

**Community Libraries in Caring Grant Program
Funded Projects
FY 2008-2009**

Organization: Alachua County Library District
Project Name: Kid's Laptop Connection
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 1,200
Area to be Served: Town of Newberry

Summary: The Alachua County Library District's "Kid's Laptop Connection" project addresses improving library services and family literacy at the Newberry Branch Library. The project purchases laptops and learning software for use by patrons aged 17 and under. The software consists of learning tools for literacy, math, science, and writing. The library works with the local schools to create and provide programs for children to learn to use computers, and to learn other skills through the use of those computers.

Organization: Flagler County Public Library
Project Name: Homework Help
Funding Amount: \$5,000
Population to be Served: 12,000
Area to be Served: Flagler County

Summary: Flagler County Public Library's "Homework Help" project addresses improving library collections and services. The library is partnering with the local school board to enhance their science and math collections with emphasis on school-aged patrons in order to encourage the learning of science and math. Funds are used to purchase subscriptions to science databases with a school-aged target audience, as well as to update the book, DVD, and CD-ROM collections in the areas of math and science to complement but not duplicate other electronic resources available.

Organization: Gadsden County Public Library System
Project Name: Building Bridges with Non-Fiction
Funding Amount: \$5,000
Population to be Served: 46,658
Area to be Served: Gadsden County

Summary: The Gadsden County Public Library's "Building Bridges with Non-Fiction" project addresses improving library collections and services. The project is purchasing non-fiction and reference materials to update the library's outdated collections. These materials include study aids for standardized tests such as the SAT and GRE, as well as materials on résumé writing, geography, African-American history, science, health, and dictionaries.

Organization: Heartland Library Cooperative
Project Name: Entertainment to Go! – Hardee County Public Library
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 2,438
Area to be Served: Hardee County

Summary: The Heartland Library Cooperative’s “Entertainment to Go!” project addresses improving library collections and services at the Hardee County Public Library. The project is purchasing DVDs and CDs specifically to be used by school-aged children. These include materials for entertainment, such as films or music, and learning tools aimed to promote literacy, exercise, and other types of education.

Organization: Heartland Library Cooperative
Project Name: Fun and Games at the Library – Glades County Public Library
Funding Amount: \$3,800
Population to be Served: 2,000
Area to be Served: Glades County

Summary: The Heartland Library Cooperative’s “Fun and Games at the Library” project addresses improving library collections and services at the Glades County Public Library. The project hosts monthly events to attract more teens, pre-teens, senior citizens, and families to the library for gaming activities. The events are aimed at specific age groups, and include such activities as playing *Guitar Hero*, *Dance Dance Revolution*, and multiplayer video games.

Organization: Heartland Library Cooperative
Project Name: Teen Area – Okeechobee County Public Library
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 5,014
Area to be Served: Okeechobee County

Summary: Heartland Library Cooperative’s “Teen Area” project addresses improving library collections and services specifically for young adults at the Okeechobee County Public Library. The project creates a Teen Area in the library to fit the needs and interests of young adult patrons. This area provides activity based video games and gaming systems, as well as a collection of graphic novels in anime and Manga format. The Okeechobee High School Drama Club assists in developing the graphic novel collection.

Organization: Heartland Library Cooperative
Project Name: Under the Stars Family Outdoor Movie Series –
Highlands County Public Library
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 5,000
Area to be Served: Highlands County

Summary: Heartland Library Cooperative's "Under the Stars Family Outdoor Movie Series" addresses improving library services at the Highlands County Public Library and helping to develop the economic viability in the City of Sebring. The project offers a movie night in conjunction with a monthly local event sponsored by the Sebring Chamber of Commerce: "Gallery Walk." The Library will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays to allow browsing in the library prior to the outdoor movie showing. In order to show the movies, the project purchases a "CineBox Pro" portable movie system that shows DVDs on a movie-sized screen.

Organization: Hendry County Library Cooperative
Project Name: Science Now and in the Future
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 5,000
Area to be Served: Hendry County and five Seminole reservations

Summary: The Hendry County Library Cooperative's "Science Now and in the Future" project addresses improving library collections and services. The project improves the math and science collection and encourages the use of the materials by hosting science fairs for high school and middle school students, and hosting a scrapbooking workshop for elementary school students. The library partners with the local recreation department, the local schools, and the Clewiston and LaBelle museums to help with sponsorship of the science fairs and presentation of the science exhibits.

Organization: Levy County Public Library System
Project Name: Bronson Public Library Useful Computer Grant
Funding Amount: \$6,000
Population to be Served: 5,368
Area to be Served: Levy County

Summary: The Levy County Public Library System's "Useful Computer" project addresses improving library services at the Bronson Public Library. The project replaces the oldest, failing computers with new computers to be used by the public for Internet access. It transfers two computers bought with Gates funds (allowable under the Gates Grant program) to another branch of the system in order to also upgrade the computers at that branch. The project also replaces computer carrels that hold computer equipment.

Organization: Nassau County Public Library System
Project Name: Ride the Reading Express
Funding Amount: \$5,000
Population to be Served: 14,000
Area to be Served: Nassau County

Summary: The Nassau County Public Library's "Ride the Reading Express" project addresses improving library collections at the Fernandina Beach Library branch, and developing the economic viability in the Fernandina Beach community. The project purchases materials including books, books on CD, music CDs, and DVDs relating to winter holidays (such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa), Nassau County and Florida history, and international customs. It hosts family oriented programs that encourage visits to local businesses by use of coupons.

Organization: New River Public Library Cooperative
Project Name: Large Print
Funding Amount: \$6,000
Population to be Served: 23,950
Area to be Served: Baker, Bradford, and Union counties

Summary: The New River Public Library Cooperative's "Large Print" project addresses improving library collections at the libraries of Baker, Bradford, and Union counties. The project buys collections of large print materials for the three county public libraries. It focuses on buying bestsellers and recently published books to support the growing number of requests for these items in large print.

Organization: Polk County Library Cooperative
Project Name: Improving Services at the Polk City Community Library
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 5,000
Area to be Served: Polk City Community

Summary: The Polk County Library Cooperative's project addresses improving library services. The project purchases equipment and computers to facilitate the checking out of library materials and new public access computers for patrons to use.

Organization: Sumter County Library System
Project Name: Read and Discover
Funding Amount: \$6,000
Population to be Served: 5,555
Area to be Served: City of Bushnell

Summary: The Sumter County Library System's "Read and Discover" project addresses improving library collections, services, and family literacy at the Bushnell Public Library. The project creates "Read and Discover" theme packs for use by pre-school and elementary school-aged students and their parents to encourage reciprocal, interactive parent/child learning activities. The packs are designed and implemented for four age groups: toddler, kindergarten-first grade, second-third grade, and fourth-fifth grade. They are designed to be used at home by families, but can be easily adapted for use by teachers, home educators, and childcare providers.

Organization: Sumter County Library System
Project Name: Teen Space
Funding Amount: \$9,000
Population to be Served: 2,443
Area to be Served: City of Wildwood

Summary: The Sumter County Library System’s “Teen Space” project addresses improving library services for teens at the Wildwood Public Library. The project creates a space designed specifically with furniture and décor for young adults, using input from teens themselves. The project develops the young adult collection to facilitate access to technology and books to help with homework and stimulate young adults’ interest in reading and learning. The Wildwood Public Library will create programs aimed at teens that will subtly inform and entertain them.

Organization: Suwannee River Regional Library System
Project Name: Public Space Enhancements – Madison County Libraries
Funding Amount: \$3,600
Population to be Served: 2,459
Area to be Served: Madison County

Summary: The Suwannee River Regional Library System’s “Public Space Enhancements” project addresses improving library services at the Madison County Public Library. The project improves public spaces in the library, focusing on the needs of children and families. It creates a youth area with child-sized, durable, multi-functional furniture to facilitate multiple uses and room set-ups. It purchases furniture for children and adults to use while reading together, rug squares for the children’s story time program, audiovisual equipment for each library, games, and toys.

Organization: Suwannee River Regional Library System
Project Name: Public Space Enhancements – Suwannee County Libraries
Funding Amount: \$4,000
Population to be Served: 2,214
Area to be Served: Suwannee County

Summary: The Suwannee River Regional Library System’s “Public Space Enhancements” project addresses improving library services at the Suwannee County Public Library. The project improves public spaces in the library, focusing on the needs of children and families. It creates a youth area with child-sized, durable, multi-functional furniture to facilitate multiple uses and room set-ups. It purchases furniture for children and adults to use while reading together, rug squares for the children’s story time program, audiovisual equipment for each library, games, and toys.

Organization: Suwannee River Regional Library System
Project Name: Public Space Enhancements – Hamilton County Libraries
Funding Amount: \$3,600
Population to be Served: 1,227
Area to be Served: Hamilton County

Summary: The Suwannee River Regional Library System’s “Public Space Enhancements Project” addresses improving library services at the Hamilton County Public Library. The project improves public spaces in the library, focusing on the needs of children and families. It creates a youth area with child-sized, durable, multi-functional furniture to facilitate multiple uses and room set-ups. It purchases furniture for children and adults to use while reading together, rug squares for the children’s story time program, audio visual equipment for each library, games, and toys.

Organization: Wilderness Coast Public Libraries
Project Name: Travel the Orient with Your Bookmobile
Funding Amount: \$15,000
Population to be Served: 1,100
Area to be Served: Franklin, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties

Summary: The Wilderness Coast Public Libraries’ “Travel the Orient with Your Bookmobile” project addresses improving library services and collections for the bookmobile that services Franklin, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties. The project creates a program that focuses on Japanese stories, the art of Origami (paper folding), and Haiku (poetry) that travels to rural communities in all three counties using the bookmobile. This is a continuation and expansion of a program that proved so popular for a school in the area that all of the counties want to present it. The program enhances the bookmobile’s collection of relevant cultural materials (books, CDs, DVDs).