POTTSBORO LIBRARY STATUS UPDATE

As schools and universities close, programs and events are canceled, and we are asked to distance ourselves to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus, our library is rising to the challenge. We are demonstrating strength, dedication and resourcefulness, and the essential role we play during this time of community need.

This is how we are responding:

* **Desktop computers**-usage by appointment, typically only one person using a computer per day. Sanitized after each usage. Patrons filing for unemployment benefits**\***, doctor appointments, prescription refills, homework, job applications, telehealth.
* **Faxing**-wills, medical and legal documents, EOL directives.
* **Scanning/printing**-Homework, scholarship and National Honor Society applications, Affidavits of Unemployment.
* **Notarizing-** Library Manager notarizes legal documents, such as wills, Affidavits of Unemployment.
* **3D printer**-creating face shields, hands-free door openers, ear-guards for masks. Interviews with KXII and KTEN.
* **Library of Things**-checking out sewing machines, rotary cutters, self-healing mats for individuals making masks.**\*\***
* **Library cards**-over the last 4 weeks have issued 286 ecards, mostly to students.
* **WiFi**-1) Working with PISD to provide connectivity for students/teachers. Students with library ecards can check out tablets. Provided 3 hot spots to PISD teachers without home internet (also working with teacher/assignments to determine publisher copyright issues. Purchased 10 new hot spots. 2)Installed outdoor wireless access point. 3)Coordinating connectivity increases with a broadband specific non-profit which aids rural and underserved communities.**\*\*\***
* **Esports/Gaming**-held 2 “social distancing in your car” gaming nights in library parking lot. Generated world-wide publicity.
* **Food insecurity**-Library of Seeds (donated by seed companies). Flower and vegetable seeds offered free to any patron.
* **ZOOM**-ZOOM subscription to provide virtual meeting rooms for community.
* **Publicity**-Requests for Pottsboro Library response to COVID-19 from: CBS News; Robbin Bass, District Director, John Ratcliffe; Deputy Director, Advocacy Communications, American Library Association; Library Journal; Central Texas Library System; Senior Editor Consumer Reports; Schools, Health and Broadband Coalition; KXII gaming nights interview.

**\***assisted a patron with applying for unemployment benefits via computer. He had never turned on a computer in his life, and had attempted to call the unemployment office 143 times (witnessed on his phone), but couldn’t get through. We were able to help him, and later were rewarded with the most wonderful voicemail thanking us for our help.

**\*\***A Pottsboro surgical nurse who works in McKinney checked out a sewing machine, rotary mat and rotary cutter to make surgical masks for her team, who had no masks.

**\*\*\***Project Connect is working to expand existing community internet connectivity to provide additional opportunities for patrons of libraries and other facilities to connect to the internet from their cars.