

Ben Statham 31,187+ Lifetime Hours  
Linda Statham 10,729+ Lifetime Hours

### **Ben and Linda Statham**

Ben and Linda Statham have worked thirty-three + years as library volunteers an unprecedented run! The Stathams continue to state that the success of the Alpharetta Friends is a team effort. Ben has won every volunteer award we offer, and Linda has served as Treasurer and Secretary for over 30 years. The Alpharetta staff says that three words that come to mind with Ben and Linda are consistency, dedication and leadership. They are very passionate about education and literacy and believe that libraries can help change lives. Everything they do reflects these values. They are very special people, and we are so lucky to have worked with them.

“They are very dedicated to this branch, put in a lot of time and effort and love sharing their passion for books. They have huge hearts and are invaluable to both the community and to the library. Their years managing the FOTAL book sales have made possible countless new library programs and materials. Ben has recruited and managed a book sale volunteer force, giving people in the Alpharetta area (and beyond) who love books and libraries a chance to contribute to this community and be a part of something important. Thank you for being so consistent, giving many hours of service each week to create a successful book sale. They have distinguished themselves as much for the length of time served as well as for weekly hours logged. Just about every Fulton County Library’s Friends group have looked to Ben, Linda, and the Alpharetta FOTAL as Book Sale leaders. In addition, not only do other Friends Groups know about them, but the “regulars”-those people that enthusiastically return month after month know how special they are.

“During the first week of every month, in anticipation of FOTAL’s monthly book sale, Ben stacked and organized books and materials on meeting room bookshelves as well as outdoor lawn tables all as an effort to generate the highest revenue possible. For three weeks out of the month, on an almost daily basis, Ben sifted through the large volume of donations received to identify viable book cart sale materials. In addition, Ben spent an equal amount of time on the FOTAL Board and came up with a myriad of suggestions to ensure FOTAL best served the Alpharetta Library and the surrounding community. He is well known for his dedication to this library, as well as his kindness and droll sense of humor. He has collected more books than 100 people and some months, if it were not for Ben, FOTAL would be hard pressed to have a book sale. He has endeared himself to every volunteer and patron and staff. He is tireless in getting books into the collection and sold. He recruits volunteers wherever he goes - even at Costco he's talking up the library and the Friends organization. For sure, he has never met a book he didn't want to sell, fix or put on a shelf.