

New Glarus Library Campaign Meets Schlecht Family

Foundation Challenge Grant –January 9, 2020

The New Glarus Library Campaign is delighted to announce that it met the \$30,000 matching grant from the Schlecht Family Foundation by the December 31, 2019 deadline. The \$60,000 raised will go towards the new library to be located on Durst Road on the west side of New Glarus. Thank you to all the generous donors who had their donations matched!

To date, over \$1,200,000 has been raised with an additional \$1 million committed by the village of New Glarus. The goal is to raise an additional \$1.3 million by October 2020, unless that amount is reached sooner. Whether the goal is reached or not, fundraising for the building project will end October 2020 and the new library will be built with the existing funds.

The new library plans include a single story building with a drive-up book drop, a quiet reading area for adults, private study rooms, a separate and expanded area for children, an area for young adults to gather, and a dedicated programming space separate from the library for after-hours access.

Watch for updates about the building project here at newglaruspubliclibrary.org/building-project and in the Post Messenger Recorder.



Pictured: Village Board President Roger Truttman and Library Board President Linda Hiland at the site of the new library. Photo courtesy of Mary Hillstrom.

February 27, 2020

New Glarus Library Campaign Receives \$50,000 Matching Grant

The capital campaign for the new library in New Glarus received a matching grant for \$50,000 titled 'Love of Community' from an anonymous donor. Any donations received until that amount is reached will be doubled.

The inspiration for the name of the matching grant, 'Love of Community', is based on research published in 'Science Direct' that indicates citizens have an increased sense of well-being in communities with public spaces, such as libraries.

The new library plans include a single-story building with a drive-up book drop, a quiet reading area for adults, private study rooms, a separate and expanded area for children, an area for young adults to gather, and a dedicated programming space separate from the library for after-hours access. In May 2019, the New Glarus Village Board unanimously chose a site for the new library on Durst Road on the west side of New Glarus.

To date, over \$1.2 million has been raised with an additional \$1 million committed by the village of New Glarus. The capital campaign hopes to raise an additional \$1.3 million by October 2020, at which time fundraising will end, unless that amount is reached sooner.

Please donate today to show your 'Love of Community' and have your donation doubled. To donate, either stop by the library to pick up a donation form, or use the 'Building Project' page on the library website to download the form or donate online: newglaruspubliclibrary.org/how-donate. The page also includes a thermometer where you may track the progress of the matching grant over time.

April 9, 2020

Coronavirus Crisis Update from the New Glarus Library Board

The New Glarus Library Board understands that right now, nothing feels normal. We want to provide two library updates – services that remain available through the library, and on the capital campaign for a new library.

Library Operations

The library's primary focus is on serving the community. While Gov. Evers' Stay at Home order remains in effect, the library continues to provide access to digital e-books, audiobooks and databases, suggestions for useful websites and services, digital programs for children, and technology support by telephone for anyone who is struggling with the digital tools that are now necessary to stay connected to work, friends, and family. Free WiFi remains accessible from most parking spaces surrounding Village Hall, for those with portable devices. Unfortunately, the order means that the building is closed and our physical collection cannot circulate.

With an eye toward bringing people together safely, raising money toward local medical personnel and food pantries and supporting local businesses, staff are working with the Friends of the Library group to host a virtual Trivia Night on April 18th, at 8:00 p.m. See the library website for more details.

The library staff eagerly await the day the building can reopen, to provide the community with much-needed access to computers, help navigating unemployment and job search resources, printing and faxing services, free community programs like toddler storytimes and book club discussions, and, of course, loaning out books, DVDs and other resources.

Capital Campaign

Due to all the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus crisis, the New Glarus Library Board is temporarily suspending all in-person events and fundraising for the capital campaign for the new library. Targeted work on the project will continue where it is safe, for example the organizational and grant-related fundraising efforts. The fundraising target date of October 2020 will be extended and the project timeline will be re-evaluated as the situation develops.

"We want to assure everyone - particularly the donors and volunteers who have given so much - that this project will be moving forward," says Linda Hiland, President of the Library Board. "We hope project activities will resume shortly. In the meantime, we won't

be adding pressure to people who need their time and dollars for their families and immediate needs within the community.”

For more information about the library, visit newglaruspubliclibrary.org or leave a message with your questions at (608) 527-2003.

Stay safe and healthy.

On July 5, 2024 the Town of New Glarus accepted an offer from the Village of New Glarus to purchase the Town Hall property (26 5th Avenue) to build a new public library. Additionally, the Swiss United Church of Christ accepted an offer to sell a portion of their property just north of the Town Hall to create a site large enough for the new library. The Village, Town, Church, and Library Board have all worked closely and quickly to make this deal happen in time for a grant application deadline that could potentially provide this library project a \$4.25 million grant. Grant award announcements will be made no later than October 1, 2024. For further information, our board minutes are available under the "Building Project History & Archives" link above.

Library Building Project - December 4, 2020

Although 2020 has been a year of unpredictable and unrelenting challenges, the New Glarus Public Library Board of Trustees continues to forge ahead with plans for a new library building.

At this time, the Board is determined to build in 2021 and is diligently looking at ways to maximize the building with the funds currently available. Plans continue to evolve, and we will share details as they are confirmed.

The active year of fundraising events that the Capital Campaign co-chairs had planned has not been possible due to the global pandemic. As we announced in April, the Library Board is not actively pursuing largescale fundraisers when many are facing financial hardship. However, donations continue to arrive from generous citizens, and the Board is grateful for every contribution.

Now more than ever, we rely on individuals with the capacity to come forward and give what they can, to help us build the best library possible. This is an opportunity for the community to come together and focus on an effort that gives current and future generations a priceless gift: a place where everyone can learn, gather and celebrate our unique stories. Donations are currently being matched by the generous Love of Community grant, up to \$50,000.

Image



Like most businesses, the library has made adjustments to keep the community safe while continuing to provide services. Shown here, local teen Roman Kendrick picks up books at the library's service window which is currently open 6 days a week. Photo courtesy of Beth Blahut

December 7, 2020

New Glarus Public Library Receives Two Grants

The library received two grants from the New Glarus Community Foundation that will support community art projects for people of all ages to enhance the new library building.

The first grant of \$5,353 will fund a community-wide art project encouraging residents to reflect on and share personal experiences of the year 2020. Titled, 'Mapping Our Community: Perspectives and stories from a world transformed', the project will provide materials and instructions for area residents to draw, paint or collage maps of New Glarus using various media on paper. Participants will record memories and tell stories on their maps, showing how their priorities have shifted in the year 2020. Each map will be shared on the 'Mapping Our Community' website and a number of these artful maps will be selected for long-term display at the new library.

Library Board Trustee Shelly Truttman is excited to see art made by community residents; she stated, "When they're exhibited together, the maps will reveal the interconnections that exist between all of us, even through times of isolation."

The second grant of \$2,932 will support a project titled, 'Mapping Our Community: Middle School Perspectives'. A partnership between the library and the New Glarus Middle School will bring together art teachers, social studies teachers, experts, local artists and historians to help students learn more about their world. Students will work individually and collaboratively to draw, paint, stitch and carve maps of the New Glarus area using various media. These artistic maps will be installed in the new library to showcase youthful perspectives of the village of New Glarus.

Photos of the middle school maps will be posted on the 'Mapping Our Community' website. Also, the pieces will be presented to the public through "show-and-tell" events and installed for long-term display at the new library.



Library Director Holly Lague and Library Board Trustee Beth Blahut accept the award of two grants from the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin. The grants provide a combined total of \$8,285 to support community art projects for all ages that will enhance the new library building.

December 17, 2020

New Glarus Library Friends Have Successful Giving Tuesday

By James Roberts

The Friends of the New Glarus Library have had a successful Giving Tuesday on our first participation of this event. As we had announced previously, our objective was to help furnish the young adults section of the new library building. While we didn't get enough to completely fund this section, with all our friends' participation to our first online venture, we made a significant contribution to this area. The site remains open to anyone who wants to add a contribution at <http://www.newglaruspubliclibrary.org/friends-givingtuesday-2020>.

The Friends are using a small portion of this, \$2,500, towards the programs of the year 2021 at the library. In addition, the Friends decided to contribute from our existing funds to completely fund the programs for next year, an especially challenging year for the library. So, in all, Giving Tuesday was able to give \$7,305 towards the young adult area and \$4,000 towards the program's budget from the money raised.

"We so miss having people in and looking forward to having a new space in our new library," Holly Lague, Library Director, said.

Throwback! October 2019, members of the Friends of the New Glarus Public Library wait to begin their meeting while kids finish a card game at the library's large worktable. Photo courtesy of Holly Lague.



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