

The

future

is

green

Richland County Public Library  
2006 Annual Report

# Looking Ahead . . .

In the last year, record numbers of Richland County residents relied on their public library for information and resources to enhance their lives and prepare for their futures. To meet the growing needs and visions of our community, we too are looking ahead and planning for the future.

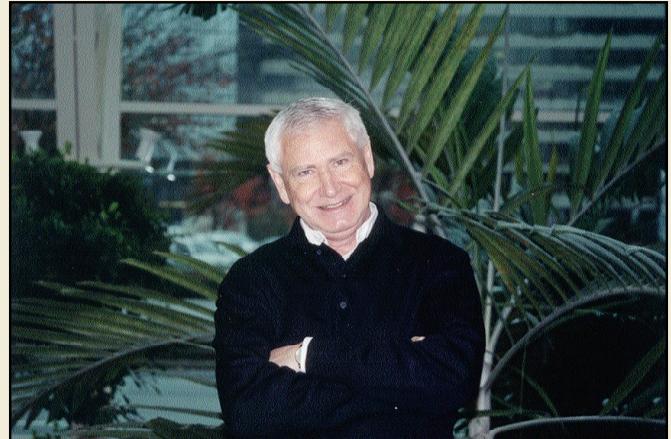
In 2006, your library:

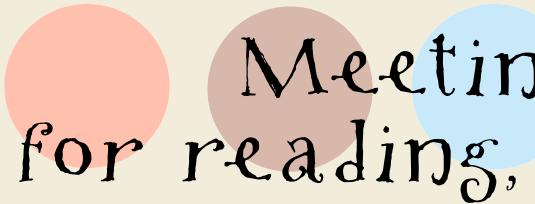
- Developed a **10-year capital needs plan** and committed to **green building and sustainable design** for new and expanded library facilities.
- Was awarded a **\$65,000 federal grant** and a **matching contribution** from the **Friends** to fund technology for a new, innovative facility in the growing **Ballentine** area.
- Established the **RCPL Foundation** to replace the former Trust and ensure access to quality library materials and services in the years to come.
- Opened **1431**, the enhanced and expanded home of Film and Sound at the Main Library, emphasizing new technology and digital resources.
- Utilized **818 volunteers** who contributed **10,368 hours** with a **value of \$161,933**.
- Purchased **two flexible fuel vehicles** to replace aging, inefficient vehicles.
- Provided free programs, events and Summer Reading Clubs for all ages that **reached nearly 63,000 people**.

Your library staff is looking to the future as we work to meet your needs for reading, learning and information. At RCPL, and in Richland County, the future is green!



C. David Warren  
Executive Director





# Meeting our citizens' needs for reading, learning and information.

## 2005~2006 Board of Trustees

Rox. W. Pollard Jr., *Chair*  
Dr. Noble P. Cooper Jr., D.D.S., *Vice-Chair*  
Pamela Rogers Melton, *Secretary*  
David Campbell, *Treasurer*  
John D. Baker  
Gloria Graham Boyd  
Mary M. "Maxie" Haltiwanger  
George C. Johnson  
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## 2005~2006 foundation Members

John D. Baker  
W. Bert Brannon  
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Robert E. Gahagan  
Belinda Gergel  
W. Steven Johnson  
Rox W. Pollard Jr.  
C. David Warren, *Ex-officio*

## RCPL Literary Residents

Howard Burnham  
Clarence Felder  
Dr. Glenn James  
Carrie Allen McCray  
Dr. Rosemary Canfield Reisman  
Chris Weatherhead

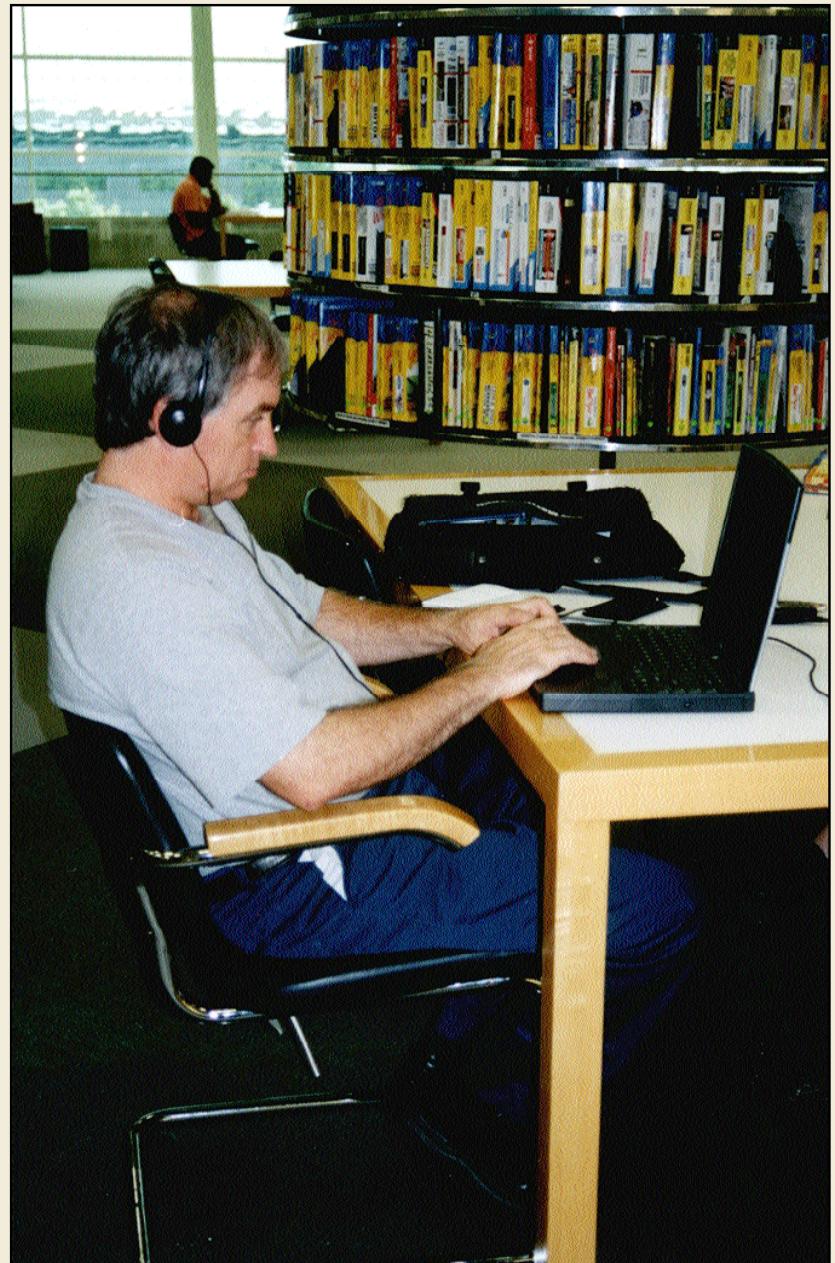
## A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories Advisory Committee

Marcia Brown  
Paula Fox  
Lillian Gerherdt  
Susan Hirschman  
Lee Bennett Hopkins  
Anita Lobel  
Katherine Paterson  
Maurice Sendak

# January 07

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RCPL added Wi-Fi zones to several library locations and a variety of digital media services such as OverDrive, which allows library users to download music, videos and audiobooks on their own schedules.



# Online Anytime . . .

RCPL's Web site, which received more than 1.2 million hits last fiscal year, allows you 24 hour access to online databases on everything from arts and antiques to history and philosophy, as well as book reviews, small business resources and information for children and teachers.

Drawing on new technologies and digital media formats, users can now access e-books and download audiobooks, videos and music from the site as well.

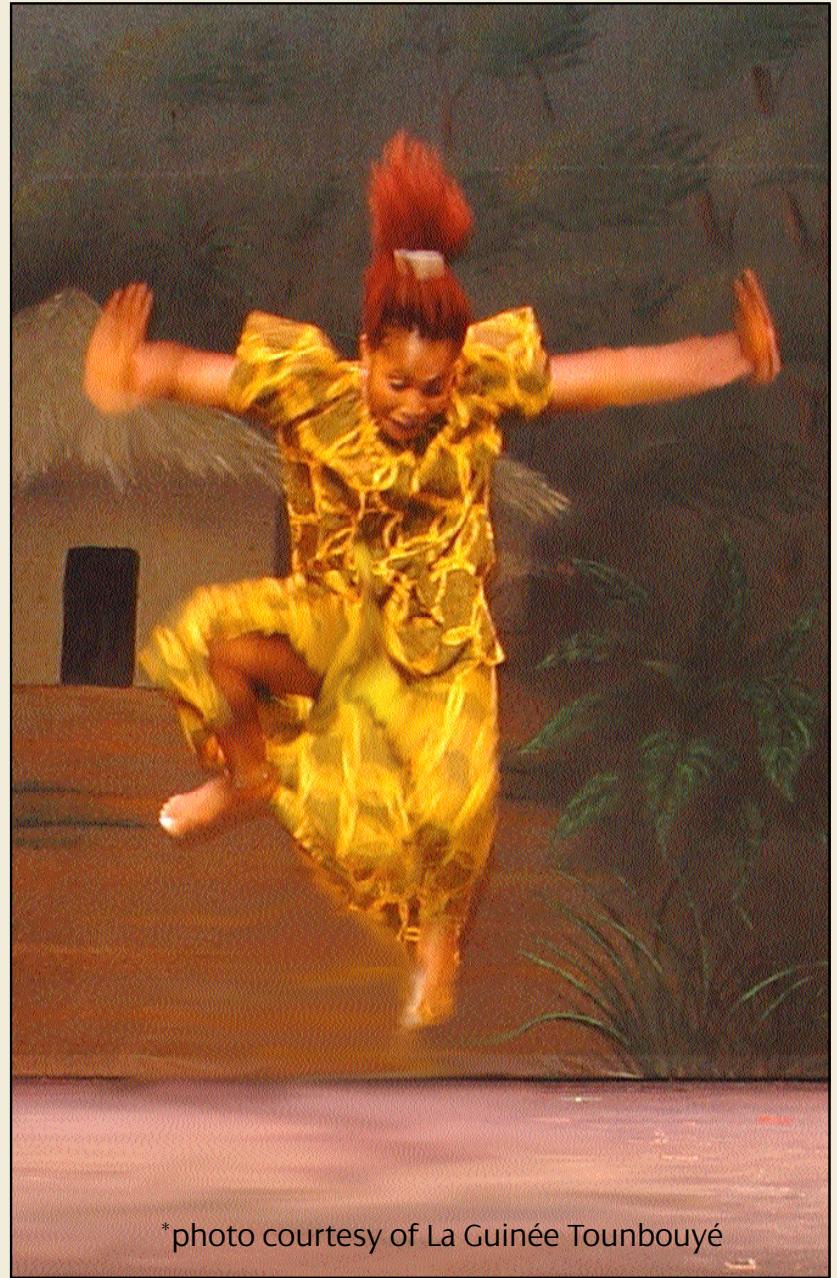
Join the thousands of people who are visiting RCPL online and gain instant access to all the resources and information to enhance your future.

Visit [myRCPL.com](http://myRCPL.com) today!

# february 07

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RCPL holds a number of cultural events and programs throughout the year such as Legends of West Africa, which highlighted the musical and cultural traditions of West Africa.



\*photo courtesy of La Guinée Tounbouye

# Branching Out . . .

Attendance at adult programs held at the nine branch libraries throughout Richland County increased by 29 percent in the last fiscal year because of diverse, multicultural programs.

Residents were able to explore African American history and culture, experience the tastes and traditions of other countries and celebrate the international presence in the community, all for free through special programs held at their public library.

A monthly calendar of events is available at all library locations and online at [www.myRCPL.com](http://www.myRCPL.com). Check it out today.

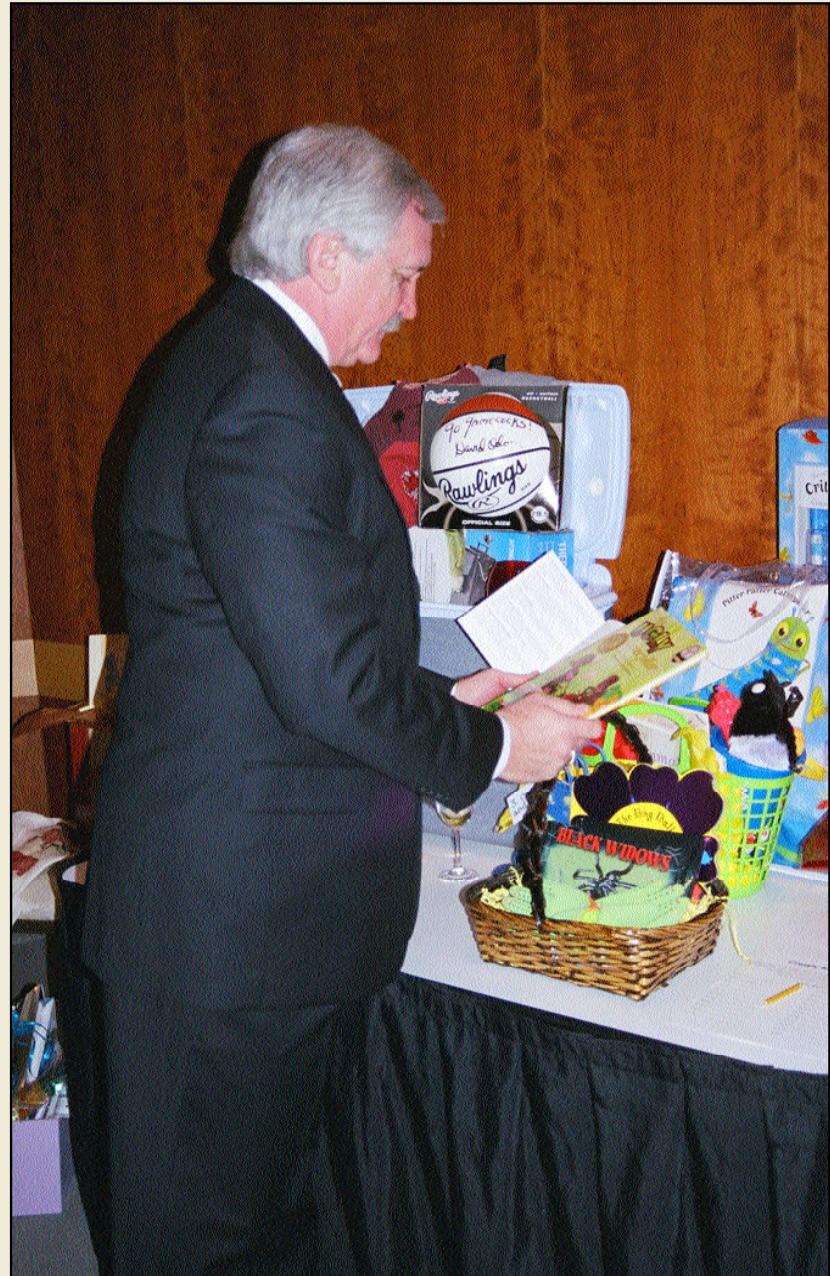


# March 07

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In 2006, the Friends of RCPL raised more than \$28,000 at A Tisket, A Tasket...A Literary Basket, a silent and live auction that brings together more than 200 people who love books and reading.



# The Support of friends. . .

For the last 30 years, the Friends of RCPL has provided substantial support that has allowed your library to thrive and grow. Most recently, the Friends provided \$150,000 toward the self checkout system as well as \$65,000 to upfit the new storefront library facility in the Ballentine area of Richland County.

Special events such as four annual book sales, author events and the annual auction, A Tisket, A Tasket...A Literary Basket, raise money for the Friends to contribute to library programming, staff training and special projects.

There are many ways to be a friend to your world-class library. Join the Friends of RCPL for as little as \$25, buy a Wild Things T-shirt or canvas book bag, or donate used books to the Friends for future sales. To find out more, visit [www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm](http://www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm) or call (803) 929-3475.



# April 07

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Each spring, storytellers from around the state share the magic of stories with fourth graders on the grounds of the historic Robert Mills House as part of A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories.



# Celebrating Stories...

More than 3,100 people attended the 20th annual A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A Celebration of Stories in April 2006. Lois Ehlert, a renowned author and illustrator of numerous books for young children, was the featured guest and she shared her own story of what inspires her art and creativity.

The annual event, cosponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, brings to life the world of storytelling and children's literature. The festival honors the work and achievements of nationally-known author and storyteller Augusta Baker, who moved to Columbia in 1980 and was appointed the Storyteller-in-Residence at USC.

Ms. Baker's reputation and influence in the fields of storytelling and literature are unparalleled. This festival continues her mission of opening the world of other cultures to children, crossing racial, social and geographical boundaries.

*The 2007 event is set for Friday, April 20 and  
Saturday, April 21. for more information,  
call 929-3474 or visit myRCPL.com!*



# May 07

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Unveiled in May 2006, 1431 at RCPL – the enhanced home of Film and Sound at the Main Library – features wireless Internet access and televisions and showcases the library's nonprint resources.



# Redefining Your Library . . .

1431 at RCPL, the expanded home of Film and Sound at the Main Library, pairs innovation with traditional library services to meet the changing needs of the community.

The enhanced, state-of-the-art space features wireless Internet access and televisions and showcases the library's nonprint resources, including CDs, DVDs and much more. A designated area caters to the tech savvy youth of Richland County, providing materials and formats of interest to this constantly changing demographic.

Your library has also added several new services that allow you to download music, videos and audiobooks any time of day from your home or office as well as Playaways, the first self-playing digital audiobook. Regardless of your interests, RCPL has something for you!



## June 07

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Library users of all ages celebrated the joy of reading at the Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party, marking another successful year of programs and participation of nearly 29,000 children, teens and adults.



# Discovering the Rewards . . .

Nearly 29,000 children, teens and adults participated in the 2006 Summer Reading Clubs at RCPL, discovering the rewards of reading and stretching their imaginations.

The programs, expanded to all ages in recent years, recognized children under 12 with an Olympic style presentation of medals for their reading efforts. There were extra rewards for 22 lucky teens and adults who won gift certificates and a variety of prizes thanks to the Friends of RCPL, Geiger O'Cain Advertising and The Happy Bookseller.

*Don't miss your chance to be rewarded for  
reading this summer. Visit any RCPL location from  
Saturday, May 26 through Thursday, August 23 for details!*

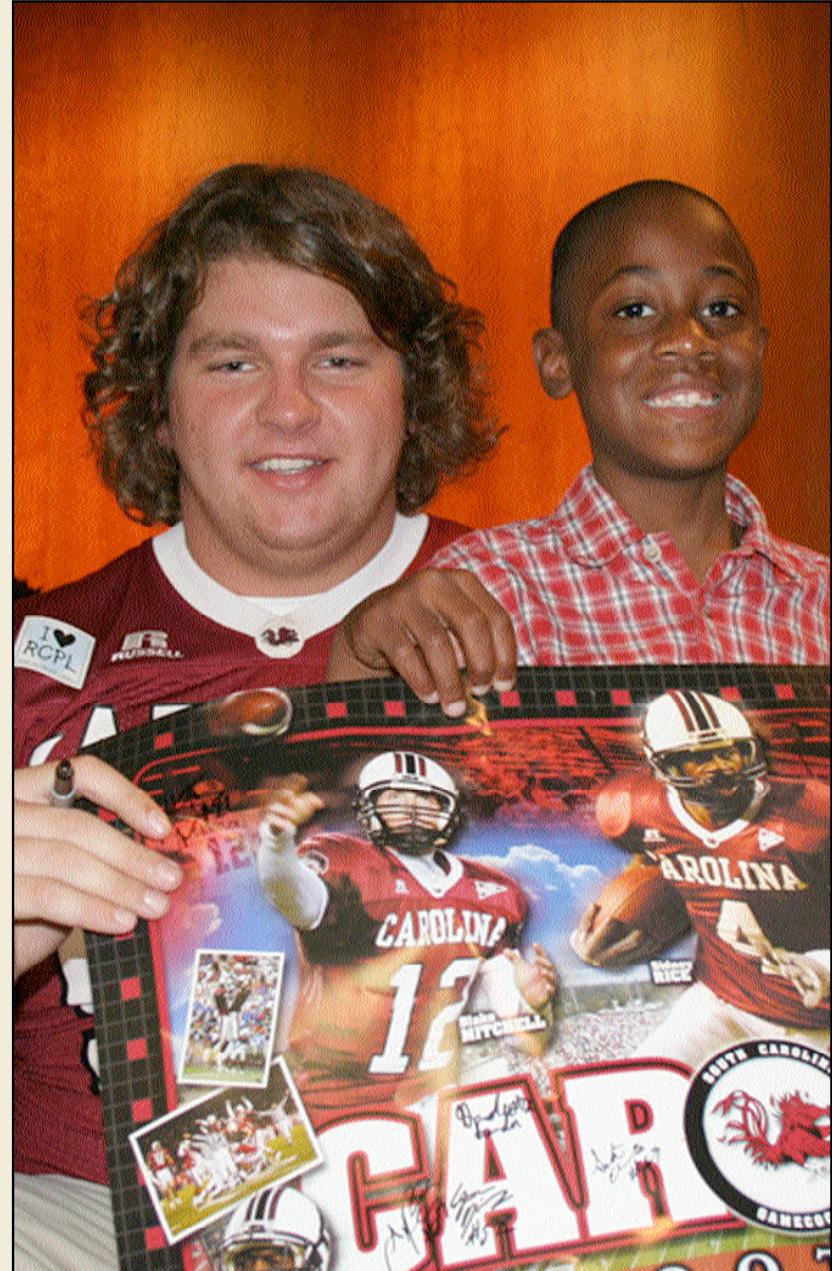


# July 07

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More than 20 USC football players, including Thomas Coleman, took the field at RCPL to share the importance of reading and visiting the library with young fans during the annual Pigskin Poets program.



# Reading is the Goal. . .

The USC Gamecocks took the field at RCPL for the ninth annual Pigskin Poets program, a special Summer Reading Club celebration that proves that reading is fun and exciting!

A capacity crowd of more than 300 children of all ages huddled at the Main Library to read stories, play games and get autographs from more than 20 Gamecock football players and Cocky.

“Partnering with the Gamecocks is a great way to emphasize the importance of reading to young people,” said RCPL’s Padgett Lewis. “The children admire the players. It has an impact when they see that the players think reading is cool and that books are available on any subject that interests them.”

Watch for details on a repeat performance in the summer of 2007!



# August 07

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Library supporter Rudy Mancke, Bookmobile Manager Gayle Sneed and Executive Director David Warren commemorated the parking of the 20 year old Bookmobile in preparation for a Ballentine library facility, initiating the first phase of the 10-year capital needs plan.

## Richland County Public Library



# The Wheels of Change . . .

Naturalist and avid library supporter Rudy Mancke was behind the wheel of the Bookmobile on December 18, 2006 to permanently park the aging vehicle at the future site of a Ballentine library facility at 1321 Dutch Fork Road.

The Bookmobile will be parked at this location and open from 1-5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This change was necessary due to the Bookmobile's age, maintenance issues and safety precautions.

The revised schedule is also a result of the library's efforts to provide more permanent services in the Ballentine area. Because of the support and efforts of area residents, County Council approved a plan in November that would allow a storefront library to open at the Dutch Fork Road location sometime in the next budget year, which begins July 1, 2007.

A federal grant and a matching contribution from the Friends of RCPL will allow the library to renovate the building and provide new technology to serve this growing area of the county.

Questions? Call 929-3411 or 929-3462.



# September 07

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More than 200 people attended the Friends' Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary celebration, which featured South Carolina native and best-selling author Dorothea Benton Frank (center).



# More than Books . . .

Whether it's your favorite author's latest best seller or the resources you need to be successful on the job or in the classroom, the information you need is available at RCPL.

The library's extensive collection features more than 1.1 million books, more than 12,000 magazines in print and online, 170 newspaper titles and nearly 85,000 nonprint resources.

RCPL has also put technology to work for you, providing wireless Internet access at the Main Library and six branch facilities, e-newsletters to keep you informed of library programs and services, access to increased numbers of online databases, e-books and downloadable audiobooks.



# October 07

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The Teen Advisory Board encouraged other teens to get active at their library during Teen Read Week for the chance to win a four-pack of tickets to see the Indiana Pacers vs. the Charlotte Bobcats.



# fun for Teens too . . .

Thanks to the library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB), more and more young people are learning about the cool stuff available at the library! Everything from DVDs and videos to the latest books and graphic novels, as well as special programs, are all available free at RCPL.

Since October 2004, TAB members have met monthly to share with staff their ideas for programs and library services. TAB input has resulted in a new and improved Teen Central Web site and a summer reading program with nearly 2,500 participants in 2006.

In May, more than 50 teens attended a special sneak preview opening of 1431 at RCPL at the Main Library, complete with music by Justin Register of the local band Madison Fair and free pizza from Village Idiot.

The library is also continuing other popular teen programs such as book discussion groups, financial aid workshops, job skills training programs and activities related to different types of music.



# November 07

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2006 RCPL Teen Idol Michal Johnson earned a variety of prizes, including recording time at Strawberry Skys studio and the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at a USC basketball game.



# Inspiring the Dream . . .

Midlands residents had the opportunity to hear 23 local teens compete for the title of 2006 RCPL Teen Idol in October. Contestants, who were selected after two auditions and judged on vocal quality, song selection, projection and stage presence, competed for a variety of prizes including studio time and the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at a USC basketball game.

"Teen Idol provides a forum for teens to explore their talents and interests while highlighting the variety of nonprint resources—CDs, DVDs and more—available at the library," said Ginger Shuler, RCPL's chief of youth services.

The program was sponsored by Geiger O'Cain Advertising, the Colonial Center and the Friends of RCPL.



# December 07

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RCPL offers a variety of holiday programs each year, including a special performance of Charles Dickens' masterpiece, *A Christmas Carol*, by RCPL Literary Resident Howard Burnham.



# Literature to Life . . .

The library, a facility open to *all* people, is the perfect place to discover, observe and establish an appreciation of literature and the arts.

Last year, more than 31,000 people from across the state attended RCPL's free programs, which are designed to stimulate reading and creative thinking, as well as highlight the library's collections and services.

RCPL's Literary Residency program draws on the talent of several local authors and scholars to provide creative literary and historical presentations, lectures and workshops. The programs span many arts and humanities disciplines including history, literature, philosophy, theatre and music. RCPL's Literary Residents—Clarence Felder and Chris Weatherhead, cofounders of The Actors' Theatre of South Carolina; Howard Burnham; Dr. Glenn James; Carrie Allen McCray; and Dr. Rosemary Reisman—have a true depth of interest in and knowledge of good literature.

RCPL also brings the visual arts to South Carolinians through exhibits in the Wachovia Gallery at the Main Library and partnerships with organizations such as the Columbia Marionette Theatre, the Columbia City Ballet and the Columbia Museum of Art.

# January 08

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Your public library provides many opportunities for children of all ages to stretch their imaginations. Whether it's a good book, the latest music downloaded from the Web site, a free program or a special performance, RCPL offers something for everyone!



# Your Opinion Counts . . .

Thanks to the support of the Friends of RCPL, MarketSearch completed user and community surveys in the last year to assess user experiences and attitudes toward and support for RCPL.

The survey of more than 2,200 library users found that **90 percent** believed the library was an essential part of the community, and two out of three respondents, or **64 percent**, felt the library deserved more funding. Interestingly, **86 percent** had library cards, and most had multiple cards per household.

According to the community survey, conducted by phone in early 2006, residents feel that RCPL is one of the county's greatest assets, and satisfaction ratings **between 71 and 99 percent** among those who visited RCPL in the past year indicate that residents are highly satisfied with their public library.

Even more significant, however, is the fact that record numbers of people steadily rely on RCPL for the information and resources they need. **More than 70 percent of the county's residents have library cards**, and on an average day, more than 3,000 people visited the Main Library in downtown Columbia and another 5,000 people used the nine branch libraries.

# By the Numbers...

## LIBRARY USE

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| total units of service                  | 14,168,812 |
| visitors to the library system          | 1,874,498  |
| new registered borrowers                | 19,231     |
| total registered borrowers              | 234,214    |
| total patron information requests       | 1,613,551  |
| in-house                                | 952,096    |
| phone/mail                              | 661,455    |
| holds placed                            | 132,740    |
| materials borrowed from other libraries | 796        |
| materials lent to other libraries       | 1,214      |
| electronic online database searches     | 443,055    |
| web site access                         | 1,234,476  |
| in-house programming attendance         | 31,067     |
| outreach programming attendance         | 9,794      |
| class visits/tours                      | 6,644      |
| a(ugusta) baker's dozen attendance      | 3,100      |
| summer reading club enrollment          |            |
| children                                | 19,452     |
| teen                                    | 2,451      |
| adult                                   | 6,850      |

## CIRCULATION

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| main library                | 901,378 |
| bookmobile                  | 21,573  |
| community services/outreach | 61,345  |
| OPAC renewals               | 393,132 |

## CIRCULATION AT BRANCHES

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| blythewood                           | 89,506    |
| john hughes cooper                   | 256,917   |
| eastover                             | 13,066    |
| north main                           | 80,543    |
| northeast regional                   | 220,381   |
| sandhills                            | 339,091   |
| southeast regional                   | 292,970   |
| st. andrews regional                 | 296,092   |
| wheatley                             | 97,069    |
| systemwide use                       | 3,063,063 |
| in-house patron use systemwide       | 5,807,429 |
| *population served, Richland County  | 340,078   |
| *population served, Greater Columbia | 575,350   |

# The future is Green. . .

Environmental responsibility is a priority for RCPL as it plans for new and expanded facilities. While adopting an initial 10-year capital needs plan, the Board of Trustees also committed to green building and sustainable design for future library development.

"It's important for the library to use environmentally sensitive approaches as it plans for the future," said RCPL Executive Director David Warren. "As we work to maximize funding and be the best possible stewards of the public and private moneys entrusted to the library, we must also acknowledge the impact our growth has on the environment."

The 10-year plan includes expansion and upgrades to existing facilities and adding a new branch location in a fast growing Ballentine area that was only served by the Bookmobile. These expansions and upgrades would not be possible without strong support from the community. Help RCPL prepare for the future and ensure access to quality library services for years to come by making a financial contribution. Call (803) 929-3475 to pledge your support today!

*Libraries make a difference, so can you.*

# Resources

|                                   |           |                       |        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------|
| books                             | 1,106,203 | audiocassettes/tapes  | 18,395 |
| magazine titles in print          | 950       | video/DVDs            | 36,292 |
| magazine titles online, full text | 12,401    | compact discs         | 25,528 |
| newspaper titles                  | 170       | CD ROM titles         | 1,026  |
| maps                              | 2,052     | cataloged photographs | 453    |
| microforms                        | 70,793    | electronic databases  | 46     |

## Operating Budget as of June 30, 2006

### RECEIPTS

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| county appropriation   | \$ 14,527,696        |
| state aid              | \$ 641,354           |
| miscellaneous          | \$ 1,137,842         |
| designated funds, FY05 | \$ 5,056,764         |
| <b>total</b>           | <b>\$ 21,363,656</b> |

### DISBURSEMENTS

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| personnel & related expenses | \$ 10,019,352        |
| materials                    | \$ 2,695,519         |
| operations                   | \$ 3,004,106         |
| operations reserve           | \$ 5,644,679         |
| <b>total</b>                 | <b>\$ 21,363,656</b> |

# Main Library and Branch Locations

**Main Library** 799-9084  
**Children's Room** 929-3434  
1431 Assembly St., Columbia 29201  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Blythewood Branch** 691-9806  
218 McNulty Rd., Blythewood 29016  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**John Hughes Cooper Branch** 787-3462  
5317 North Trenholm Rd., Columbia 29206  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Eastover Branch** 353-8584  
608 Main St., Eastover 29044  
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Thurs., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**North Main Branch** 754-7734  
5306 North Main St., Columbia 29203  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Northeast Regional Branch** 736-6575  
7490 Parklane Rd., Columbia 29223  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Sandhills Branch** 699-9230  
1 Summit Parkway  
at Clemson Rd., Columbia 29229  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Southeast Regional Branch** 776-0855  
7421 Garners Ferry Rd., Columbia 29209  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**St. Andrews Regional Branch** 772-6675  
2916 Broad River Rd., Columbia 29210  
Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Wheatley Branch** 799-5873  
931 Woodrow St., Columbia 29205  
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Tues., Thurs. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.



## We Can Never Have Too Many friends!

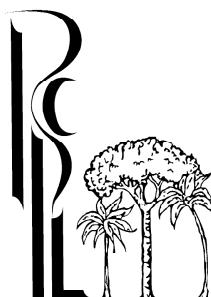
Many of the programs featured in this annual report would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of RCPL.

Your membership in and support of the Friends helps RCPL provide nationally recognized programs and services. Memberships start at only \$25. To join or for more information, call (803) 929-3475 or visit <http://www.myRCPL.com/friends.htm>.

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