



□ *Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories concerning organizations that benefit the Imperial area. Volunteering in a community, through organizations, is a way to pay back for the benefits that the community offers an individual.*

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

In many aspects, the public library is the cultural center of a town. It provides education, information, entertainment, local history, computer access, movies, a comfortable reading place and more.

But sometimes a library needs some extra help, other than, say, city financing.

In Imperial, that's where the Lied Imperial Public Library Friends of the Library come in.

The group, numbering 14 at present, was reactivated the summer of 2006, after an inactive period of a number of years.

One of the main purposes of the organization is to raise money for things the library might need that are not in the city's budget.

The first fund-raiser the new group sponsored was a potato bake during the November 2006 Chamber of Commerce craft and art show.

Since then it has hosted a used book sale yearly and a quilt auction every three years.

Members have also volunteered at The Imperial Theatre and at the library, and help landscape around the building in the spring.

All money raised by The Friends of the Library goes into the Library Foundation's 501(c)3 fund. It doesn't cost anything to become a member. For more information contact Chairman Joan Wenzlick at (308) 882-5235.