

Carrie



Established 2004

**Kingsport Chamber Foundation**

P.O. Box 1403 • Kingsport, TN 37662

**2008**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**The mission of the Sullivan County Imagination Library is to develop the love of reading in all children in this county by providing an age-appropriate book each month to every child from birth to five years.**

**SULLIVAN COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY  
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Class of 2008**

Jane Bellamy  
Frances Cottrell  
Teresa Lesnak  
Jan Miles  
Charlotte Thweatt  
Brenda Webb

**Class of 2009**

Jenny Dugger  
Scott Emerine  
Sue Fulmer  
John McKamey  
Theresa McMahan  
Adair Murdoch  
Richard Venable

**Class of 2010**

Cindy Bowman  
Claudia Byrd  
Flora Fish  
Amy Lippo  
Carrie Schwartz  
Carole Shaw  
Robin Dickerson

## **Sullivan County Imagination Library Council 2008**

Jane Bellamy – Retired Teacher and Community Volunteer  
Cindy Bowman - Teacher  
Claudia Byrd – Executive Director of Speedway Children’s Charities  
Frances Cottrell – UETHDA/CCRR  
Robin Dickerson – Community Volunteer  
Jenny Dugger – Bank of TN officer  
Scott Emerine – Owner of Public Relations Co.  
Flora Fish – Retired Bookkeeper and Community Volunteer  
Dr. Sue Fulmer – Director of East Tennessee State University at Bristol  
Tim Hall - Attorney  
Teresa Lesnak – Attorney  
Amy Lippo – Assistant Director of Sullivan County Library System  
John McKamey – Sullivan County Commissioner  
Theresa McMahan – Director of Sullivan County Library System  
Jan Miles – Retired Librarian from Colonial Heights Branch Library  
Adair Murdoch – Retired from Insurance Company  
Carrie Schwartz – Retired Teacher and Community Volunteer  
Dr. Carole Shaw – Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs Northeast State C C  
Charlotte Thweatt – Community Volunteer  
Richard Venable – Sullivan County NETworks Director  
Brenda Webb – Central Staff, Sullivan County Department of Education

### **Part-time Staff:**

Nicole Austin – Greater Kingsport Chamber of Commerce  
Karen Witcher – Bristol Chamber of Commerce

## Sullivan County Imagination Library

### Highlights of 2008

The members of the Sullivan County Imagination Library had an exciting year in 2008. During this year 1,916 new children were added to our data base and 1,115 graduated as they had their fifth birthday. A total of 5,138 children received books in December. The total number of books mailed in 2008 was 58,171. Since the first order in September 2004, 9,857 children have received books and 3,493 have graduated. This year's rise in enrollment is thanks in large part to the effort of our registration committee, chaired by Adair Murdoch, and other council members. We celebrated our 150,000<sup>th</sup> book with Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey, and will soon be preparing to celebrate the 200,000<sup>th</sup>. What an accomplishment!

To pay for these books and related expenses, the Sullivan County Imagination Library depends upon individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Without the support and donations we receive, these children would not be able to receive this gift of reading from our organization. While it is exciting to see our enrollment rise, we also need additional funding to provide these books.

The Sullivan County Imagination Library Council was pleased to gain 4 wonderful new members this year. Robin Dickerson joined us in May, Tim Hall joined in June, and in December we grew by two with the additions of Dr. Charles Charlton and Melissa Rawlston. All four of our new members bring great skills and enthusiasm with them, and have already become assets to the organization.

The Registration Committee planned and held several events throughout the year, as well as provided registration forms to local hospitals, businesses, and libraries. In March they had a booth at Family Race Night. April and May saw many events, including Women's Day Out at Riverview, the Healthy Mom Healthy Baby Expo. the Bristol Baby Fair, and the Wellmont Baby Fair. Our annual events at Funfest in July proved fun and rewarding! Not only were we successful in getting children enrolled, but we also had crafts and reading for all to enjoy. August was also a busy month, with another Family Race Night and Rhythm and Roots. September was Imagination Week with special events and the First Annual Kidspo at Meadowview, where we also celebrated our 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. A teachers' group volunteered to register children at the Appalachian Fair and were quite successful.

We had several fundraising events throughout the year. Books-A-Million in Kingsport held two fundraisers for us this year. Evelyn Bales held a book signing in August, and donated the proceeds. We took part in Chef Erskine's Cooking School fundraiser again this year. We also conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual No-Show Gala.

Richard Venable presented a proposal to the Council in November regarding a new direction for the organization. As a result, we will be pursuing 501(c)3 exempt status as

we leave the Kingsport Chamber Foundation umbrella and become an independent organization. The increase in our registration and operating costs has made it difficult to raise the necessary funds. Because we feel that it is important to continue increasing registration and making books available to as many children as possible, it was decided that this would be a good direction to take. Work has begun on updating our bylaws, reinstating our incorporation, and filing the necessary IRS forms.

This is an exciting time for the Sullivan County Imagination Library and its council. It has been a pleasure to serve with this amazing group of individuals. This worthy program would not be possible without the hard work of this Council and the many volunteers who give selflessly of their time and energy. I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to all who have had a part in making this program work.

Amy Lippo  
Council Chair

## Registration Committee Annual Report for 2008

The goal of the Registration Committee is to reach as many pre-schoolers and their parents in Sullivan County as we can and to provide them the opportunity to register for the Imagination Library. At all our registration events we are pleased to hear "we are already registered" from the parents. The greatest pleasure is see the smiling faces of the children when they recognize the Imagination Library logo and to hear them say "I have that book". We receive many thanks from grateful parents and grandparents about our wonderful program.

A registration table was manned at Bristol Family Race Night both in March (in Kingsport) and August (in Bristol). Registration materials were available at Baby Fairs in both cities. In July we participated in two Funfest events in Kingsport. We had a registration table as well as a craft table to make noise makers from paper plates at the Mardi Gras. Dr. Richard Gendron from Holston Medical Group read several Imagination Library books from the stage and helped us give away some of our returned books. HMG has been one of our sponsors for several years and we greatly appreciate Dr. Gendron's help this summer. We were able to use the Library at Johnson School during the FunFest Kids Central three day event. Several volunteers read stories to children and helped them make a bookmark. Outside we had a tent with registration materials, balloons, fans and other give aways. We played several games, Pin the Caboose on the Imagination Library Train, See How Fast You Can Put On The Engineer's Costume and a Book Walk. The prize for the Book Walk was one of our returned books.

Volunteers set up and registered children at the Bristol Rhythm and Roots Festival as well as giving away fans, pencils and magnets. A registration table was at our fund raisers at Books A Million and our cooking school fund raiser.

Sullivan County Imagination Library celebrated its birthday at the Kingsport time-News' Kidspo, a children's fair. We gave birthday cake to several hundred people and helped children make a book mark. Volunteers were on hand to read books to children. This was a new event and probably will grow over the next few years.

Our returned books have been distributed to several pre-schools, the Speech and Hearing Clinic, to a Christmas party for homeless families and the Food Pantry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with these events.

Adair Murdoch

## **Fund Raising Committee Report 2008**

Fund raising was more challenging in 2008 than it had been in earlier years.

Half of the eight grants written were funded: Bank of Tennessee for \$500, United Company for \$1,000, Speedway Children's Charities for \$6,000 and King Pharmaceuticals donated \$2,500.

Our new fund raising events at Books-A-Million were very successful. The first one on the "Tax Free" Saturday in August raised \$683.00 and the second series of days right before Halloween generated a donation of \$365.37.

On November 11 Chef Richard from the Southeastern Culinary & Hospitality College and the Bristol Herald Courier presented a Cooking School at Viking Hall. We partnered with the Imagination Library group from Bristol and Washington County, VA. Our share of the silent auction raised \$572. Our check from the newspaper for the admissions will total about \$100 since the attendance was low and we did not receive any money from the student tickets. All expenses were donated.

Our "No-Show Gala" brought in donations of \$1277. The printing cost and postage were donated.

Jan Miles,  
Fund Raising Chair

## 2008 HONOR ROLL

### SILVER BOOK

Carrie M. Schwartz

### PURPLE BOOK

Eastman Chemical Foundation  
Speedway Children's Charities

### YELLOW BOOK

Evelyn & Jack Bales  
Books-A-Million  
Citizens Bank  
Eastman Credit Union  
Edwards & Associates  
Holston Medical Group  
John McKamey  
King Pharmaceuticals  
Jan Miles  
Charlotte & Jack Thweatt  
UC Charitable Foundation

### WHITE BOOK

Bank of Tennessee  
East TN Foundation

### BLUE BOOK

Alpha Delta Kappa - Alpha Phi  
John Andrew  
John Bellamy  
Bristol VA Professional Fire Fighters  
Kay & Earl Brown  
Thomas & Patricia Caldwell  
John & Gail Campbell  
Enterprise United Methodist  
Church  
First Baptist Church Fidelis  
Class in memory of Jimmy & Arthur  
Cress, Lucille Collins, Ruth Bowles,  
Conley & Polly Niel, Emma Laws,  
and Ken Culbertson  
S.L.Furches in honor of Susan & Bob  
Hoover  
Girl Scout Brownie Troop 246  
Gravelly Ruritan Club  
Chris & Anna Manley  
Herb & Nedra McChrystal  
Wanda McLellan  
Newcomers Club of Bristol

Optimist Club of Colonial Heights  
Optimist Club of Piney Flats  
Piney Flats Community Chest  
Piney Flats Ruritan Club  
Settler's Life Insurance Co.  
South Holston Ruritan Club  
St. Paul's Day School  
Wellmont Health System  
Mary Jo Wolfe

### ORANGE BOOK

AAUW  
Boone Tree Library Association  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Brogden  
Charlotte & Curtis Burnette  
George & Emily Caflisch  
Central Heights F. C. E. in memory  
of Jeanette Snapp  
Wade & Lisa Childress  
Frances Cottrell  
Raymond & Margaret Feierabend  
Barbara Foust  
David & Ellen Gross in memory  
of Juanita Booher  
Susan Hilton  
Susan & Bob Hoover  
Shirley B. Jackson  
Judy Lester  
Chris & Anna Manley  
Jon & M'Liss Mather  
Sherman D. Schwartzberg  
Gary & Brenda Simmons  
Eugenia Smith  
William & Anita Tanzer  
Three Arts Study Club  
Joan Williams

### IN KIND

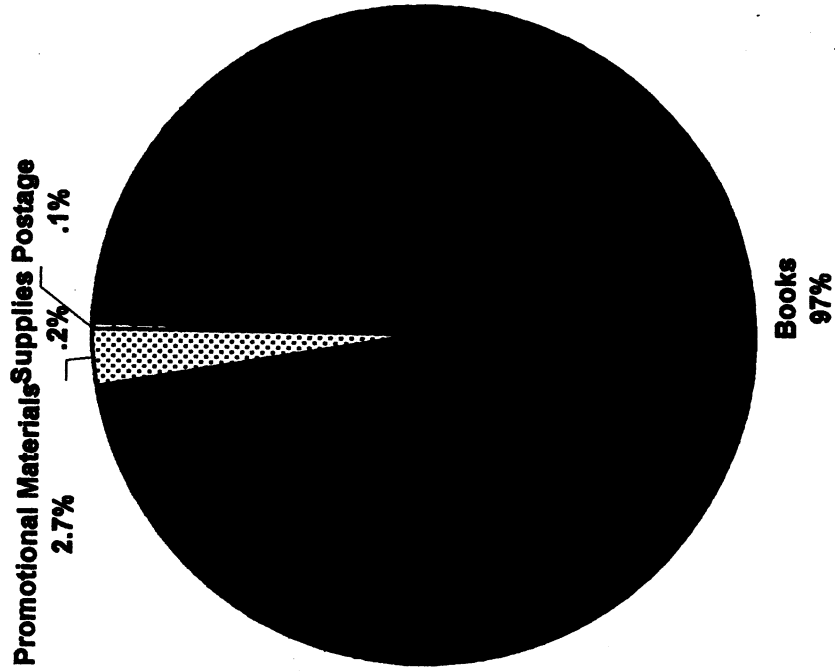
Chef Richard Erskine  
Saratoga Technologies  
Southeast Culinary & Hospitality  
College  
YWCA in Bristol

### MEDIA SPONSORS

Bristol Herald Courier  
Kingsport Times-News  
WCYB  
WJHL  
WKPT



## 2008 EXPENSES



## 2008 INCOME

