KENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY RECEIVES GRANT FOR REOPENING FUNDS

Press Release 6/9/20

(Kent, Connecticut) – The Kent Library Association is pleased to announce it has received a $6,300 grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund and the Northwest Corner Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. These funds will support the safe reopening of the Library’s facility, enhance the capacity to provide resources, and adapt the services to meet CDC guidelines. Funds will be used to purchase specialized cleaning supplies and hand sanitizing stations; absorb increased cleaning costs; make necessary social distancing adjustments such as installing plexiglass dividers around the circulation desk and between computer stations; enhance the digital media resource subscription to accommodate more patrons using the services virtually; upgrade internet hardware to improve wifi and connectivity; and, if all goes as we hope it will, adapt the summer children’s programs to operate outside the Library’s facility in a local playground.

“We are so grateful to the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund and the Northwest Corner Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation,” remarked Library Director Sarah Marshall, “Their support will help us to comply with the Governor’s Opening Guidelines,” she continued.

“Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to cancel our three major fundraisers for a loss of 42% of our projected income. Because of this generous grant, we won’t have to use operating funds to prepare the building for reopening. This grant will help provide a cleaner, safer environment for Library visitors once the state permits in-person visits to Libraries, more free streaming opportunities for Library card holders and better access to the internet in and outside the building,” Marshall added.

The Kent Memorial Library’s mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and the community by providing materials, programs, and services to encourage reading, learning and imagination. All Children’s programming for 2020 is sponsored by a generous gift in honor of Allan Priaulx. The Kent Memorial Library is located at 32 North Main Street, Kent, Connecticut, 860-927-3761. Visit kentmemoriallibrary.org for more information.

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