

## *Nourishing Literacy*

*ONE MEAL AT A TIME*



*One meal at a time*

*Nourishing Literacy* is a giving circle established to support the Shepherdstown, West Virginia, Public Library. Members of the community are coming together to form an ongoing, sustainable system for financially supporting the library and, by extension, enhancing the literacy of our local community. The library already has a Friends organization (FOSL) that supports the library financially with three annual fundraisers (Rumsey Radio Hour, Left of the Bank, and the Annual Book Sale). In addition, those involved in the capital campaign have been raising money through direct requests to individual donors as well as fund-raising events such as a Jane Austen tea party and a golf scramble.

The giving circle does not feature fundraising events for which we sell tickets. Nor does it solicit major occasional donations from individuals. Rather, it invites people to join together in a collective of sorts - a group of individuals willing to make *regular monthly contributions*. Whereas no single individual or family's monthly contribution may be large, the fact that there is a group of individuals contributing to a collective fund – literally putting their monies together – makes it possible to raise considerable amounts in a reliable manner.

Individuals and families are invited to join the giving circle by committing to an ongoing contribution equivalent to the cost of one dinner per month - hence the name, *Nourishing Literacy – One Meal at a Time*. For some, the monthly contribution might be \$50 to \$100; for others, it might be \$10, \$20 or \$30. Contributions may be made through automatic monthly credit card withdrawals.

*Nourishing Literacy* will be announced publicly on September 26, at the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence celebration featuring WV poet laureate Marc Harshman and WV writer Gretchen Moran Laskas. As part of the event, which will be held in the Robert C. Byrd Center at Shepherd University, the giving circle will be introduced. At the reception following the event we will have a table with additional information about the circle. Later in the year, the giving circle will host a reception with music and literary programming featuring local or regional writers.

*Nourishing Literacy* contributions are tax deductible, through the group's affiliation with the Shepherdstown Library.

Submitted on behalf of the Nourishing Literacy Committee: Linda Spatig, Jeffrey Gustafson, Winnie Bernat, Carolyn Rodis, and Rebecca Ayraud (Contact: Linda Spatig, [Spatig@marshall.edu](mailto:Spatig@marshall.edu) ; 304-617-5318)