The Friends of the Library Foundation’s mission is to increase and enhance the quality of services, programs, and community events offered, while advocating for private and public support of the Library. It takes a foundation to turn a really good library into a great library. In 2010, the Foundation:

• Purchased and installed 668 stack lights, completing the Capital Campaign project;
• Sponsored the 2nd annual Children’s Festival of the Arts;
• Added additional library materials, including popular Third Sunday at Three music series, children’s performers, book clubs, and special events.

In addition, the Friends lease space to Lindley Perk Coffee Shop and sell used books at the coffee shop.

For the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the Friends raised approximately $61,000 through fundraising, book sales, and the coffee shop. In turn, Friends’ contributions to the Library included the following:

• Purchase of book kits, including several for One Book – One Bozeman;
• Funding for the installation of the large tapestry by Tracy Penfield, “Motions of Oceans of Mountains” which was restored to the Library;
• Support for a presentation by the Montana Poet Laureate Henry Real Bird;
• Support for MontanaLibrary2Go and Explore Bozeman museums programs;
• Support for staff development and volunteer appreciation events; and
• Development of a Bozeman Public Library Facebook page.
Stack lighting was added to all the shelves throughout the Library, thanks to funding from the Library Foundation.

Playaways, pre-loaded digital audiobooks, were introduced to our collection in 2009. Non-print materials showed a 9% increase in circulation statistics during the year!

The Library contracted with Unique Management Service to help in recovering long-overdue library materials.

Former Assistant Director Molly Pratt, who retired in 1994, was honored in July with a ceremony dedicating a bench in her name. We also said goodbye to longtime library volunteer Alice Ridenaur, who moved away after 25 years of shelving adult fiction.

RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification, was added to our Library in February. Tags were placed in 125,000 books and materials; new self-check stations and security gates were installed.

Our director, Alice Meister, was named Montana Librarian of the Year at the annual Montana Library Association meeting in April held in Bozeman!

Our monthly newsletter, Check It Out, got a new look thanks to Brickhouse Design.

The Library collaborated on the Gallatin Art Crossing Sculpture Exhibit including the purchase of Zak Zakovi’s “Sun Sit” stone bench on the east side of the Library.

Our monthly newsletter, Check It Out, got a new look thanks to Brickhouse Design.

The Library co-sponsored a Climate Change series with the National Parks Conservation Association and MSU’s Big Sky Institute.

Free computer classes were held in the Computer Lab on Saturday mornings from 9-10am.

Nancy Tanner from Paws & People presented a series of programs for dog owners during the winter.

The Reference staff distributed Researching the History of Your Home designed by MSU intern Hannah Vidrich.

Our appreciation goes to Karen Averitt, who taught free Mom & Baby Yoga classes following Books & Babies.

Ginny Cowan, young adult librarian, held a Teen Tech-a-Thon to share new technology with teens in March.

The Library again participated in Screen Free Week in April along with other Bozeman organizations to encourage families to try a week without TV or videos. Many of them signed up to spend the night at the Library during the Celebration Sleepover in May.

“Make a Splash” summer reading program started for kids in June with a Beach Party & Magic Show. Teens signed up for “Make Waves” and adults participated in “Water Your Mind” to ensure that everyone was having fun reading during the summer!

The weekly after-school LEGO Club continued to grow with school-age kids who love to build with LEGOs. We also added a GO Club (an ancient Asian game) and Chess Club to our after-school programs.

Children’s Festival of the Book was held Saturday, September 19 and featured Chris Raschka and Paul Janeczko. Local authors Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, Sneed Collard, and Ben Mikaelsen also gave readings and presentations.

Wii Wednesdays began in August to make Wii games available for all ages.

Science Nights for families and kids began in October 2009 with the help of Jeff Wyatt, featuring rocket activities from NASA.

Books & Babies added a program one Saturday a month to meet the request of parents who can’t attend during the week.

The Library added over 20 children’s books in Braille, thanks to a donation from the Montana Association for the Blind.

Evening adult programs included several local and national authors, Great Decisions discussion groups, disaster preparedness, a papermaking program, presentations by artists and photographers, financial assistance, travel programs, poetry events, and agriculture programs.

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Adult & Children/Teen Programs, 2005-2010