

Partnership for Pennies: A Heavy Responsibility

Running a high revenue fund-raising campaign is a heavy responsibility. The Rossmoor Library/Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) “Partnership for Pennies” effort—designed to help Rossmoorians get rid of their pennies before the U.S. Mint stops printing them early next year—is a clear case in point. Collecting these pennies occurs in four stages.

Stage One: RSF Trustees and Rossmoor Library officials solicit their friends, family, neighbors and neighborhoods.

Stage Two: Trustees and officials then take their collected pennies and empty them into the larger jar located on the Circulation Desk at the Rossmoor Library, into which regular library users have consistently been contributing their pennies since the campaign opened in July. (Don Egan, 98-year-old regular library user, brought in eight rolls of fifty pennies the other day, each marked by the year in which he had collected them. “The pennies from later years are probably worth less,” he teased librarians present. Library volunteers like Jackie Urick and Georgia Clima guard the larger jar, which filled up so quickly it is now impossible for one person to lift.

Stage Three: Because the jar is so heavy RSF trustees and Rossmoor Library officials have made it a practice to siphon off small amounts from this large jar into small containers so single individuals can take those smaller amounts to the bank. Once a week RSF trustees are taking these smaller sums to the Rossmoor Shopping Center Poppy Bank Branch.

Stage Four: Once in the bank, RSF trustees immediately give the money to Branch Manager James Pringle, who was kind enough to set up a bank account that would enable the RSF and the Library to deposit the money by machine counting the vast sums of pennies it was collecting, thus avoiding the need to pack all those pennies into fifty-cent sleeves.

So far, the four-stage process has gone smoothly. As of this writing the account has deposits of \$735 (that translates to 73,500 pennies). Because the campaign will continue for the next five months, Rossmoorians are encouraged to keep up the good work by continuing to donate their pennies. About the end of January, 2026, the campaign will close, and RSF and the Library will split the account down the middle. The Library will use its half to buy new books for all Rossmoorians to borrow; the RSF will place all the money into its scholarship fund, which will support qualifying Contra Costa County students from six high schools and two community colleges.

And why is all this fund-raising campaign such a “heavy responsibility”? One RSF trustee estimates that funding one \$3,500 scholarship will take a ton of pennies. Thanks to all who have contributed so far. A final report on the fund-raising campaign will be published in a future issue of the Rossmoor News.

Submitted by: Wayne a. Wiegand, RSF Trustee