



# August 2025 Newsletter



The past month has been a rollercoaster for many of our members. At its July 16 meeting, the Moorpark City Council postponed a decision on awarding the construction contract for the New Moorpark City Library until a Special Council meeting on August 6. As you may know, the construction bids came in about 10%—or \$3 million—above the estimate made in 2023.

In the weeks leading up to August 6, MFOTL and the Moorpark Women’s Club joined forces to rally library supporters. We spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues—urging them to attend the August 6 meeting, email the Council, speak at the meeting, and write letters to the editor of the *Moorpark Acorn*—all to emphasize the critical importance of showing strong community support for this long-awaited project.

And we succeeded! On August 6, more than 100 people packed the Council Chamber—every chair was filled, extra chairs were brought in, and still some were left standing. Many spoke movingly about what the library has meant to them, and it was inspiring to hear from community members—many unaffiliated with MFOTL or the Women’s Club—who recognized the library’s potential to benefit our entire city, from local businesses to schools to cultural and entertainment venues.

With the Council’s unanimous vote to award the construction contract for the New Library, we can now look forward to groundbreaking and the start of construction. More details will come as the City moves into the next phase. Thank you all for your unwavering support of our well-loved library!

The Moorpark Friends of the Library are about more than books (important as they are!). We are also interested in promoting the arts, music, and literacy in all forms of culture. In that vein, we encourage you to attend the upcoming performance by the Moorpark Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, September 27. For information and to purchase tickets click the link [here](#). We know it will be a lovely experience for the ear and spirit!

Bernadette McDowell  
President, Moorpark Friends of the Library



## New Library Progress



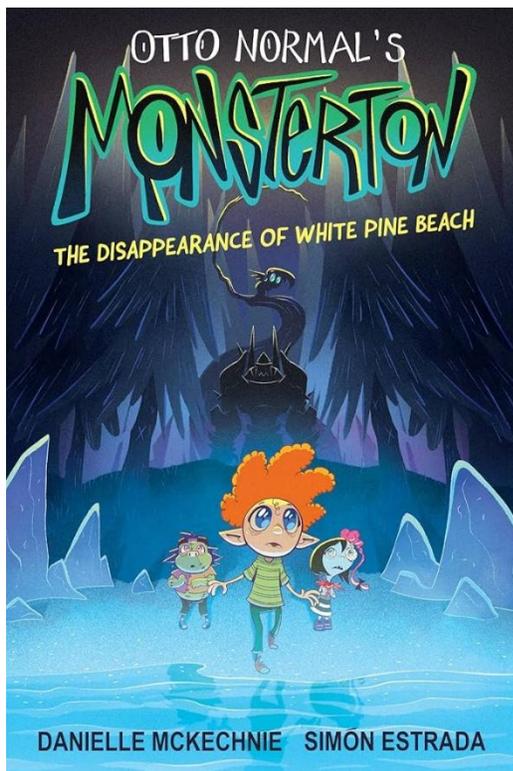
On August 6, 2025, the Moorpark City Council formally approved a contract for construction of the new Moorpark City Library. This milestone marks the culmination of years of planning, outreach, fiscal preparation, and community support, and brings the City one step closer to realizing the vision of a new, modern City Library serving residents and drawing visitors to a revitalized downtown area. Construction of the Library is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2025.

We Friends and other supporters have been enjoying and celebrating this wonderful pivotal time in the history of our New Library, and what a difference a day (and a half) makes! Check here for updates on the next stages as we move ever closer to stepping through the south and north doors into this beautiful new, special place for our community.

To find more detailed information on the project progress follow the City's project page: [www.moorparkca.gov/yourlibrary](http://www.moorparkca.gov/yourlibrary)

~Rosalie Barili

## Special Event at the Library!



Tuesday, September 9, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Meet the author, illustrator, and composer of Otto Normal's Monsterton book series: Danielle McKechnie, Simon Estrada, and Evan Duffy!

This is praised as a great series opener for middle-grade readers who enjoy spooky, charming stories with mystery and humor. Critics note the effective use of light and shadow in the illustrations and rich, detailed world-building, creating a complete reading experience.

All ages are welcome to come and enjoy this incredible book series and participate in storytelling, art, and music.

Don't miss this special and exclusive event!

~Emily Hickey

## BE OUR GUEST!

Do you know that anyone may attend a meeting of the MFOTL Board of Directors? We warmly welcome you to learn more about what MFOTL does to support the Moorpark City Library, especially as we move forward to our New Library!

Who: You and others who might be interested in joining us!

When: The 3rd Tuesday of every other month starting at 2 p.m.

Where: Conference Room of the Ruben Castro Human Services facility

How to Attend: Just pick your desired date and notify the board president at

MFOTLpresident@gmail.com three days before to receive information about attendance.

The next two meetings are scheduled for: September 16 & November 18.

## Marketing Update!

I hope you all have noticed the slight shift that we have made in marketing the MFOTL and the initiatives we are promoting. Most notably, we have stepped up our social media presence by posting multiple times per week on Facebook and Instagram. Additionally, we have been working with the Moorpark City Library's calendar of events to help promote and drive traffic and awareness to their incredible programming. **If you are not already following the Friends, please log into your Instagram and Facebook accounts and follow MFOTL.**



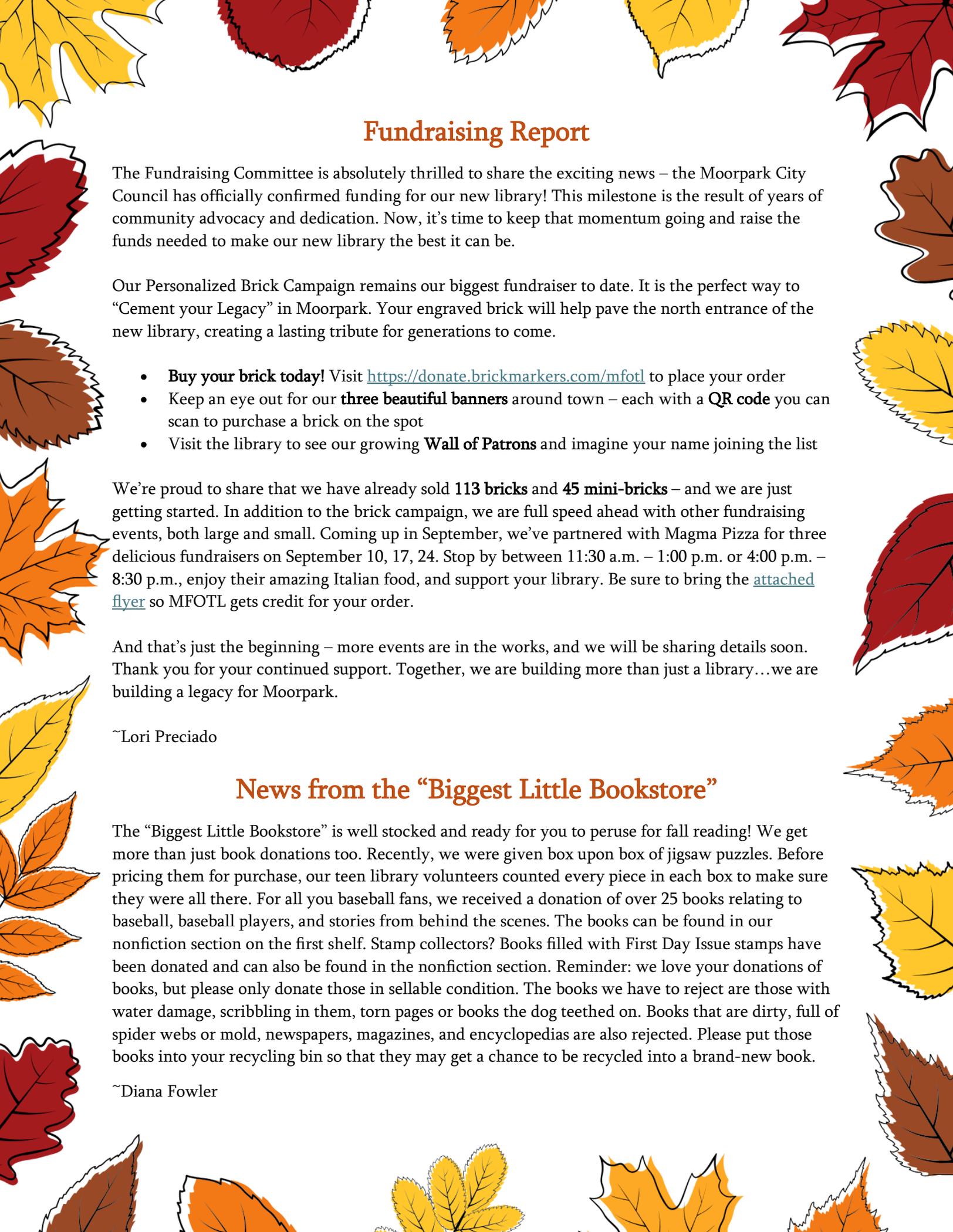
We have a student intern, Sophia, who has been outstanding in developing content, particularly in our effort to “Save the New Library” project. We’re looking forward to expanding her marketing skills and utilizing her creative strategies.

We have also transitioned some of our advertisements to be a little more graphic and less word heavy in hopes that we can attract attention and engagement quicker. And, in the upcoming months, we’ll be putting our sassy pants on to add humor to our brick fundraising campaign.

Did you tune in to the City Council Meeting on August 6 because you saw a post on Facebook or Instagram? Did you see our flyer posted in local businesses or at the library? What about the flyer pictured in the *Moorpark Acorn*? Did you notice all of the amazing speakers’ book-themed t-shirts? It was all carefully planned by library supporters to drive the result that we wanted - pushing forward with the new Moorpark City Library...now, that’s the power of strategic marketing.

What’s next for MFOTL marketing? We’re experimenting with paid ad campaigns to drive traffic to our fundraisers, new fundraising opportunities and creating new partnerships that will help promote our messaging and grow our opportunities to help the library!

~Emily Hickey



## Fundraising Report

The Fundraising Committee is absolutely thrilled to share the exciting news – the Moorpark City Council has officially confirmed funding for our new library! This milestone is the result of years of community advocacy and dedication. Now, it's time to keep that momentum going and raise the funds needed to make our new library the best it can be.

Our Personalized Brick Campaign remains our biggest fundraiser to date. It is the perfect way to “Cement your Legacy” in Moorpark. Your engraved brick will help pave the north entrance of the new library, creating a lasting tribute for generations to come.

- **Buy your brick today!** Visit <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/mfotl> to place your order
- Keep an eye out for our **three beautiful banners** around town – each with a **QR code** you can scan to purchase a brick on the spot
- Visit the library to see our growing **Wall of Patrons** and imagine your name joining the list

We're proud to share that we have already sold **113 bricks** and **45 mini-bricks** – and we are just getting started. In addition to the brick campaign, we are full speed ahead with other fundraising events, both large and small. Coming up in September, we've partnered with Magma Pizza for three delicious fundraisers on September 10, 17, 24. Stop by between 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., enjoy their amazing Italian food, and support your library. Be sure to bring the [attached flyer](#) so MFOTL gets credit for your order.

And that's just the beginning – more events are in the works, and we will be sharing details soon. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are building more than just a library...we are building a legacy for Moorpark.

~Lori Preciado

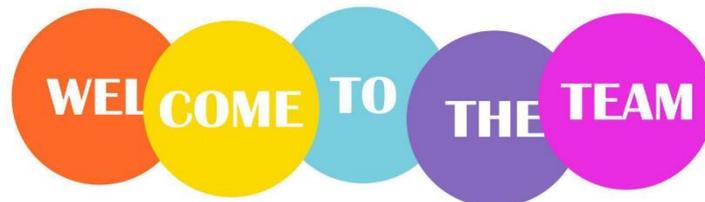
## News from the “Biggest Little Bookstore”

The “Biggest Little Bookstore” is well stocked and ready for you to peruse for fall reading! We get more than just book donations too. Recently, we were given box upon box of jigsaw puzzles. Before pricing them for purchase, our teen library volunteers counted every piece in each box to make sure they were all there. For all you baseball fans, we received a donation of over 25 books relating to baseball, baseball players, and stories from behind the scenes. The books can be found in our nonfiction section on the first shelf. Stamp collectors? Books filled with First Day Issue stamps have been donated and can also be found in the nonfiction section. Reminder: we love your donations of books, but please only donate those in sellable condition. The books we have to reject are those with water damage, scribbling in them, torn pages or books the dog teethed on. Books that are dirty, full of spider webs or mold, newspapers, magazines, and encyclopedias are also rejected. Please put those books into your recycling bin so that they may get a chance to be recycled into a brand-new book.

~Diana Fowler

## Spotlight on Two “New” MFOTL Board Members

It’s my pleasure to introduce two recently appointed members of our MFOTL Board: **Eleanor Villanueva**, our new Website Director, and **Emily Hickey**, our new Marketing Director. Eleanor previously served as Assistant Director of Membership, while Emily joins us as a brand-new member of MFOTL.



**Eleanor Villanueva** has a rich and varied background in nursing, having served in leading hospitals such as Mount Sinai, as an assistant clinical professor at UCLA’s School of Nursing, and as a clinical nurse specialist with Kaiser Permanente Southern California. During her career, she participated in various research projects, co-authored nursing journal articles, and presented at national conferences. Her dedication and leadership have been recognized with numerous honors, including Outstanding Alumni in Education Award, Distinguished Award for Technology and Informatics, and various awards for leadership, team excellence, and special recognition.

Now retired, Eleanor continues to serve her community—teaching Sunday school, supporting homeless outreach programs, tutoring students, and sorting book donations at the MFOTL bookstore. She also enjoys a wide range of creative pursuits, from crocheting and jewelry-making to scrapbooking and photography. She and her husband treasure time with their son and two grandchildren and love traveling together, having visited many places in Europe and Africa.

**Emily Hickey** brings more than 20 years of marketing expertise spanning print, social, live event, and digital media. A creative problem-solver, she excels at building partnerships through strong networking skills and a talent for negotiation. Emily is eager to put her experience to work for MFOTL—amplifying fundraising efforts, streamlining communications, and creating even more opportunities to enhance library programming.

Outside of her professional life, Emily shares her home with her husband, trial attorney Geoff Hickey, and a houseful of furry family members. Her growing menagerie includes: two cats, three German Shepherds, three chickens, and a majestic 16.2-hand Andalusian horse—currently expecting a foal. She enjoys tennis, reading, board games, travel, and camping. An adventurous spirit, Emily once embarked on a 16-month solo backpacking journey around the world, visiting 26 countries across 6 continents.

We are thrilled to welcome Eleanor and Emily to their new Board positions and look forward to the expertise, creativity, and energy they bring to MFOTL.

~Bernadette McDowell

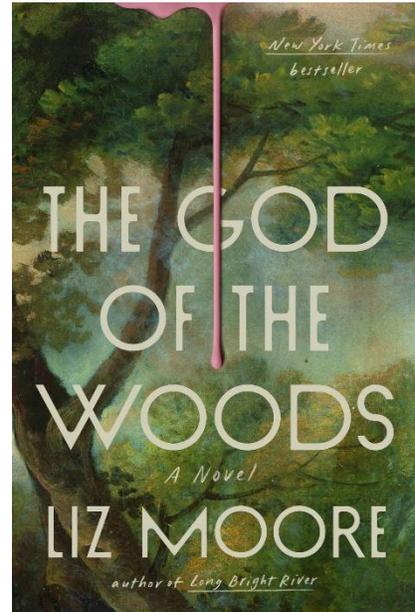
## What Are You Reading?

*The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore

Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barabara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found. As a panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds. This story chases down the layered mysteries of the Van Laar family and the blue-collar community living and working in its shadow.

I was a camp counselor in 1975, so this book brought me back to that time, although my camp experience was nothing like the story unraveled in this book. Each character introduced revealed new secrets that all intertwined into a deliciously good read. I highly recommend.

~Teri Glazier



## August and September Library Events!

### Children's Programs:

Storytime in the Parks – Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

August 28: Community Center Park

Pages & Paws – Mondays, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunshine Storytime – Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

### Teen Programs:

Pathfinder Society: A Roleplaying Tabletop Game ([register here](#)) – Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Crafty Teens – Third Saturday of every month, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Adult Programs:

Crafty Adults (ages 16+, [register here](#)) – First Thursday of the month, 2 p.m. or 6 p.m.

Read It & Eat It – Second Saturday of the month, 2 p.m.

Book Club for Adults – Second Monday of the month via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

September 8: *The Unsinkable Greta James* by Jennifer E. Smith

Genre Book Club – Fourth Thursday of the month, 6 p.m.

September 25: *Steampunk*, edited by Ann Vander Meer. Anthology of steampunk stories.

Writers' Group - Third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Jaime Richards at [writetorichards@gmail.com](mailto:writetorichards@gmail.com)



# Moorpark Friends of the Library Membership

Our many wonderful Friends!

## Benefactor (\$500 or more donation)

Rosalie Barili ~ Teri Glazier ~ Linda Goble ~ Yan Linn & Zin Myint ~  
Nicki Partain ~ Joe Tedder

## Premier (\$100-\$499 donation)

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Karly Rosalez  
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## Family (\$25-\$49 donation)

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Sunny Barton  
Chaya Blum  
Karen Bouvet  
Richard & Linnea Brecunier  
Melissa Conkey  
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Linda Elston  
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Jaime Luna  
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Ruth Richmond  
Karol & Andreas Rieder  
Shari Sullivan  
Richard & Elizabeth Towers  
Ute & Mark Van Dam  
Marsha & Stewart Wyler

## Individual (\$10-\$24 donation)

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Karen Blum  
Laura Burnett  
Jaye Depew  
Damian Gutierrez  
Evony Gutierrez

Andrea Lamberth  
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Website: [www.mfotl.com](http://www.mfotl.com)

## Board Members:

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