



Beach Cliff BEACON

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Board members of the Friends of the Rocky River Library showcase local businesses who are supporters of their annual membership drive.

Photo credit: Rachel Polk





special feature

Information provided by Rocky River Public Library

A RECIPE FOR Fundraising Success

The Friends of the Rocky River Public Library have cooked up some new ideas for their fundraising efforts this year, kicking off with the National Friends of Libraries Week (NFOLW) – October 18-24, 2020. Their overarching goal will be to raise funds to help the library purchase a piece of equipment used for education about meal prep and nutrition.

In celebration of this event, the Friends are extending special bonus deliverables to those who sign up anytime during the month of October. Memberships range from Kids (\$5) to Honored Donor (\$100), with various levels in between. Depending on the level purchased, Friends can get a combination of the following: a Mitchell's Ice Cream Scoop Certificate, a Big-mouth Donut Coupon, an Erie Island Coffee Company Coffee Certificate, a Zoup! Certificate, a Hand Sanitizer, a Friends RRPL Tote Bag, as well as an entry into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card from Lake Road Market.

Other local businesses have joined in providing support in other ways, including Danny Boys Pizza (10/21 all day 20% of profits donated 11 am to 9 pm) and Yoga with Josh Holder (10/14, 7 pm Zoom video class with invite, all \$ donated).

There are different ways to purchase a Friends membership. First, you can visit their Square website at <https://friends-rocky-river-public-library-inc.square.site>. Secondly, you can download a pdf form and remit by mail at https://rrpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/friends_form_2014.pdf. You can also pick up a membership form in the library lobby. Full details of all deliverables can be found on the Square site as well as on the Friends page of the RRPL website.

The Friends' mission is to raise money to provide financial support for programs and services, furniture and equipment that the library could not otherwise afford. This year's fundraising focus is the purchase of a Charlie Cart. Along with a donation from the Rocky River Women's Club, the Friends hope to support the cost of the purchase of the Cart through their annual fundraising efforts kicking off with NFOLW, continuing through next year.

The Charlie Cart Project is a California-based non-profit which describes the mobile kitchen as a "classroom to deliver hands-

on nutrition education in any learning environment." The cart, which houses approximately 170 pieces of kitchen equipment, costs roughly \$9,500. This cost includes not only the equipment but also 54 lesson plans in its multiple drawers and cabinets. Some of the equipment includes knives, forks, spoons, tongs, strainers, measuring cups, bowls, oven mitts, a Vitamix blender, convection oven, electric griddle, induction cooktop, and pans, just to name a few items.

"It's hard to have a solid timeline right now but in general we'd like to purchase the Cart and allow staff to get familiar with all the features before we start using it in public programs," said Stacey Hayman, Outreach Coordinator for the Rocky River Public Library.

Rocky River Public Library currently offers some culinary programs including their Biblio Bistro chef series and After-School Cooking Club. With the Charlie Cart, added culinary programs would allow for a hands-on experience as well as for demonstration purposes. The Charlie Cart would provide a platform for science-based learning and health and wellness issues as well. Another substantial benefit is the cart's versatility, which is a main selling point. Even in a limited amount of space, the cart works well to offer the intended services.

"We're planning to use the Charlie Cart with tweens, teens, and adult participants, in a variety of programs," said Hayman. *"For the Teens and Tweens, we will take advantage of the curriculum aligned to Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards that comes with the Cart. Adults will enjoy the opportunity to see chefs demonstrate cooking skills and techniques during our Biblio Bistro programs. Eventually, we can even imagine hands-on opportunities in smaller groups to enhance the experience."*

One of our Beach Cliff residents, Julie Drellishak, volunteers on the board of the Friends as Media Outreach. Julie and her husband, Andy, plus children, Zoe (20) and Andrew (17), have lived in Rocky River for 20 years. They recently purchased a home on Avalon Drive and have been doing extensive renovations since moving in last winter.

"It's rewarding being part of a group that does so much good for our community," said Drellishak.