

FRIENDS OF UPPER TAMPA BAY REGIONAL LIBRARY

By Maureen B. Gauzza, President

Web site: uppertampabaylibrary.org

On Saturday, January 8th, 2005 over 400 plus citizens came out to welcome the UTB Regional Public Library that has moved into the UTB Neighborhood! What a great welcome this long awaited Library received! There are not enough adjectives to describe the day, or how fantastic a building the UTB Library is to finally have in the UTB Area! The UTB Library will be well used by all ages and it will be one of the busiest Libraries in Hillsborough County.

It was one year and one month after the Groundbreaking Ceremony in December 2004 that the doors of the Library opened! Commissioner Jim Norman and Commissioner Ken Hagan attended to join us in the celebration, and we thank them for all of their support. Other distinguished guests who came to celebrate the Dedication and opening of the Library were Representatives Culp and Ambler. It was awesome to see so many people visiting on Opening Day, and they were all eager to use their Library Cards. Remember, when you use your Library Card at UTB for the first time, let the Librarian know UTB Library is your "Primary Library".

To all of the Board, Executive Committee and members of the Friends of UTB Regional Library Chapter that have helped us to accomplish our Mission of establishing a Library to serve all in the UTB Area, thank you for all of your help and support for the last 4 ½ years. We look forward to your continued support, and there is still much to be accomplished.

Special thanks to the following: Angle & Schmid Construction who accomplished building the facility on time even though they had the extra challenges of four unexpected Hurricanes named Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jean, trying to visit the area. Sol Fleischman and Mark Smith of Fleischman-Garcia who were the Architects for this fantastic building. Hillsborough County Architect Department and Project Manager Israel Grajales. To all of Library Services people that were involved. Some extremely busy Library Services people were Suzy George, Jean Peters, Jodi Cohen and Joe Stines coordinating all of the multiple details in order to get the Library building up and ready for operation. On moving in day December 27th our Librarian Jodi Cohen and Staff found many volunteers coming in to help place books on the shelves. This great team effort made it possible to open this marvelous facility on time. There is not enough space in this column to include all of the names. So to all who helped -- thank you!

We thank the members of the Friends of UTB who volunteered their time to make this a special day for all, and were there hours ahead of time setting up the food before everyone else arrived. We appreciate the generous donations of food from the following: Catch Twenty-three of West Park Village, Bellissimo of West Park Village, McDonald's of Westchase, Party Pages, Publix, Westchase Community Association, Inc., Friends of the Library Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc.