



February 2017

Dear current and prospective Friends,

I am writing to ask you to renew your membership in the Decatur Public Library Friends of the Library or to become a member for the first time. Our organization offers much-needed financial support to the library by providing funds for items and services not included in the library's budget.

The Friends treasury in 2016 supplied \$15,000 in matching funds for a federal grant for new computers for patrons and library staff. In 2017 we will provide nearly \$13,000 to assist with the establishment of the computer training center. Some other budget items include \$8000 for downloadable books as well as thousands of dollars for the youth services and marketing and development departments. The summer children's reading program, the movie license to cover free movie nights, and backpacks for the community Back-to-School Jam all fall under our budget.

In 2016 we were delighted to host the Celtic music group Vulcan Eejits (who will return in March), Huntsville author Robert Bailey, Pulitzer Prize nominated columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson, and Mark Herndon, former drummer for the group Alabama.

The Friends used book sale room, operating with all volunteer labor and donated materials, raised over \$33,000 in 2016, a new record! Thank you to all who assisted us through your purchases or donations.

We truly thank you for your continued support, and we anticipate another banner year. And keep reading!

Sincerely,
Susan Thompson, President