



Open the door to knowledge

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## Frequently Asked Questions about Josephine Community Libraries

Doug Walker, President ❖ Corin Goodwin, Vice President ❖ Dennis Doyle, Treasurer ❖ Nick Morgan, Secretary

### THE LIBRARIES

**Q: What is the mission of Josephine Community Libraries?**

**A:** The mission of Josephine Community Libraries is to open and operate the libraries in Josephine County for generations to come.

**Q: When do you expect to reopen the libraries?**

**A:** The hope is to open sometime in 2008. This will depend on how quickly we can raise the necessary funding.

**Q: Will all the library branches open in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek?**

**A:** This is the goal, but again, this depends on the success of fundraising.

**Q: I thought the libraries were already reopened in October 2007?**

**A:** You're thinking of the Jackson County library system, which indeed reopened in October, after also closing in May. Jackson County hired the private for-profit company LSSI to operate their libraries. Unfortunately, the closest Jackson County library is the Rogue River branch. Only residents of Jackson County may obtain a library card to check out materials.

### THE ORGANIZATION

**Q: Who is part of this library reopen effort?**

**A:** There are currently more than 200 volunteers involved, more than 50 of whom are serving on committees. They are parents, retired people, librarians, business professionals, writers, educators, members of the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library, and more. We have more than 900 concerned citizens on our mailing list.

**Q: What organization is being proposed to operate the library system?**

**A:** The organization is a private nonprofit corporation established in September 2007 to operate the library. In May 2008 we received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS, so we are qualified as a charitable organization to receive tax-deductible contributions.

**Q: Who is leading this effort?**

**A:** Since November 2007, the organization has been lead by a board of directors consisting of 12 community leaders. This board is supported by an operations, budget, legal, fundraising, and other committees.

**Q: Who is on your board of directors?**

**A:** Brady Adams of Evergreen Federal Bank, retired engineer Charles Brown, Judy Christensen of the Library Foundation, Dennis Doyle CPA, retired manager Susan Ellsworth, Corin Goodwin of Gifted Homeschoolers Forum, Bill Kangas of the Grants Pass City Council, retired attorney David Mannix, writer Nick Morgan, Bill Peterson of Copeland Companies, educator Elayne Smith, and retired general contractor Doug Walker.

**Q: How can I learn more about Josephine Community Libraries?**

**A:** Visit our Web site at [www.josephinelibrary.org](http://www.josephinelibrary.org). You can also attend board meetings and committee meetings. Check the Web site for times and locations.

**Q: How can we contact you?**

**A:** Reach us by calling 541-660-6531, e-mailing [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org), or writing to P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass, Oregon 97528.

**Q: What's the history of Josephine Community Libraries?**

**A:** On July 16, 2007, Kevin Widdison, city editor of the Grants Pass Daily Courier, published an editorial entitled "A library awaits, if we're willing" in which the community was challenged to start its own library. A steering committee and various subcommittees were formed. Since that time, the group formed a private nonprofit charitable organization to reopen and operate the libraries in Josephine County.

On September 21, Josephine Community Libraries was incorporated. On November 27, the first official board of directors was installed. In May 2008, the organization received 501(c)(3) tax-deductible status.

**Q: What is your relationship with Josephine County?**

**A:** We are a non-governmental private nonprofit organization made up of community volunteers working to reopen the libraries in Josephine County. In addition to partnering with a variety of groups in the community—including businesses and service organizations—we hope to work with Josephine County, which maintains the library buildings and materials. The Board of County Commissioners has informed us that when we raise \$200,000, we will be able to enter into negotiations with them about the use of the buildings and materials.

## FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Q: How much money needs to be raised to reopen the libraries?**

**A:** The Budget Committee has developed a sustainable budget for the next three years of operation. It is estimated that it will take the equivalent of \$600,000 to \$800,000 in cash, in-kind donations, and volunteer labor annually to run the four branches at a minimal yet professional level. We plan to take a phased approach in reopening the libraries, opening branches and adding services as we get closer to our fundraising goal.

**Q: How will you raise so much money?**

**A:** Our primary source will be the membership model, in which individuals purchase library memberships, renewable annually at different levels of commitment. We're also pursuing corporate sponsorships and grants.

**Q: Does library membership mean that only paying members will be able to use the library?**

**A:** No, the library membership model would be similar to that used by public broadcasting. Members make their contributions, but anyone can use the library.

**Q: How can I become a member?**

**A:** Checks can be made out to "Josephine Community Libraries" and mailed to Josephine Community Libraries, P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass, OR 97528. You can pay with a credit or debit card using PayPal from our Web site at [www.josephinelibrary.org](http://www.josephinelibrary.org). You can also set up monthly direct-deposit contributions.

**Q: What happens to the money raised if you don't reach your goal?**

**A:** According to our by-laws, if Josephine Community Libraries should dissolve, all assets are to be transferred to a nonprofit organization that benefits libraries in Josephine County. Our commitment is for this to be a nongovernmental organization such as the Library Foundation.

**Q: How can I get involved?**

**A:** Sign up on our contact list or send e-mail to [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org) to receive our regular email newsletter about our progress. You can also volunteer your time and expertise. Note that by signing up on our contact list, you are giving us permission to contact you by phone or by e-mail. Your information will be held in the strictest confidence, and it will not be shared with any other party.