

The Story of the Round Top Family Library

Once upon a time, there was a sleepy little town called Round Top, nestled in rolling hills near the historic birthplace of Texas. Settlers of German origin, craftsmen and merchants with no frontier experience, faced many hardships in the wild frontier when they arrived in the mid 1800's to found that little hamlet.



One of those early settlers built a thick-walled stone and mortar house in the 1870s which is now called the "Rummel House." 130 years later that sturdy old building and the two acres surrounding it became the Round Top Children's Library. In those days, though amazing arts attractions for adults had sprung up all around the little town, the local schools could not afford music and arts curriculum. The tiny library was founded to give local children an opportunity to expand their horizons and enrich their self-expression.



Over the years, a partnership began between the Round Top Library and local schools that brought music and the arts to all the children of North Fayette County. This in itself was a miracle. Round Top was, and still is, the smallest town in Texas with a full service public library.

Then one day another miracle happened. While driving through rural Texas a volunteer found an old building, a deserted Lutheran Church that was being used as a hay barn. Through an unlikely series of new miracles, the leaders of the Library were able to purchase the old structure, move it to Round Top in seven pieces, and restore it into a beautiful landmark for the whole community.



The donors who made that possible were Sterling and Marianne McCall, two of the first of many generous souls who helped that tiny library turn into an important resource that now serves a broad and diverse community in Fayette and surrounding counties.

Before long, it became clear to the Library's leadership that the little institution was becoming more of a community center than just a public library. Its programs not only included a variety of educational and enrichment activities for children, but programs for adults. free public WIFI, yoga classes, a popular lecture series, then computer instruction and other classes for seniors appeared.

Programs for underserved communities, like English as a second language courses, joined the curriculum. A great number of committed volunteers maintain the Library's expansive gardens and support its many programs. Grants and private donors created the area's first public playground. The historic Rummel House was fully restored and has become an Activity Center shared by the regional community. That little library, not so tiny any more, had outgrown its facilities once again.



Please help us keep the miracles coming!

Name:

Contact Email:

Contact Phone #:

Lots #(s) Reserved:

Would you like a representative of the Library to contact you?	YES	NO
Would you be interested in a naming opportunity?	YES	NO
Are you interested in funding special programs?	YES	NO
Are you interested in being part of our fundraising team?	YES	NO
Is there a way you would like to participate that is not covered here?	YES	NO

Amount of Gift:

If requested, a Library representative will contact you when you return this form.

Round Top Family Library

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 Email - info@ilovetoread.org

Round Top Family Library

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT FUND



Help Us Grow!

The Round Top Library Association
 A 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Organization



Get in on the Land Rush!

Choose a lot on the Library grounds grid that fits your budget. Invest in prime Round Top real estate that will keep giving great returns to the community for years to come. Lots available from \$500 to \$5,000.

Prime lots are still available for sponsorship. Don't Delay!

For more information about sponsorships and naming opportunities, call one of the following staff members or volunteers:

Vicki Larue
512-658-8155

Ed Ellis
713-542-2857

Christopher Travis
979-249-5961

Barbara Smith - Director
979-249-2700



In the entry foyer of the Sterling and Marianne McCall Library Building is a permanent recognition of those who contributed to our 2014 Capital Campaign. The funds raised paid off all debt on our land and buildings. It also paid for a total restoration of the Rummel Haus Activity Center, including its beautiful new kitchen, meeting and dining facility that is available to all for special community and private events.



These people helped us grow to serve our community even better.

You can too!



Where will the money go?

While the Library always could use more money for operations, contributions for the Facilities fund will be used for these three targeted goals:

1. To provide "dark sky" parking lot lights in our main parking lot. (This is a naming opportunity - \$15,300.00)

Our programs are now extending into the evening hours. Our seniors don't feel safe in the dark.

2. Paving the main and Rummel House parking lots. (This is a naming opportunity - \$50,000.00)

In case you haven't noticed, our parking areas are getting washed out and bumpy. We want to fix that problem permanently.

3. We have received a \$100,000.00 pledge for a new community center annex to be built on the back of the main library building. While that's a great start, it's not quite enough.. (This is also a naming opportunity - We need to raise \$200,000 to \$250,000 more.)

We are currently in the process of doing a feasibility study and creating preliminary designs for a new community center annex. Our programs have expanded beyond our ability to serve them on campus.

We also want to host community activities like movie nights, community events for up to 100 people, lectures, theatre, musical events, web-based group learning and young person's performances.

If you can't make a gift, we would love to have more team members who are willing to approach those who can.