

SISTERHOOD

b o o k s t o r e

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Sisterhood Bookstore, one of the oldest and largest bookstores in the United States specializing in books, crafts, and music by and about women, continues to be an active center for women's culture and community in Los Angeles.

In addition to being a retail business, Sisterhood has always maintained a small resource and referral room that has bulletin boards, local flyers, free newspapers, and other information. Women who live in Los Angeles have been able to come to Sisterhood at many pivotal moments in their lives; we provide referrals for health, for a shelter or rape crisis center, or support for coming out. Newcomers have known they can come to the bookstore to find a way into the community.

Sisterhood is a cultural institution in Los Angeles, and is one of the key places that can be counted on to support the activities of feminist, multi-cultural, and progressive organizations.

In 1992, due to a variety of factors, including the development of corporate owned chain bookstores and the general decline in the regional economy, our sales began to level off and then to decrease. At the moment, the gross sales of our general inventory has declined by approximately 25% from our peak in the early 1990's. To offset this decline and meet our operating expenses, we began aggressively to seek text book sales, primarily from the UCLA Women's Studies Department, by urging instructors to order textbooks for their classes from us.

Text book sales now comprise 40% of our gross sales, allowing us to remain in business and maintain a level of customer and community service. However, since the profit margin is much smaller for texts, and since we did not have capital to finance this new division,

each school term creates a financial crisis as we scramble to borrow the money needed to pay for orders and plead with publishers to send us text books for the next quarter. Our first priority is to pay off this debt.

Our primary need is to regain our financial stability; and we have another vision - to move to a new location which would include space for a community room, a used book department and improved parking. The community room could be a new cultural hub for the women's community of Los Angeles, offering a place for political meetings, reading groups, performance art, and fund raising.

We are unsure if, in our present form, Sisterhood will be able to continue. For the first time in our history we are resorting to serious fund raising. We had a successful event in February that raised \$14,000; now we continue to seek money from both individuals and foundations.

Below is an overview of what we need:

To pay off existing debt from undercapitalization of text book division:	\$40,000
1st, last, security deposit on new space with a community room approximate size 25'x25':	10,000
New fixtures, including computers, and fax:	40,000
Moving expenses, loss of sales during move:	5,000
TOTAL	\$95,000

We realize that is unlikely that we will be able to raise the total amount we require through just a few sources. Therefore we are approaching several potential individual donors such as yourself for gifts of \$5,000.00 or more, and we plan to organize as many fund-raising events and activities as are needed to reach our goals. We also appreciate your suggestions for other prospective fund raising sources.

And, if needed, we are able to offer you a tax deduction when you contribute. Please telephone us for details. Thank you for your time and consideration.