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Thu, 12/05/2013 - 2:07pm — testaj

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 25, 2013

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Introducing the Nickel City Professionals

Working Together with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries to Raise Awareness and Donations for the Library System

A group of Buffalo-based professionals have joined together to form the **Nickel City Professionals**, an organization dedicated to raising awareness and donations for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. The volunteers will plan and host fundraising events and activities together with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, in an effort to provide the Library Systems 37 branches with funds to underwrite programming for children and adults, as well as materials to support the nearly 15,000 Erie County residents who use the libraries daily.

Today, Nickel City Professionals is composed of 13 Buffalo-based volunteers, representing a diverse range of professional backgrounds. Last year, the group was responsible for planning the Library fundraiser "*What's Black and White and Read All Over?*" which raised nearly \$50,000 for system-wide children's literature and programming. The success of last year's event inspired the group to formalize themselves as a dedicated team that supports Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such strong leaders within the Nickel City Professionals committee and Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System staff," said Nickel City Professionals chairwoman Christina Pearl. "The passion of each and every one of our members is exceptional. Our main focus is to not only raise funds for library programs, but to spread the word about the importance and value of our public libraries, and the numerous resources they make available to everyone. It is a pleasure to work with such motivated and talented young leaders."

This year the Nickel City Professionals are planning the **Best Sellers** fundraising party, on Friday, November 22, 2013, at the Hotel @ The Lafayette, located next to the downtown Central Library in Lafayette Square. More than 300 are expected to attend the 21 and over event. A \$75 ticket (\$70 for tickets purchased prior to November 1st) will include valet parking, food stations, open bar, music, basket and silent auctions, free photo booth, wine wall and other fun surprises. Sponsors for the event include: *Buffalo Business First, the Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County, Cooper Planning Group, The Copy Store, First Niagara Foundation, Hadley Exhibits, William S. Hein & Co., Hodgson Russ, LLP, JM Management Services, Quality Bindery Services, Inc., Vascular Associates of WNY, Webster Szanyi LLP, and University Pediatric Dentistry.*

"We are so pleased the Nickel City Professionals have selected the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries as their organization of choice to promote and fundraise for," said Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "The Nickel City members are an enthusiastic group of individuals who have shown a true commitment and devotion to our libraries. Last year's event was extremely successful and we look forward to future endeavors which will benefit the residents of Erie County," Ms. Jakubowski concluded.

For more information about the Nickel City Professionals or the **Best Sellers** Party, please contact Maureen Germaine at 716-858-7197 or germainem@buffalolib.org, visit the group's [Facebook page](#) or visit <http://www.buffalolib.org/>

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