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**Donna W. Howell  
Director**

27 January 2010

FOGL Board c/o Lyn Hopper  
Georgia Public Library Service  
1800 Century Place, Suite 150  
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304

Dear FOGL Board:

I am pleased to nominate the Friends of Union County Library for the FOGL Fabulous Friends Award. I believe they live up to that billing 100%! The Friends of Union County Library (UCFOL) have been a major source of support for the Union County Public Library since their founding on April 23, 1996. They have formed a remarkable network within the Union County Community – individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and elected officials – and it works so beautifully!

The UCFOL recognizes every library staff member on their birthday with a personalized basket. The United Community Bank underwrites and coordinates this from lists of personal preferences from each employee collected by the Friends.

They are always ready to lend a hand with volunteer services or materials. When the library suffered water damage due to a catastrophic roof failure, they needed box fans to dry carpets and a freezer to salvage wet books. One phone call to a Friends member garnered more than a dozen fans and a donation of a freezer from Home Depot within the hour.

The UCFOL annually supports the Summer Reading Program and Teen Movie Nights with materials, craft supplies, performers, refreshments, prizes, and volunteers to assist with programs.

They provide packets through the Books for Babies Program to the Union General Hospital for the families of newborns. Their reach is far greater than Union County as this hospital provides the only comprehensive delivery program in the area.

The members of UCFOL have exhibited a remarkable creativity in their fund-raising efforts. Some of their projects include:

- Trash & Treasure sales
- Live & silent auctions, with a majority of local businesses contributing
- Bass fishing tournaments on Lake Nottely
- Benefit tour of home in conjunction with the Nottely Homeowner's Association
- Benefit tour of Misty Mountain Model Railroad
- Collecting a mile of pennies (They have collected more than \$1,100 in pennies!)
- Benefit nights at Brother's Restaurant where the library gets a percentage of sales and the UCFOL provides labor

In support of plans for a renovation and addition project, the UCFOL were instrumental in getting the word out about the library portion of the county-wide capital SPLOST. They also contacted state legislators in support of the project and helped secure a state capital outlay grant to fully fund the project. They set a goal of raising \$20,000 to fund the LEAF (Library Enrichment And Furnishings) project to furnish and equip the children's area in the newly renovated library. They have already exceeded this goal and are still working!

The members of UCFOL are some of the most dedicated, caring, enthusiastic, tireless, creative and intelligent people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. They are always there for our Union County Public Library. I can't imagine any more Fabulous Friends!

Sincerely,

*Donna Howell*