inform the community about the library, and contact legislators about important library-related issues. Each year, members travel to Tallahassee to meet with government officials. In 1999, Friends' advocacy efforts helped pass a \$139 million Library Bond issue for construction and renovation of Broward County Library branches.

Fundraising and community relations activities supported by Friends include book and author events, tutoring and other literacy projects, book fairs, special programs for children, library gift shops, cultural exhibits and professional growth opportunities for library staff.

There are currently 29 Broward County Library Friends chapters, with some chapters representing more than one library. Last year, Friends contributed more than 23,000 hours of their time and received over \$329,000 in donations from memberships, grants, book fairs, gift shops, coffee shops and other events. Last fiscal year, over \$100,000 was given for program support, \$48,000 for staff support, and \$53,000 for materials and equipment.

Opportunities for involvement in Friends groups exist at most Broward County Library branches. For information about Friends groups, ask at your neighborhood library, or contact the Friends of the Broward County Library at 954-357-7771.

Founded in 1974, the award winning Broward County Libraries Division provides essential quality of life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The library consists of a Main Library in Downtown Fort Lauderdale and 37 branches with more than three million items for public use. Broward County Library is the ninth largest library system in the United States serving ten million customers annually.

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