

## Friends of Kansas Libraries (FoKL) is Continuing Their Award Program

by Andrea Sobba, Director, Garnett Public Library

Start the new year off right, resolve to recognize that wonderful volunteer or Friends group. Vow that you will finally get that special project accomplished this year. Now, you make think this is as hard as losing weight or giving up a bad habit. Not so. Friends of Kansas Libraries is here to help make sure you achieve your resolutions!



How can you recognize that wonderful volunteer who always gives so much time and energy helping make your library a wonderful community asset? Nominate them for the Kansas Friends Awards given by the Friends of Kansas Libraries. The individual award is \$50 to the Friends group of their choice, a recognition certificate and a personal membership to Friends of Libraries USA.

Do you have an outstanding Friends group that deserves recognition? You can nominate them for a Kansas Friends Group Award. Four group awards will be given based on the service population of the library. The winners will receive a \$100 cash award, a framed award certificate, and a personal membership to FOLUSA for the Friends group president.

What about that special project that your group has been talking about but never quite got off the ground due to financial constraints? Apply for a FoKL Challenge Grant and you might be well on your way.

FoKL Challenge Grants are designed to help your Friends group:

- Build support in the community for the library
- Encourage gifts, endowments, bequests and memorials to the library
- Enhance the image, materials, services and facilities of the library by undertaking specific projects on its behalf
- Maintain itself as an association of individuals, civic organizations, businesses or other groups interested in the library
- Create public awareness of the activities of the Friends of the library and encourage participation in the organization.

Applicants for the Library Programming Grant and Friends Development Grant must provide at least 50% of their total project costs in cash or with in-kind contributions. A \$1,000 project, for example, could be funded with \$500 from FoKL and \$500 from the requesting group.

February 15, 2008, is the application deadline for the awards and grants. Forms are available on the website at [www.fokl.net](http://www.fokl.net). If you have questions, please e-mail [garnettlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:garnettlibrary@yahoo.com) or call Andrea at 785/448-3388.