

Why we must save the Chatham Bookmobile

By Jan Hutton

Recently, at a Literacy Council fundraiser luncheon, four renowned authors spoke eloquently about the importance of libraries and reading in their lives, as children and as adults. Losing one's self in a book can be a haven from a difficult life, a way to learn more about our world, a way to process our feelings and emotions. For many of us, growing up without a library nearby is unthinkable.

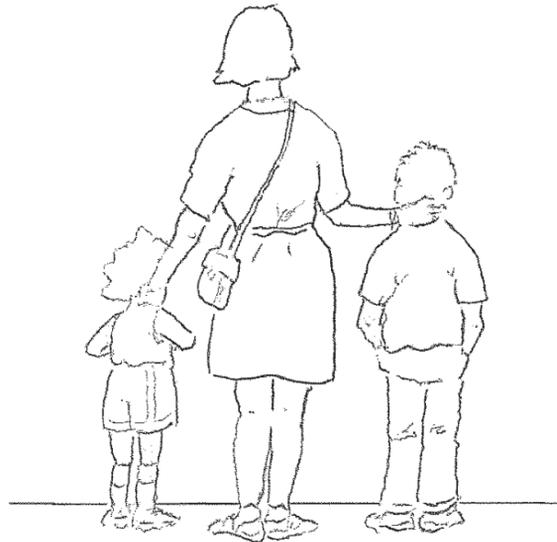
The Chatham County Bookmobile, a community resource since 1958, is being considered for elimination this coming budget cycle by the County Commissioners. While Pittsboro, Goldston, and Siler City each has a branch library, the rest of our large, sprawling county has the Bookmobile. The Bookmobile serves as the branch library for North Chatham, where 54 percent of the county's tax base lives. To use the new Pittsboro library, numerous taxpayers from North Chatham must drive 30–40 miles round trip. For many in our county, this trip is out of the question because of gas costs, time limitations and poor health. The Bookmobile services daycare centers, retirement and assisted living facilities and the outlying areas of Bennett, Bonlee and Moncure.

Many Bookmobile patrons have shared their personal concerns and poignant stories of how the Bookmobile's loss will negatively impact their lives and, yes, their quality of life. It is vital to remember that libraries ARE education, and should be supported in the same way that our schools are supported — as an invaluable EDUCATIONAL resource.

If the community is able to raise \$40,000, concerned citizens hope the Bookmobile can continue. Meeting this goal will allow the contingent of those who are deeply involved to write grants for the continuance of the Bookmobile in future years. A "bricks and mortar" branch library for North Chatham is years down the road, but the Bookmobile itself is completely paid for, owned by the county, and its operating budget is tiny considering its scope and utility.

They count on the Chatham County Bookmobile to be there for them.

What if it isn't?



Thank you for your timely consideration of this important issue.

Jan Hutton is a long-time patron of the Chatham Bookmobile. She works as a Facilitator for The Compassionate Listening Project, a non-profit: www.compassionatelisting.org

YES! I want to help save the bookmobile!

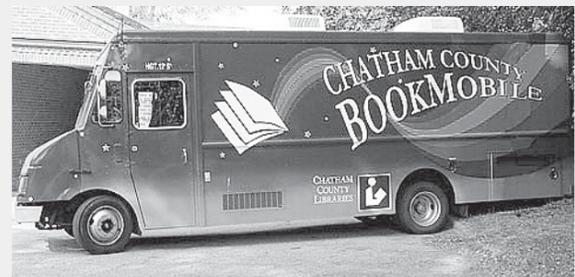
For a tax-deductible donation, please make your check payable to:
THE ABUNDANCE FOUNDATION, with Bookmobile on the memo line.

SEND TO:

Bookmobile c/o Abundance Foundation, 220 Lorax Lane #5, Pittsboro, NC 27312

TO PAY ONLINE: <http://theabundancefoundation.org/save-the-bookmobile>

If the entire amount is not raised, all donations will be refunded.



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