



# News Release

Open the door to knowledge

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 31, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Jennifer Roberts, 441-3295  
Vickie Moore, 479-8199

## Businesses, artists join in support of libraries

Grants Pass, March 31, 2008 — More than a dozen downtown businesses and Grants Pass Growers' Market artisans have joined in an effort to raise money for the reopening of libraries in Josephine County.

For the month of April, each business or artisan designated a painting, piece of jewelry, sculpture or other item for a library fundraiser. If an item sells, 20 percent of the price will be donated to Josephine Community Libraries, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reopening and then operating libraries in the county.

Businesses and artisans will continue to designate items in following months for the ongoing fundraiser.

Visitors to downtown businesses or the Growers' Market on the corner of 4th and F Streets will see notices that let them know which items are part of the effort.

The fundraiser first kicked off in March with nine downtown businesses. They sold prints, paintings and a ceramic piece ranging in price from \$10 to \$80. The 20 percent donation from the sales totaled \$159.20.

Downtown businesses taking part in the fundraiser are Chet's Garden Center, Harper-Howell Gallery, The Glass Forge, Tierra del Sol, Treavor Barnes Fine Art & Tattoos, Blue Stone Bakery & Coffee Cafe, Treasured Memories Fine Art & Clocks, Heartsong, the Cat & The Fiddle toy shop and The Kitchen Company.

Many of the businesses will be open extended evening hours this Friday for April's First Friday Art Walk.

The Kitchen Company recently received a shipment of 36 Henckels forged paring knives and will donate 20 percent of every knife that sells in April and following months. The knives cost \$24.95 each.

—more—

Chet's Garden Center will donate 100 percent of the price of a \$299 fountain, or another fountain of a customer's choosing.

"My kids during elementary school were involved in accelerated reading programs. They were at the library all the time," said Cliff Bennett, owner of the garden center. "Today, my kids are still great readers and it all comes from those early days at the library."

Starting on Saturday, artists and artisans at the Growers' Market are taking part in the fundraiser. Wildlife painter Jeanne Warren, wood craftsman Jim Chandler, bird house and bird feeder maker Rock-N-Wood Creations, wooden spoon carver Manuel Lawrence, jam and pet comforter maker Berry Berry Good Produce, glass jewelry company Custom Glasswork and country primitive sign-maker Gardens of Olde are all supporting the libraries.

"We are really excited to have so many talented artists and artisans at the Growers' Market join this fundraising effort," said Vickie Moore, a volunteer on the Josephine Community Libraries Fundraising Committee.

The Grants Pass Growers' Market operates from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday until late fall. Josephine Community Libraries has a booth at the market where people can learn more about the effort to reopen local libraries.

Libraries throughout Josephine County closed in May 2007 because of a drop in federal timber harvest subsidies that go to counties. A majority of county voters rejected property tax levies in 2006 and 2007 that would have kept libraries open.

Formed in 2007 as a nonprofit organization, Josephine Community Libraries has raised \$75,000 so far. When the nonprofit raises \$300,000, it will be eligible to apply for \$300,000 in matching funds from Josephine County Commissioners. The nonprofit group hopes to reopen libraries late this year.

Businesses and artists interested in joining the art fundraiser can contact Vickie Moore at 479-8199. For more information about Josephine Community Libraries, visit [www.josephinelibrary.org](http://www.josephinelibrary.org).

People interested in getting involved with the library effort can send an e-mail to [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org) or visit [www.josephinelibrary.org](http://www.josephinelibrary.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Josephine Community Libraries, Inc.**  
541-660-6531  
P.O. Box 1684 Grants Pass, OR 97528  
[info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org) [www.josephinelibrary.org](http://www.josephinelibrary.org)