



OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winter 2025

jeffclf.org

FRIENDS

Footprints



First
Anniversary for
Whale's Tale Two
(Page 4)

Fall Whale of a
Used Book Sale
(Page 6)

JCLF Funds
New Programs
(Pages 8)

Welcome

New Bookkeeper Kristi Mladenovic

Kristi was recently hired as our Foundation's new bookkeeper, and she comes to us with more than 20 years of experience in both the corporate and the nonprofit realms. Previously, Kristi was the Business & Finance Manager for Drive Clean Colorado where she also assisted with grants management and reporting along with human resources. Kristi earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and served as president of Seo's Hope Foundation and as treasurer for Sunrise Ridge Master Association. She is a certified instructor and 3rd Degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do/Tae Kwan Do.



New Warehouse Assistant Xavier Campbell

Xavier joined JCLF as our Warehouse Assistant in August, and he continues to be a valued member of our team! His work background includes employment as a tile setter, a warehouse worker, a package handler for FedEx, and he was a part of grounds maintenance at the Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch in Longmont.



New Bookstore Assistant Barbara Casey

Barbara comes to us as a retired educator who served as a tutor for college students. In addition, Barbara was previously Deputy Division Director/CFO in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at the Colorado Department of Human Services. She also served as Controller for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and was VP of Finance & Administration/CFO at the Community College of Denver. Barbara received her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Metropolitan State University in Denver.

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!

As our organization has grown in recent years, we have also increased our need for many more volunteers. There are several ways you can join us in supporting our public library, whether as an ongoing, weekly volunteer or someone who only wants to assist us for single annual events.

Plus, our volunteers earn valuable rewards. Bookstore volunteers gain a 20% discount on purchases and those at our semi-annual Whale of a Used Book Sales and our warehouse volunteers earn two free books (or CDs, DVDs or vinyl records) for each two-hour shift they work.

The list below will point out the many opportunities we have and where YOU can help us out!

Whale's Tale Books & Gifts at Colorado Mills Mall

Sunday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m. (two 3-hour shifts each day)

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (two 3-and-a-half hour shifts that day)

Whale's Tale Two Books & Gifts at Belmar Shopping Center

Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (two 3-and-a-half hour shifts each day)

JCLF Warehouse

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and noon to 4:30 p.m.

Spring and fall Whale of a Used Book Sales at the Jeffco Fairgrounds

Four-hour shifts for set-up, table tidying, cart running, cashiering, and tear-down

JCLF Board of Directors

We are seeking community-minded local residents who would like to assist us in governance, budget/finance, outreach, fundraising and organizational oversight.

To sign up or for more information, please visit our website or contact our Volunteer & Events Coordinator Megan Fessenden at 303.403.5078, or megan@jeffclf.org.

SEPTEMBER'S DINE & DONATE

Last fall, we sent out the call for hungry people to help support this year's Dine & Donate fundraiser, and it appears that many of you responded! JCLF was proud to receive more than \$2,600 as the result of this benefit that was held at 240 Union Creative Grille in Lakewood on Wednesday, September 18. This is 20% more than the Dine & Donate event from 2023!



Director's Notes



I have a favorite poem written by Hebert Logerie called "The End of the Year," and it goes like this:

*The end of the year is the dawn of a new one
The sadness and the yesterdays are all gone
We have in front of us: a new era, a new horizon
We are hoping and dreaming of a better season....*

As I continue into my 10th year as the Executive Director for the Jefferson County Library Foundation (JCLF), I am sad to see 2024 end, yet I'm also excited to see a new horizon in front of me and in front of our Foundation.

Inside this edition of our Footnotes newsletter, you'll see that JCLF has reached so many new horizons in 2024 – both our spring and fall Whale of a Used Book Sales were the best events we've ever hosted in terms of monies raised, and we recently celebrated the one-year anniversary for our newest used bookstore, Whale's Tale Two Books & Gifts, in Belmar Shopping Center. On top of that, we added two new part-time workers, bringing our current employee count to 10.

The most important thing is that JCLF has followed its mission to provide fundraising support and advocacy for Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL). In 2024, we contributed more than \$190,000 in support of key Library programs including 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Babies First Books, Tumble Books, and the annual Library Summer Challenge (summer reading) program.

We have been able to fulfill our mission thanks to our used book sales, grant funding, corporate supporters, ticketed events, Friends memberships, major donations, estate gifts, and individual contributions.

Logerie's poem concludes:

*The globe will not stop turning and the wonderful sun
Will not cease shining. A new season always brings new fun.
We need to relax, be more realistic, laugh more and smile.*

I thank you for supporting JCLF, and – as the poem says – I hope you will take time to laugh more and smile as we move toward our next horizon in 2025.

Sincerely,

Jo Schantz, MNM, CFRE, GPC
JCLF Executive Director



Foundation Board 2025

President **Deborah Deal** Vice President **Ron Benson**
Secretary **Cleo Arellano** Treasurer **Linda Fleming**

Members at Large
Dana Harris **Neal Browne** **Kirby Edwards**
Allison Mueller **Tyrenny Hidy** **Jeannie Mann**
Nathan Richter **Tim Rogers**

JCPL Board Advisors **Jill Fellman** **Donna Walker**

Foundation Staff

Executive Director **Jo Schantz, MNM, CFRE, GPC**
jo@jeffclf.org

MarCom/Office Coordinator **Susan Spring**
susan@jeffclf.org

Bookseller/Warehouse Coordinator **Neil Thoreson**
neil@jeffclf.org

Warehouse Assistant **Xavier Campbell**
xavier@jeffclf.org

Bookkeeper **Kristi Mladenovic**
kristi@jeffclf.org

Bookstore Manager Colorado Mills **Kirstin Kraig**
kirstin@jeffclf.org

Bookstore Manager Belmar **Diane Major**
diane@jeffclf.org

Bookstore Assistant Colorado Mills **Janet Spaeth**

Bookstore Assistant Belmar **Barbara Casey**

Volunteer & Events Coordinator **Megan Fessenden**
megan@jeffclf.org



@JeffcoFriends
jeffclf.org

The mission of JCLF is to support and enrich the capabilities, resources and services of Jefferson County Public Library through fundraising and advocacy efforts that benefit our diverse community.

Footnotes is a newsletter for Friends of Jefferson County Public Library, and we welcome your input.

Please contact the Friends office at 303.403.5075 or friends@jeffclf.org with comments or submissions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE HOSTETLER PHOTOGRAPHY

WHALE'S TALE TWO CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

More than a year ago, on October 25, 2023, JCLF launched its second used bookstore – Whale's Tale Two



Books & Gifts – in Lakewood's Belmar Shopping Center. In honor of that milestone, our new Belmar bookstore manager, Diane Major, and her bookstore assistant, Barbara Casey, came up with some clever ways to celebrate this one-year anniversary. Each day focused on a different theme and showcased some of the products that the store sells.



10/29 Tuesday -- Coffee and "Treasure Hunt!" Colorful tree ornaments were prizes and the store hosted Buy One/Get One (BOGO) on fiction books

10/30 Wednesday -- Tea and Scones! Plus another BOGO was available for select books

10/31 Thursday -- Jigsaw puzzles were reduced by 20% and kid customers enjoyed safe Trick-or-Treating too! That day, children's books were BOGO.



11/1-Friday – What could be better than hot cocoa on a cold day? That's what was served up at our Belmar store along with a special Day of the Dead theme. All CDs were BOGO, as well.

11/2-Saturday– Staff served up a special "Day of the Dead" coloring sheet teamed with hot cocoa, plus BOGO on nonfiction books.

11/3–Sunday -- Mulled cider joined forces with a cheese and meat tray, plus we offered BOGO on nonfiction books, and included CDs and DVDs. Puzzles continued with 20% off.

We are also pleased that as of October 15, Whale's Tale Two is now open Tuesdays through Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 7273 W. Alaska Drive in Lakewood. Stay tuned!

Whale's Tale Two is moving to a new Belmar location. Announcement coming soon!

Lisa Hidalgo is Denver7's morning meteorologist. A Colorado native and graduate of Green Mountain High School and University of Colorado Boulder, Lisa loves reading, knitting and running. You can watch Lisa on Denver7 and Local3 weekday mornings from 4:30-9:00 a.m. Denver7 is a proud partner of Jefferson County Public Library Foundation and the Whale of a Used Book Sale events.

READING OR SUNSETS?

by Denver7 Morning Meteorologist Lisa Hidalgo

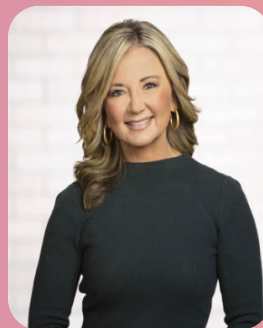
When you wake up at 2 a.m., have two kids, two dogs and what feels like 200 loads of laundry...reading becomes a guilty pleasure. This may be why I started the Denver7 Book Club. I can sneak in a few pages here and there at the station and can technically label it "work," but all of you readers out there know it's nothing of the sort. I love to read and I read absolutely everything...fiction, non-fiction, poetry, magazines, pamphlets, catalogs (which can get very expensive). I love finding a good book that not many have read, recommending it to a friend and then waiting for their reaction. A recent gem is *Go as a River* by Shelley Read. This book is beautiful, well-written and based on the western slope of Colorado. It's now a bestseller on many lists but wasn't as well known when I first read it. We were lucky enough to have Shelley join our Denver7 Book Club via Zoom and she is (if it's possible) even more lovely than her writing.

As a young mom, I wanted my girls to love reading as much as I did. I quickly learned that you can't force someone share the same passion. Sometimes it takes the perfect book or the perfect atmosphere or sometimes the perfect teacher to light that spark. My oldest daughter got hooked while reading *The Fourth Wing* series. I actually had to force her to put the book down (one of the happiest moments of my life) to watch the sunset while on vacation in Hawaii. I finally had a fellow family member who loved to read!

My love of reading actually came from a movie. I can remember watching *The Neverending Story* when I was about nine years old and wanting to be just like the main character, Bastian Bux. It seemed so magical to hide away in the school's attic during a storm with a blanket, dripping tapered candles and a giant hardcover book.

The Denver7 Book Club meets once a month at the Aspen Grove Tattered Cover, and it has quickly become one of my favorite nights every month. It's a great group of readers and the discussion is always respectful and lively. I'm responsible for picking the books, and it makes me so nervous! I joke with the book club that life is too short to read bad books... so I do my best to pick the best reads I can. The 2024

book club favorites were *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver and *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer. Our 2025 picks are officially out, and everyone is welcome to come by and be part of the fun! There's crazy comfort in reading a great book and then getting together with other avid readers to discuss. Even if you're missing a killer sunset.



THE BIG SHRED (A-THON)

JCLF held its annual (and very popular) shred-a-thon on Saturday, August 17, from 9 a.m. to noon the parking lot at Bank of Colorado's Lakewood branch (275 Union Blvd.). Dozens of cars circled through the parking lot delivering bag after bag of personal (and shred-able!) items, all taken care of on site by our partner, Stericycle.

Our only request for this service was a \$20 contribution per vehicle.



We're pleased to tell you that we raised nearly \$4,000 from this singular event, which is nearly triple what the shred-a-thon made for us in 2023.

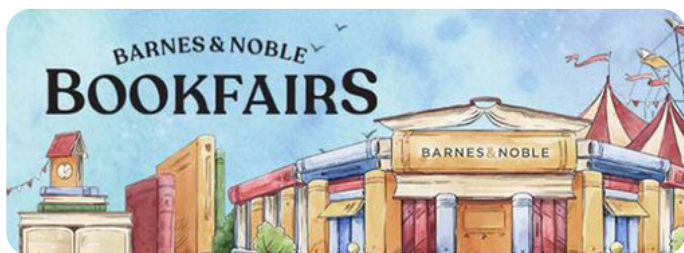
Be on the lookout for our next shred-a-thon coming in summer 2025!

BOOKFAIR AT BARNES & NOBLE

For the past three years, JCLF has participated in a Bookfair hosted by Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Denver West Village in Golden. Last year, on Saturday, September 28, JCLF took part in this annual fall fundraiser and received a gift of nearly \$500.

Our organization benefited from a portion of the day's sales (including books, e-books, and other materials) when bookstore shoppers presented a special voucher at checkout along with their purchases.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped us staff an information table at this event and who handed out vouchers on behalf of JCLF.



GOOD NEWS FROM OUR ANNUAL AUDIT!

Each year, JCLF is grateful to Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) for its support of our fundraising and advocacy efforts. According to our most recent 2023 audit, our Foundation received more than \$87,000 in in-kind support from the Library, which included payment for one portion of our leased space, payment of utilities, and other services.

As pointed out on page 22 of the audit, "Total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2023, excluding the Library's in-kind amounted to \$714,548. Such amount is considered the support the Foundation provided back to the Library as the Foundation's entire mission is to provide aid, assistance and financial support to the Library."

When you add in the 10,359 hours contributed by our dedicated volunteers (amounting to \$376,644 in value, according to standard hourly pay provided by the Independent Sector), "total support provide the Library during 2023 was \$1,091,192."

"In summary, the support the Foundation provided the library was nearly thirteen (13) times the in-kind that the Library provided the Foundation."

STAFF AT WHALE'S TALE WIN HOLIDAY BONUSES FROM BESTSELLING AUTHOR JAMES PATTERSON

Whale's Tale Books & Gifts manager Kirstin Kraig and boostore assistant Janet Spaeth were two of 600 independent bookstore staffers who received \$500 holiday bonuses from James Patterson, the bestselling novelist who has been awarding independent store employees since 2015.



JAMES PATTERSON

"Booksellers save lives. Period," Patterson said in a statement released Tuesday through his publisher, Little, Brown and Company. "I'm happy to be able to acknowledge them and all their hard work this holiday season."

Along with his gifts to booksellers, Patterson has given millions of dollars to schools, libraries and literacy programs. In 2015, the National Book Foundation presented him an honorary National Book Award — the Literarian Award — for "outstanding service to the American literary community."



FALL FAMILY FUN DAY

Thank you to the 380 participants, volunteers, partners and staff who made CSU Extension in Jefferson County's (CSUE) 2nd annual Fall Family Fun Day a success! Folks of all ages joined us in an afternoon of fall themed STEM and outdoor education activities, candy collecting, and prize winning. Partners included CSU Spur Campus, Jefferson County Public Library, Jeffco Open Space, and Jefferson County Library Foundation.

We are excited to be able to share an abundance of programs CSUE offers with many first-time participants, and we are always thrilled to see returning participants. We look forward to next year and encourage you to keep an eye on our newsletter, socials, and calendar for all the latest ways to participate with us!

Jeni Carter
Executive Director
CSU Extension in Jefferson County



FAMILY FUN DAY FEATURED CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!



At last year's fall Whale of a Used Book Sale, JCLF partnered with Colorado State University Extension in Jefferson County (CSUE) and Fairgrounds to make the last day of our sale even more fun and exciting!

On Sunday, Oct. 20, folks of all ages joined in an afternoon of fall themed STEM and outdoor education activities, candy collecting, and prize winning. Partners included CSU Spur Campus, Jefferson County Public Library, Jeffco Open Space, and the Jefferson County Library Foundation.

The special event took place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and CSUE gladly shared details about 4-H, the Master Gardener program, and other Extension programs that are available to Jeffco residents.

To learn more, visit <https://jeffco.extension.colostate.edu>.

SAVE THE DATES!

SPRING WHALE OF A USED BOOK SALE: MAY 29 - JUNE 1, 2025

FALL WHALE OF A USED BOOK SALE: OCTOBER 15-19, 2025



OUR FALL WHALE OF A USED BOOK SALE!

The 2024 fall Whale of a Used Book Sale took place on Oct. 17-20 and was held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden. The big semi-annual sale featured thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records and rare books, and more than 3,500 shoppers joined in the search for bargain books and media materials.

Not only was this one of our biggest turnouts in the history of the sale, it was also one of the best in terms of monies raised. Overall, we generated more than \$82,000 in gross sales, which included ticket sales, donations, and Friends membership fees.



The popular annual event began on Thursday evening, Oct. 17, with our Friends-only Preview Night occurring from 6 to 8 p.m. The sale opened to the public from Friday through Sunday, Oct. 18-20.

As we have done in the past, JCLF offered an Early Bird opening that Friday morning from 8 to 9 a.m. for a fee of \$10 per adult. This also gave those same shoppers admission all throughout the day, up until 5 p.m. Open hours on Saturday were 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday the 20th featured our usual "Bag Day" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Bag Day, shoppers were able to collect full bags of books and other sales materials for just \$10 per bag and \$12 per box.

Admission to the Whale of a Used Book Sale was \$5 per adult daily, with children (up to age 18) free. We also waived the admission fee for adults who produced their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) card or showed proof that their children receive free or reduced lunches at school. These admission fees help us cover our cost for use of the Jeffco Fairgrounds and they help us purchase the brightly colored giveaway shopping bags at each sale.

We are grateful to our Friends Community Partners who helped support this stellar event:



VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT OUR APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

As is our tradition, JCLF annually hosts a big celebration luncheon for our fabulous volunteers, and last year's event had a distinct German accent! Dancers from Alpen Auerhahn entertained more than 50 of our special guests at the Wheat Ridge Rec Center in Wheat Ridge on Friday, July 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adding to the theme, a German-inspired buffet was provided by Rhein Haus restaurant.

We also presented four awards to our 2024 honorees:

Volunteer of the Year
Kristine Fletcher

Volunteer Leadership Service Award
Michael Colacino

The Elena Joyce Grissom Lifetime Achievement Award
Sandy Kramer

Linda Abbott Memorial Award for Volunteer Excellence
Kacy Gelles



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP SERVICE
AWARD RECIPIENT
MIKE COLACINO



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
KRIS FLETCHER AND JCLF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JO SCHANTZ



THE ALPEN AUERHAHN GERMAN DANCE TROUPE

Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers and many other volunteers who help us support Jefferson County Public Library through their efforts!



VOLUNTEERS NICOLA JESSE, CHIP FURLONG, AND KRIS FLETCHER



BEST OF THE BEST

Our Whale's Tale Books & Gifts shops were recently recognized by Colorado Community Media as the "Best of the Best" in the category of used bookstores in Lakewood, CO!

We are delighted to be given this honor, and we are grateful to the many shoppers and supporters who have made our two bookstores so successful!

COLORADO GIVES FOUNDATION HELPS JCPL SUPPORT LIBRARY PROGRAMS!

Hard Times Writing Workshop

Mental health is a top concern for most communities, including Jefferson County. Locally, 10.1% of adults report having 14 or more days where their mental health was not good in the past 30 days, according to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2019-2021).

Hospitalization data shows that the mortality rate in Jefferson County due to pharmaceutical opioid overdose more than tripled between 2019 and 2021. At the same time, is occurring at the highest rates seen in Colorado, according to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.



These issues were compounded when just four years ago the entire world experienced the physical health, mental health, economic, and social devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

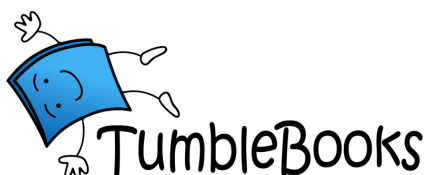
That's why JCPL is pleased that Colorado Gives Foundation recently stepped forward with a contribution of \$25,799 in support of JCPL's Hard Times Writing Workshop.

Hard Times Writing Workshops (called "Hard Times" for short) are designed as a partnership between Jefferson County Public Library and Lighthouse Writers (a Denver-based, writing-focused nonprofit) to create a place where community members experiencing hard times could heal through writing.

Hard Times provides community and a creative outlet for people who have recently experienced or are currently experiencing issues such as poverty, addiction, homelessness, and other hard situations. Many have suffered through trauma. Participants learn how to put these difficult experiences into words. The in-library program is led by seasoned instructors who guide participants through prompts and writing exercises. These workshops create a safe space for people in difficult situations to tell their stories and hone their craft of writing.

Tumble Books

Tumble Books is an online collection of animated talking picture books and chapter books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. Includes story books, read-alongs, ebooks, graphic



novels, nonfiction, videos, math stories, books in Spanish, playlists, and puzzles and games. Children can search or browse in Spanish, French, or English for bilingual and ESL (English as a Second Language) children.

We are grateful to Colorado Gives Foundation for providing \$25,000 in support of this Early Childhood Literacy program, as part of a grant that also funded JCPL's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and Babies First Books programs.

Tumble Book Library is a curated database of children's e-books, with over 1,100 titles for grades K-6, and includes unique animated, talking picture books, read-along chapter books, non-fiction books and videos, curated playlists, as well as books in Spanish and French. Plus, the collection features Graphic

Novels – a student favorite! There are no check-out times or wait lists: the books are always available, to everyone in the library! It's a great resource for tech-savvy kids, and teaches them the joy of reading in a format they'll love.

Tumble Books can be accessed in the library, from home or from school. If using remotely, patrons can access the resource with their JCPL library card number. The books are viewed online and all titles provide simultaneous use.

When the books are played, the text is highlighted for the child to follow along with the narration. The picture books have some animation when played, but the focus is on the text. The controls for moving through the book (start, stop, volume) are big and easy to understand. Younger children may need assistance at first but would be able to manage on their own pretty quickly. Older children are able to navigate the resource easily. It can be used both by parents and by teachers in the classroom.

In (2023), 2,767 children used Tumble Books in JCPL branch locations. From January through June 2024, 707 children have enjoyed JCPL's Tumble Books program.

Our thanks to Colorado Gives Foundation for providing much-needed funding in support of these key Library programs serving our Jeffco community members.



PROGRAMS JCLF SUPPORTED IN 2024

by Marcy James, JCPL Public Services Manager

Summer Challenge 2024 – Where Adventure Begins! June 1- July 31

Of course, adventure begins at the library! This past summer there was adventure for any age. The program grew in participation by nearly 7% with nearly 27,000 registrants. There were summer camps for teens and tweens – nearly all with waiting lists! Among the most popular were Drone, Magic Mania, and Culinary Camp. The only bad thing we heard about camps was that parents wanted their own camps to go to!



We had our first bilingual camp focusing on the art of Mexico and next year we are debuting a camp for kids with additional sensory needs. There were programs on Travel, Music, the Circus and an incredible Mobile Earth Science Observatory that was exciting for all ages. Our friends at Jeffco Open space

offered very successful “pop-up” programming for the first time and the Butterfly Pavilion and Colorado offered a dance/science program for little ones.

We had 160 special summer challenge events attended by 6,537 participants. This is in addition to all our regular story times and amazing programming. We really are bridging that opportunity gap by offering a program full of not only prizes, but free enrichment experiences all summer long!

What people say they enjoyed about Summer Challenge:

** I liked the inclusivity of the program - the translation, the activity badges and the ease of use of the platform all made the summer reading program accessible for lots of different people! (Adult)*

** Sometimes I think I'm too busy to read. Then I come across the summer reading challenge and I know I have to make time for it. Your encouragement keeps me in the books! (Adult)*

** It was a fun way for me to read more often even though I love to read. It also helped me read more because of how competitive I am. It was nice because I have so much free time and books are a magical wonderland to escape reality. I really liked the challenge. (Teen)*

** My children love to do the activities connected with the summer reading program. We use the library more during the summer with the reading program, so they loved all our visits to the library. They love that they can track their points as they accrue them and can see how close they are getting to their grand prize. (Caregiver)*

** Both my girls loved going to the library to pick out new books and became excited and encouraged to read to get more points for a prize. (Caregiver)*

Raise a Reader – Saturday, September 28 – Colorado Railroad Museum

More than 1,600 individuals attended the 2024 Raise A Reader Festival held in September at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden. Participants at this FREE event enjoyed a beautiful fall day filled with train rides, early literacy activities, and community connections. Many little ones danced the day away, created art, played with bubbles, and even got to meet some of their favorite storybook characters! It was an event that delighted and surprised caregivers, children and entire families.

This was our fifth year of Raise A Reader at the Museum and the event just keeps getting better every year. We increased our community resource fair to 10 JEFFCO organizations in 2024 and of course hosted an information tent promoting our own Babies First Books, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and our many story times including Let's Dance and Cuentacuentos. The Bookmobile had a presence with a pop-up library where visitors could make cards and check out books. In addition, JCPL's communications team was present to talk to people about current capital projects.

Here are some comments from attendees about their experience:

** It was so well done! This event was free but I would've happily paid for it. There were so many activities for kids but as an adult I was entertained as well. I would recommend this event to other parents!*

** So many things to do, having it all in one place at a time we can attend (both kids in either school or preschool so we can't do activities that happen during the school day). Riding a train! Seeing Pete the Cat wearing his favorite shirt.*

** Everything. There were so many events and activities, and I love each and every one of them. Thank you so much for a fabulous event. My son was so happy.*

** It was a great event with lots to do. The train ride was fun, the resources were informative, and the activities were engaging*

** The event was truly amazing! It was beyond my expectations, especially for a free event. There were so many activities for my 2-year-old!*

** I appreciated that the event was free, there was free snacks and food vendors and many activities for children. I really appreciate that there was a sensory location too.*

** We only made it to the festival at the museum, but it was wonderful! The train theme with the ending at the museum was a nice idea. The event was a lot of fun. My 2- and 4-year-olds loved it. The included train ride was amazing, face painting, bubbles, dancing, snacks, train tables were all top hits. The spread-out event was nice for crowd spacing. We are big readers in our house already, but a fun event inspired by reading was nice to see. Thanks for hosting! We would love to attend again!*



A SHOUT OUT TO OUR 2024 FRIENDS COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

Each year, we invite various corporate and organizational partners to join in supporting the Jefferson County Library Foundation by becoming our Friends Community Partners. In return for their cash and in-kind contributions, these partners are recognized year round at all our special events, such as:

- Our Spring and Fall Whale of a Used Book Sales – boasting a combined attendance of more than 5,500 shoppers with gross revenues topping over \$180,000!
- Our Friends Annual Meeting in April, with a guest appearance by acclaimed and award-winning author Erika Krouse.
- The July 2024 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon highlighted by traditional German fare from Rhein Haus and a demonstration of traditional German dancing by Alpen Auerhahn.
- And our Books On Film fundraiser hosted by Denver7's own meteorologist Lisa Hidalgo featuring a private showing of the sci-fi film *Dune: Part 2* held this past March at Harkins 14 theatres in Arvada.

Support from these Partners has enabled us to provide much-needed dollars to help fund a variety of Jefferson County Public Library's (JCPL) FREE programs – ones that are available year round to nearly 300,000 cardholders here in Jefferson County.

Those programs include: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Babies First Books, the Raise A Reader Festival, 500 Books Before Middle School, Tumble Books, Culture Passes, the annual Library Summer Challenge (summer reading program), Hot/Cold Weather Patron Supplies & Bus Passes, and the Hard Times Writing Workshop.

Many thanks to our 2024 Friends Community Partners:

DENVER7
PINKARD CONSTRUCTION
ENT CREDIT UNION
COLORADO WOMEN'S DAY

COMCAST INTERNET ESSENTIALS
BANDIMERE FAMILY FOUNDATION
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SAFETY & SECURITY
FREDDY'S STEAKBURGERS
50 PLUS MARKETPLACE NEWS

BANK OF COLORADO
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY (NREL)
BERKELEY PARTNERS
CONFLUENCE COMPANIES



DREAM BOOKS - RAISING THE BAR FOR BOOK RE-HOMING AND RAISING FUNDS FOR THE LIBRARY



We are proud of our partnership with Dream Books. Some books and media we receive can't be sold at our bookstores or Whale of a Used Books Sales - some are out-of-date, some in poor condition, and some aren't the types of books our community is looking for. Enter Dream Books. Dream Books purchases these books from us and through their extensive network, finds new homes for them.

*Last year, we raised over \$46,000 from Dream Books and kept 235,000 pounds of books out of landfills.
Thank you, Dream Books!*

JOIN OUR LEGACY CHAPTER!



OK What IS the Legacy Chapter? This is a special group of JCLF donors who have decided to leave a legacy to our nonprofit organization through planned giving. That means these individuals and families have placed our Foundation in their estate plans where all or a portion of their estate will be donated to JCLF.

But how does it work? Interested individuals can determine what they wish to contribute at the time of the donor's passing, and that can vary. This donation can be a one-time cash contribution, a percentage of the estate, or various other means of support including gifts of real estate, vehicles, antiques, art collections, and more! We only ask that each donor sign a Letter of Donor Intent indicating the level of gift they will provide the Foundation in the future.

For information on how you can include JCLF in your estate plans, call Jo Schantz at 303-403-5077 or send an email to jo@jeffclf.org.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN START AN ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY?

Along with providing a bequest through your estate plans, our donors can also join one of JCLF's Giving Circles and start establishing an endowment that will benefit the Library in the years to come. Here's how it works:

A donation of at least \$5,000 (and up to \$9,999) will signal you as a member of the Director's Circle

A gift of \$10,000 or more will place you as a member of the President's Circle

As you continue to contribute to your special fund, you will be eligible to establish a named endowment when you reach a total gift of \$25,000.

Would you like more information? Please contact Jo Schantz at 303-403-5077 or jo@jeffclf.org.



COMMEMORATIVE GIVING

The following individuals were recognized by JCLF donors with recent gifts given in their name.

Amy Astle-Raaen
in honor of Betty Astle

Lori Benson and Jay Kuntz
in memory of Barbara
Korner

William Engdahl
in honor of Kohmei Kadoya

Rosanne and Shellie
French-Luallin
in honor of Lynne P.

Suzanne Hughes
in honor of Gwen Zimering

Theresa Katz
in memory of Pat Tooley

John Keith
in honor of Jack, Sara and
John Evan Keith

Carl Legleiter
in memory of Ann Toth

Elizabeth Nellums
in honor of Crystal Kreitzer

Nike Noor
in honor of Nike Noor LLC

Tim and Gail O'Neil
in memory of Linda Abbott

Karen Ordemann
in memory of Carol
Ordemann

Joey Peterson
in honor of Gloria Sindt

Jessica Pierce
in memory of Nancy Lucas

Jo Schantz
in memory of Robert D.
Schantz

Peggy Vucetich
in honor of Becky and Bruce
Connors

Susan Wieland
in memory of Larry Wieland



Jefferson County Library Foundation
10790 W. 50th Avenue, Suite 200
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
303.403.5075
jeffclf.org

DATES TO REMEMBER!



Library Giving Day
April 1, 2025



Friends Annual Meeting
Friday, April 11, 2025



Spring 2025 Whale of a Used Book Sale at Jeffco Fairgrounds
Thursday through Sunday, May 29-June 1



Fall 2025 Whale of a Used Book Sale at Jeffco Fairgrounds
Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 15-19