



**FRIENDS** of the  
Free Library Philadelphia



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**Join us.** Libraries change lives, and you can help too. Here's how to support the Friends, join your local group, and find out more about us.

- Become a Friend: Join a Friends Group by calling 215-567-4562 or ask your branch librarian, or go to the Friends Groups page on our Web site: [www.libraryfriends.info](http://www.libraryfriends.info).
- Donate books or buy books at the Book Corner or through your local Friends Group.
- Come to our annual Big Book Sale in April: Call 215-567-0527.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of the Free Library main office or your local Friends Group. Call our office to find out how: 215-567-4562 or visit our Web site: [www.libraryfriends.info](http://www.libraryfriends.info) and click on "Supporting FFL."

Special thanks to:  **20nine**

**Friends**



**S** of the  
Free Library

# Imagine a place, quiet and safe and full of wonderful things.

A place where you can read, study, research, use computers, find music and videos and pictures, free. Learn about real and imaginary people and dream about places you have never been. Hear stories from the past, present, future, and from around the world. Meet new friends and old friends. Someone did imagine this and called it The Free Library.

Then someone envisioned us.

**Since 1973**, Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia has supported one of the most treasured institutions in our city, the library. Our mission is to support the Free Library of Philadelphia through neighbors and library patrons like you who care about their communities and volunteer for their local Friends Groups. Library Friends are stewards of our free and equal access to information and ambassadors of life-long learning. Friends Groups:

- Raise community awareness and the visibility of what your library can do for you.
- Promote the programs, books, computer access, and other local library resources to families in your neighborhood.
- Tell legislators and government workers why libraries need sufficient funding.
- Advocate for excellent collections and services at your local branch and in all 53 branches.
- Raise money for books, DVDs, tapes, and programs that help you and your family learn, grow, and enjoy life.
- Encourage everyone in our diverse communities to use the library and enjoy its rich resources.

**Friends in Action** When we all work together, Friends make a difference! Friends Groups have inspired remarkable changes in their branch libraries and in the Philadelphia library system. Together with librarians, Friends plan and sponsor a rich mix of activities such as:

- Children's story hours
- Children's essay-writing contests
- Practical courses on computer literacy, resume preparation, and language learning
- Book and chess clubs
- Poetry writing workshops
- Cross-cultural art, craft, and literary programs
- Dance programs
- Cultural enrichment programs
- Film discussion groups

**Alliance of Friends** Our greatest asset is the experience and skills that each of us has. By getting Friends members together to share and plan, we are empowering our communities to achieve their goals:

- Volunteers are Vital is a series of best practices training for library advocates
- 2005 Library Budget Victory won by Friends Groups has given the Free Library enough operating dollars to keep all library doors open with librarians on hand to help you

