



PRESS RELEASE

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CARO AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES \$20,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities to Improve Access

Caro, MI — Caro Area District Library has been selected as one of 310 libraries to participate in round two of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$20,000 grant that will help the library replace the audio system in the Community Room which is used for so many programs, meetings, and events, as well as purchase materials in new formats that better for patrons with disabilities.

“We are so excited to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Erin Schmandt. “This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents with disabilities better and help us improve our services to ensure this population feels welcome and comfortable in our space.”

As part of the grant, Caro Area District Library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a conversation with residents about their needs and use the grant funds to increase their access to library events and materials.

The Caro community is home to a variety of residents with differing abilities. By meeting with some of these residents, we can learn to better serve their needs.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Erin Schmandt at (989) 673-4329 x102, or visit www.carolibrary.org for more information.

Since 2014, ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

“Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).”



The Caro Area District Library serves 11,000+ residents of the Caro area. They strive to provide residents with information, education, and recreation. The library is open 63 hours per week to serve the residents of the Caro community.

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