

# Library foundation launches planned giving initiative

Despite only existing for seven years, the Scenic Regional Library Foundation has made enormous strides in supporting the library. When the organization was created, the main purpose was to establish and oversee Friends of the Library groups in each community. Since then, Friends groups have been formed in all nine of the library's communities.

While the coronavirus has kept the groups from meeting and recruiting members this year, the organizations have recently had over 450 members systemwide. The Friends of the Library groups have also raised over \$170,000 in the past six years for the library district.

The Foundation has launched a new initiative to publicize the library as an option for legacy donations. The organization recently unveiled a brochure to provide information to those who are interested in including the library in their planned giving.

The brochure outlines how individuals can utilize real estate, retirement funds, insurance policies, and personal property as the sources of charitable gift planning. An individual can designate a library branch, or even a specific purpose, for their gift.

Copies of the legacy donation brochure are available at the library's nine branches, and will be distributed to local financial planners, investment firms, attorneys' offices, and similar entities. The information from the brochure can also be found on the Foundation's website at [www.scenicregionalfoundation.org](http://www.scenicregionalfoundation.org).

Scenic Regional Library has benefited from several major contributions by individuals who valued literacy, education, and public libraries. Oliver (1908-1998) and Corrine (1909-1987) Taetz donated property for construction of the former Union branch in 1988.

Meta Vossbrink (1901-1986) bequeathed \$490,000 to Scenic Regional Library in 1986, and funds were applied to the construction costs of the former Union Branch which opened in 1991.

Augusta Louise (Johnson) Smith's (1897-1968) estate bequeathed the library \$241,000 in 2016, and it was applied to the library's building projects in Warrenton and Wright City.

In 2015, Agnes Meyer (1922-2019) donated 1.53 acres of land in New Haven for the construction of a new branch.