



News Release

Open the door to knowledge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2007

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Library supporters can give and receive donations for the holidays

GRANTS PASS, December 14, 2007—The private nonprofit corporation dedicated to reopening the region's libraries is asking supporters to consider contributions large and small to Josephine Community Libraries as part of their holiday gifting this year. Library supporters can give and receive donations to help reopen and operate the libraries in Josephine County.

"This is so much better than the same old ties and bath salts," said Virginia Collins, a member of the founding steering committee which has worked since August to help start up the new organization. "Everyone on my list is getting a donation to the library in their name...whether they like it or not," she added with a smile.

Checks can be made to "RCC Foundation / Josephine Community Libraries" and mailed to Josephine Community Libraries, P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass, OR 97528. The name of the person for whom the donation is made should be noted on the Memo line of the check.

Other library supporters are asking their loved ones for a library donation as their holiday gift. "I have all the stuff I need," said Teresa Stover, another volunteer for the effort. "What I really need is the library open again. I severely miss our library, and the resources it provided to our community."

As a technical writing consultant, an aspiring novelist, and avid reader, Stover used the library in a hundred different ways: to research technology and business resources, to gather information to ensure the accuracy of the scenes in her novel, and to read books on a wide variety of topics.

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"The library was like an extension to my own book collection, as well as an extension to what I could find on the Internet," she said. "I keep thinking of finding something at the library, only to remember once again that we have no library."

In May 2007, three of the four libraries throughout Josephine County, Oregon were closed due to lack of county funding. This included the Grants Pass main branch, the Cave Junction branch, and the Williams branch. The Wolf Creek branch opens once a week as a reading room to fulfill the requirements of a grant.

Josephine Community Libraries hopes to raise \$600,00 to \$1 million to open the four branches of the library at a minimal level of service in 2008. The board of directors expects to set up a membership structure similar to that of public broadcasting, in which library donors would make yearly contributions to provide for operations. The libraries would still be accessible to everyone at no charge.

Stover added, "We have so many wonderful things in Josephine County—a vibrant historical downtown area, the growers and crafters market, the GPHS Performing Arts Center, the Rogue Valley Symphony, several theatre companies, world class concerts, good museums, wonderful parks, and on and on. Amid all these wonderful treasures, we need to reopen our library again."

The mission of Josephine Community Libraries is to facilitate the opening and to ensure long-term operations of a public library system serving Josephine County, while adhering to its core values of integrity, credibility, and accountability. People interested in getting involved with the library effort can send an e-mail to info@josephinelibrary.org or visit www.josephinelibrary.org.

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Josephine Community Libraries, Inc.
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