



# Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library

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180 Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO 80226

## The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library Annual Report for 2020 \*\* Prepared February 2021

### 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 2020. But with the pandemic and many offices closed, it was a virtual venture. Many agencies were grateful they could provide their residents or customers with solutions that kept them connected to life. We continued working with the outside consultant.

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 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.

In lieu of an in-person Volunteer Recognition Brunch this year, a thank you video was created and sent to volunteers on the morning of December 5<sup>th</sup>. This was supported annually by the Friends; we celebrated the many accomplishments of the volunteers. The video can be found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWqidx\\_z8Qo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWqidx_z8Qo)

### **Key Accomplishments:**

**Studio:** CTBL recorded 81 books and 2 magazines: Colorado History, Colorado Outdoors; and CTBL News. CTBL posts local recordings to the NLS BARD\*\* site. 93 books were posted and downloaded 16,705 times by patrons in the national network. A total of 505 CTBL recorded books are on BARD.

**Outreach:** Before the pandemic shut things down, staff attended 66 events around the state. The grassroots team of volunteers completed 441 calls and sent 285 information packets. Applications to

**Patron Services:** On average the RA's talk with patrons 19,000 times and also answer about 2,200 emails annually.

**Volunteer Recognition Brunch:** In lieu of an in-person Volunteer Recognition Brunch this year, a thank you video was created and sent to volunteers on the morning of December 5<sup>th</sup>. This was supported annually by the Friends; we celebrated the many accomplishments of the volunteers. The video can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWqidx\\_z8Qo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWqidx_z8Qo)

### **Names and contact information for Friends Board leadership personnel**

Executive Board members for 2020 were:

Norine Domenico, President

Jadwiga Brown, Vice-President/Secretary

Kristy Corcoran, Treasurer

**Board members include:**

Peggy Chong

David Dawson

Alice George

Jaime Lewis

Frank Oldham

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.