

Volunteers are the library's "village"

By Gloria Wright, President,
Friends of the Clinton-Quisenberry Library

We all have heard the saying: "It takes a village." Well, in the case of the Clinton-Quisenberry Library, this is quite true. In addition to the knowledgeable and dedicated staff and the work of the Friends of the Library, there is a group of people who work quietly behind the scenes, the volunteers.

Betty Barber retired from what is now Regions Bank after forty-five years of service. She started as a teller and advanced to operations and branch manager. After her retirement, not wanting to stay home and do nothing but watch television, she started volunteering at the A. E. Wood Library on Clinton Boulevard when the security system for books was implemented. The system is a sticker that sounds an alarm when books are taken out of the library without being checked out. She also helped to implement the placing of CDs and DVDs in plastic cases. Presently, she places stickers identifying books by category and author, adding security stickers and adding packets for library cards. This procedure is also performed on CDs and DVDs. She reviews donated books to replace shelved books when needed. Betty loves baseball and is a Yankees and Braves fan.

Sister Caitlin Parkinson and **Sister Rachel Carr**, both missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, are on an eighteen-month assignment in Mississippi and Louisiana. Both are students at BYU. Sister Parkinson is majoring in genetics and biotech genomics and is planning to work in pharmaceutical research. Sister Carr is majoring in nursing and plans to work in a newborn intensive care unit. Asked about their volunteering at the library, they say their mission is to serve the community where they are assigned.

As volunteers, they help laminate books to preserve them, assist with shelving and help with reading during story time. They say the library is their favorite place to volunteer because they have developed great relationships with the staff, and they meet new people.

Katherine Hand retired after thirty years as a K-to-12 school librarian in Oklahoma and Tennessee. She is an adjunct faculty member at Belhaven University, where she teaches online courses. She is also a member of the Friends of the Library. Katherine shares that she volunteers because when she was new to Clinton, she wanted to get to know people and be useful. She is also a huge believer in libraries. Because of her career as a librarian, Katherine is able to assist in any area where help is needed.

Jim Busby, a Clinton resident since the fourth grade, served four years in the Air Force. He retired from Millsaps College after twenty-six years in the maintenance department. On his frequent trips to the library, Jim observed litter on the grounds and made his mission to keep the grounds litter free. You may see him walking around with a four-gallon bucket, picking up litter and doing his part to keep our library looking good.

Grant Heath, a senior at Clinton High School, is a member of the show choir and a member of Boy Scout Troop 345. For his Eagle Scout project, Grant wanted to do something to benefit the community and make the library a comfortable place to visit, so he chose to renovate the benches around the lake at the back of the library.

So, the next time you visit our library, enjoy the clean trails, sit on the pretty benches, or choose a book that has been processed for borrowing, remember the volunteers and staff who make the Clinton-Quisenberry Library a special place.



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