



Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library

180 Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO 80226

The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library Annual Report for 2018 ** Prepared January 2019

Description of programs and activities

The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library (Friends of CTBL) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that supports The Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) library in its work to provide books in alternative format; audio, braille and large print; to Coloradans who cannot read standard print. This support is crucial to the success of CTBL's mission as the State budget does not provide sufficient funding for the complex nature of the services necessary for success.

CTBL patrons tell us:

- "CTBL has been an invaluable resource to my mother. It helps lessen her depression and sense of isolation."
- "I really look forward to getting my books, they are my lifeline."
- "My world would be so small without talking books."
- "With every book you light-up my life with a new adventure."

The studio recording program at CTBL records books and magazines for CTBL patrons. The books are of interest to the patrons, are by Colorado authors or are about the rocky mountain region or are not recorded on the national level. The Friends supports a portion of the studio director's salary, the equipment, software & supplies necessary to run the program. All of the work is done by ~65 volunteers. The program includes two distinct processes: recording and the digital audio processing. The studio records books and 2 local magazines during and then converts the audio files into NLS* regulation digital talking books. The program also records the annual CO Legislative Blue Book and makes it available in MP3 format on the website.

Outreach continued to be a major focus in 2018. A top down approach began by working with an outside consultant and teaming with other non-profits.

The CTBL News, the triannual newsletter, is paid for by the Friends and is circulated to about 10,000 people in audio, braille and large print formats. It is available on the website and notification is emailed to those requesting this mechanism. The Friends also support the software and embosser to create the braille version of the newsletter.

The Friends reimburses the salary for one of the 3 reader advisor librarians who work daily with patrons to serve their reading needs.

The Friends supports the purchase of supplies for duplicating books for patrons which requires cartridges, mailing containers, labels and working printers and braille embossers needed for the job.

This year's Volunteer Recognition Brunch, supported annually by the Friends, celebrated the many accomplishments of our volunteers during 2018 on December 1st.

Key Accomplishments:

The Colorado Talking Book Library was recognized by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a unit of the Library of Congress as the 2017 Network Library of the Year. The awards luncheon was in May 2018 in Washington DC where we met with both Senator Bennett and Senator Gardner. It was a great honor to be recognized at the national level. This could not have been done without the support of the Friends of CTBL.

Studio: CTBL recorded 137 books and 2 magazines: Colorado History, Colorado Outdoors; and CTBL News. CTBL posts local recordings to the NLS BARD** site. 102 books were posted and downloaded 12,063 times by patrons in the national network. A total of 376 CTBL recorded books are on BARD.

Outreach: Staff attended 62 events around the state. The grassroots team of volunteers completed 822 calls and sent 716 information packets. Applications to CTBL have exceeded the highest 2015 level which means more people are now connected to reading and not isolated.

Patron Services: On average the RA's talk with patrons 25,000 times and also answer about 1,900 emails annually.

Volunteer Recognition Brunch: a volunteer was recognized for 35 years of service to the library. Two others were recognized for 15 years of service to the library. During the awards ceremony, The Friends & CTBL honored 14 volunteers who reached notable milestones in their service. We also welcomed 57 new volunteers.

Names and contact information for Friends Board leadership personnel

Executive Board members for **2018** were:

Hank Braaksma, President

Norine Domenico, Vice-President/Secretary

John Taylor, CPA, Treasurer

Board members include:

Jadwiga Brown

Lori Demshar

Diane Donovan

Houston G. "Tex" Elam

Susan Franklin

Frank Oldham

Jon Walker

Debbi MacLeod, ex officio

Methods of solicitation for Donations

The Friends of CTBL sends an annual giving letter to patrons, past donors, volunteers and mailing list each year in November. There is a donation page on the Friends website - <http://www.friendsofctbl.org/donations.htm> In the triannual CTBL newsletter there is a page about how to donate to the Friends.

Reporting and Transparency

The Friends of CTBL maintains a website and posts the annual report there. The news of the library and all the programs it supports is reported in CTBL News which is distributed to 10,000 people 3 times a year.