



FRIENDS OF THE CASA GRANDE
PUBLIC LIBRARY INC.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY:
TINA PACKARD, PRESIDENT

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



A WORD FROM LEADERSHIP

This past year for the Friends' members has been challenging. We have board members and general members dealing with medical issues, family issues, and just trying to get through 2025. It is generally more difficult to volunteer and help others when people are worried about paying bills, medical care, and just day-to-day life. With that said, every single minute that is donated by members of the Friends group is a gift that we cherish and greatly appreciate. So thank you to all of you who donate your time and energy to continue funding our much-loved public libraries.

Some of the accomplishments this year were:

1. Increase in funding for Overdrive
2. Hosted a Chamber "Coffee"
3. Funding for programs and events
4. Reviewed the Bylaws and approved updated version
5. Partnered with programming at the library
6. Revamped membership forms and raised costs

One of our major goals for the future is to reevaluate ways to support our libraries and how to get our community more engaged in supporting us. I look forward to 2026 and how we can serve our libraries and the community of Casa Grande!

TINA PACKARD
PRESIDENT

Officers

Tina Packard, President
Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Vice Pres.
Mary Jane Cedar Face, Sec.
Bonnie Warren, Treasurer

Members

Barbara Brown
Grace McMillin
Sue Eberle
Richard Flechtner
Sue Reeves
Heather Ouillet
Beverly Reidy
Michael Ouillet

BOOKMOBILE ON THE GO!



In 2025, we cruised with the bookmobile as the Grand Marshall of the Light Parade. We also participated in community events like the City's Public Safety Day and the Halloween Extravaganza both held at the Paul Mason Sports Complex.

The bookmobile allows the library to provide services to local assisted living homes and homebound individuals. Some of the bookmobile stops are: Villago Lake, Val Vista RV Resort, Foothills West RV Resort, Community Rec Center, Big House Christian Academy, Dave White Park, Seeds of Hope, and many, more!

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Library group maintains daily book sale shelves at both Vista Library and the Main Library. We also host an annual “book sale” with thousands of books at various locations provided to us by the community or Friends members. The book sale funds raised from our booksales are used 100% to support library programs and events.



ANNUAL OVERDRIVE SUBSCRIPTION



“Just as diversity should not be a bonus or an option but should comprise the essence and the core of our professional activities and decisions, non-print formats should not be a bonus or an afterthought either. In the context of libraries, accessing information and entertainment through listening—or audio-reading—should be guaranteed as a right. It is hoped that this paper will help librarians to advance a step further toward securing this right” (Dali & Brochu, 2020).

AZLA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BONNIE & MEL WARREN

The City of Casa Grande is proud to recognize Bonnie and Mel Warren, who were recently honored by the Arizona Library Association as the Library Volunteers of the Year for the State of Arizona.

Since moving to Casa Grande in 2011, Bonnie and Mel have become an indispensable part of the Casa Grande Public Library. Both are dedicated, dependable, and deeply committed to supporting our libraries in every possible way.

Bonnie, a retired librarian, serves as Treasurer of the Friends of the Library. Together, she and Mel coordinate the Friends' ongoing and annual book sales at both library locations. They handle all the heavy lifting—collecting, sorting, and organizing thousands of donated books each year. Their hard work and teamwork have helped the Friends of the Library contribute well over \$200,000 to make vital programs possible, such as the Summer Reading Program, Charlie Cart Cooking Classes, and the Bookmobile.

Their passion for the library is evident in everything they do. As Bonnie likes to say, being with the staff and volunteers at the library feels like having her old job back—she's never really had to retire.

On behalf of the City of Casa Grande, we extend our heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to Bonnie and Mel Warren for this well-deserved recognition as Arizona's Library Volunteers of the Year.



Lisa Morris-Wilke, Grace McMillin, Sue Eberle, Richard Flechtner, Barb Flechtner, Bonnie Warren, Mel Warren



Karly Scarbrough, Jessica Salow, Bonnie Warren, Mel Warren

2025 FINANCIALS

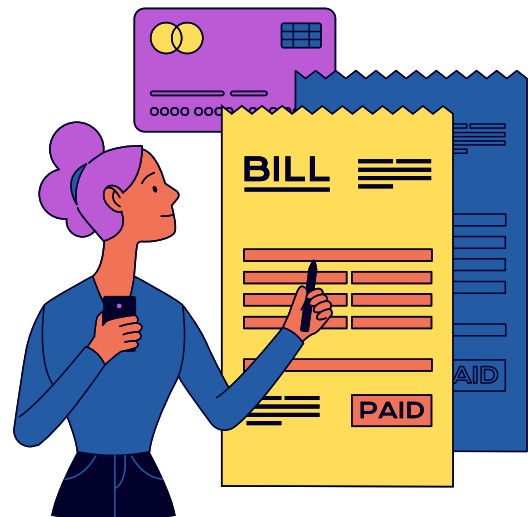
INCOME: \$12,574.15

BOOK SALE
DONATIONS
MEMBERSHIPS
SCHOLASTIC
THRIFT BOOKS
AMAZON DONATIONS
FRYS DONATIONS



EXPENSES: \$20,128.26

BOOK SALE SUPPLIES
DUES CHAMBER
INSURANCE
LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS
OVERDRIVE ADVANTAGE
PAYPAL FEES
PR
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
STAFF APPRECIATION
STORAGE
AWARDS
WEBSITE MANAGEMENT



2025 FINANCIALS



	2025 Actual	Budget 2026
Assets	\$195,187.72	\$195,208
Income	\$12,574.15	\$26,160
Expenses	\$20,128.26	\$26,160



DONATIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Memberships to the Friends of the Library are available on our website at <https://friendscglibrary.org/membership>. We have standard memberships and Legacy memberships available. You can pay online at Givebutter or send a check.

Student: \$5 annually

Individual: \$20 annually

Family: \$35 annually

Sustaining Member: \$10 (per month)

Super Friend: \$50 annually

Vendor: \$25 annually

Lifetime: \$500 (per person)

Legacy Membership: Estate Donation

Our donation platform is Givebutter at <https://givebutter.com/2uU72D>. We use this platform for memberships, year-round donations, and digital payment. We also use Square at the booksales for digital payment.

DONATIONS

To make a donation CLICK, TEXT or SCAN:

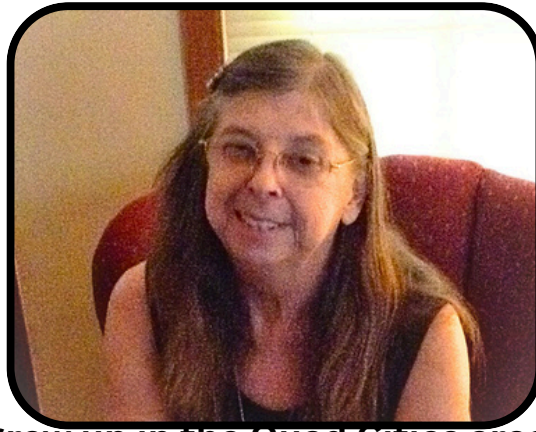
- Click the link: <https://givebutter.com/2uU72D>
- text FOCGLIBRARY to 53-555
- or SCAN the QR Code to the left



IN MEMORIUM - JODY WENDT

JODY WENDT

Written by Barb Brown



Jody was our friend. She grew up in the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois where health issues prevented her from attending school for a number of years. Jody persevered and continued to read and learn. After Jody became a registered nurse, she loved working with babies. She worked full time in the NICU while also earning a master's degree in nursing.

After moving to Arizona in 2012 with her husband, Kurt, she expanded her career to include teaching and supervising nursing students. She helped train the next generation. Following her retirement, Jody joined the Friends of the Library Board. Reading was always an important part of her life. She enjoyed sharing the Casa Grande reading program with her grandson and participating in the Literati Book Club with friends. Soon after becoming a board member, Jody accepted the office of president which better enabled her to support her community and encourage others to enjoy reading.

Jody's favorite Friends of the Library activities were those that connected the community to the library. She always had a big smile whether helping at book sales, handing out candy at library Halloween story time, or participating in other events.

After battling brain cancer for six years Jody passed away last fall. Our friend taught us how to fight, and when it's time, how to surrender with dignity. We miss her.