

Library Description

Kingsport Public Library serves a 50-mile radius of patrons. We offer digital and physical items, a variety of programs and events tailored to every age group, and technology assistance.

Our Mission: To help residents reach their full potential and further lifelong learning and community in a welcoming setting.

Our Vision: The Kingsport Public Library is recognized as a primary resource for literacy and education; a gathering place for families, cultural and civic life; and a contributor to the community's economic growth.

Use of Prize

The funds will be used to make Memory Kits to benefit patrons or their loved ones who have Alzheimer's, Dementia or struggle with other forms of memory loss. 23.3% of Kingsport's population are 65 or older, and statistics show that 3,800 of our citizens struggle daily with cognitive conditions. Additionally, Sullivan County has 17 memory care facilities and 42 assisted living communities to help address these needs. Between library outreaches, patron interest, and these facilities' ability to check out memory care kits, there would be a variety of opportunities for our community to benefit. The funds would allow us to create three different Memory Kits that would be added to our Library of Things. Contents would include items such as puzzles and workbooks to help increase cognitive function and exercise the mind, games to help individuals feel more connected to loved ones through conversation and quality time, fidget boards for hand dexterity and to engage the mind with different textures and motions, electronic pets to help comfort the patron, and even the addition of historical images of the area to spark memories for patrons who have lived in the Sullivan County area for a long time. After starting an outreach program with a local memory care unit, we identified this as a need and an opportunity to reach a new demographic through intentional cognitive work to improve the quality of life for our Alzheimer's and dementia communities, a programmatic service we have identified as lacking in our area from outside organizations.

Special Circumstances

Currently, the library is undergoing an extensive renovation in our historic building, and we have temporarily moved operations into the Ft. Henry Mall to continue serving the community during the renovation process. While we are in a smaller environment, we have taken this as an opportunity to create new community partnerships and outreach efforts to meet people where they are. It was during one such outreach that we discovered the need for the memory kits mentioned in this grant application, as participants were not able to engage with our traditional outreach activities in a meaningful way.

Publicity

- Post on the library's social media site(s) and website
- Contact the local papers and media outlets to share the news
- Let SinC know what was purchased or provided with the prize money
- Other: We will host a program/workshop to teach the public how to create mini versions of memory kits using photographs, news articles, memory games etc. along with an educational component of why and how kits like these can be used to facilitate cognitive improvement. Participants will leave with their own mini kit to keep.

