San Mateo County Libraries
Friends of the Library Fundraising

The best libraries reflect the values, interests and passions of the communities they serve. As the demand for library services continues to grow and change, libraries are adapting to meet community needs now and into the future. Facilities play a crucial role in the ability of the library to meet customer expectations and support the San Mateo County Libraries' Strategic Plan. The Library is pleased to be working with the City of Brisbane and the Friends of the Brisbane Library on a new Brisbane Library.

San Mateo County Libraries enjoy strong support from our communities as well as our Friends of the Library groups. These non-profit organizations were established to support and promote our community libraries. The Friends primary purpose is to promote knowledge of the functions, resources, services and needs of the libraries, and to aid in the development of additional funding for the libraries. San Mateo County Libraries depend on the funding support of our Friends groups for ongoing library programs and during capital campaigns.

Each Friends group and facility project is different and unique however, Friends board members have found it useful over the years to share information regarding fundraising activities to support new libraries. Attached is information regarding our most recent new library projects and Friends fundraising activities.

San Mateo County Libraries Friends Fund-Raising

	Friends Fundraising Goal	General Donations	Recognition	Examples
Millbrae Library (Opened in 2004)	$250,000	• $159,000 from individuals and businesses (Grants from SBC, Mervyn's, and Wells Fargo for furniture and equipment for the Homework Center) • $100,000 from Friends Trust/Bequeath Fund	• Donors contributing $500 or more are permanently recognized on the library's Donor Wall • Children's Room Book Shelf $150 personalized ceramic tile with child's name on it (see photo) • One room named in honor of the individual who bequeathed a large amount to the Friends, no Naming Policy	
Belmont Library (Opened in 2006)	$225,000	• $263,000 from individuals and businesses • Additionally, the Steering committee received $400,000 in large donations from Oracle, the Taube Foundation and Belmont Rotary	• Donors contributing $500 or more are permanently recognized on the library's Donor Wall • Naming Policy was delegated to Library Steering Committee to establish guidelines and protocols. Large Community Room (see photo) and two small meeting rooms were named in recognition of the donations/grants received	

Portola Valley Library (Opened in 2008)	$150,000	• Over $150,000 from individuals • Additionally, $20 million was raised to fund the entire Town Center Project by a Town Fundraising Committee	• Recognition was folded into Town Center Project. All donors were permanently recognized with their name on a bench outside the Community Center (see photo). • Significant donors were recognized on buildings and interior library spaces (see photos).	  