

Project Title: COVID-19 Recovery Resources for a Small Community and its Students

Rotary Year: 2020-21

Country: USA

Location: Bigfork, Montana

PROGRESS REPORT

Rotary partners remain in contact by phone and on Zoom with Charlotte Housel, Imagine If Library Foundation Director. Charlotte also oversees development for the Bigfork Imagine If Library.

The library continues to follow Flathead County Health Department guidelines and Montana state mandates for COVID-19, including limiting the number of adults and children coming into the library. During this time, the library program staff continues to offer online options and “pick up packets” for readers and students to use at home. All the equipment outlined in our grant has been purchased with some alterations due to lack of availability, however every item purchased will be used in the Rotary Maker Space. Bigfork Rotary Club will reimburse the library for the purchased equipment.

Due to changes in how the library is being run due to COVID-19, the equipment will start working its way into the programming later this year. Due to COVID-19 and the current employee shortage throughout the valley, the library is thinly staffed. The library is still working through a backlog of pandemic-related tasks and has not resumed in-person programs yet. Our grand opening has therefore been postponed, but Charlotte will have the Youth Services staff begin planning a grand opening for later this year and coordinate that with our club’s participation. She will also let us know when our clubs can help un-pack and set up the equipment in the Maker Space.

Although public health precautions and restrictions have delayed the exciting installation of the Rotary Maker Space, library programmers are using this time to further enhance plans for its optimal utilization. Rotarians will coordinate with library staff to help unpack and set up the equipment. And when health and safety permit, Rotarians will co-host a grand opening with the library as well as volunteer to help teens learn how to use the Rotary Maker Space.

Project Contact Person

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Rotary Club of: Bigfork

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