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For immediate release.

Bandwidth for the Future

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WE ENABLE SUCCESS BY BEING RELENTLESSLY RELEVANT

The Community Library in Ketchum, Idaho, is proud to announce the culmination of its Bandwidth for the Future Project. Thanks to the efforts of its staff, board, and the generosity of its donors, the Library will now offer the community a fiber-optic Internet connection.

For the last fifteen years, the Community Library has strived to bridge the Digital Divide, the gap between those with ready access to information technology and those without. As the Library is entirely privately funded, it has offered these services with no restrictions to everyone who walks through its doors.

Unfortunately, as demand for bandwidth increased exponentially over the years, the Community Library's single T-1 line was unable to keep up. One T-1 provides approximately enough bandwidth to serve a single streaming YouTube video, leaving little capacity for any other purposes. With 35 public computers, the Library's bandwidth was almost always full, and users routinely abandoned their sessions in frustration.

The Bandwidth for the Future Project began at the end of February, 2010, when Information Systems Director Aaron Pearson gave a presentation to the Library's Board about the potential of fiber-optic Internet connectivity. Unlike copper cabling, the only limit on the speed of a fiber-optic connection is the equipment on either end, and incremental increases in bandwidth can be implemented without adding additional lines and at far lower cost. Thus, fiber optics is 'future proof.'

The Board's reception of the presentation was positive and led immediately to the establishment of the Bandwidth for the Future Project, championed by Trustee Lyman Drake and the Library Association's Executive Director, Colleen Daly. The project was undertaken to secure funding for the extension of fiber-optic connectivity to the Library, facilitate a complete upgrade to the Library's internal networking infrastructure, and to upgrade the Library's aging public computers.

In April of 2010, two 12-year-old twins took a tour of the Library and asked, "If we were to donate several thousand dollars to the Library, how would you use the money?" The twins had received money to donate to one or more charities of their choice, and after hearing about the Library's efforts to bridge the Digital Divide, they decided to dedicate their entire legacy to the Library's fiber-optic effort. Inspired by the children's philanthropy, their parents matched the donation; and, inspired by the family's generosity, every single Board member made a contribution. Efforts to fund the \$122,000 project included lead gifts by Board members Lyman Drake, Bill Lowe, and Kristin Orr, as well as the Wattis-Dumke Foundation, Peter and Jennifer Roberts, and Bill and Anne Vanderbilt.

During the summer of 2010, the Library approached Syringa Networks, Idaho's premier fiber-optic bandwidth provider, and asked for support. Syringa recognized the value of the Library's position in the community as well as the benefits the project would provide the entire community, and offered to donate the approximately \$40,000 capital cost of the fiber connection.

The project gained considerable momentum, and all public computer and internal network upgrades required for installation of the fiber optics were completed during the fall and winter of 2010-11.

With the completion of Syringa's installation in the summer of 2011, the Library has bridged the Digital Divide for the foreseeable future and will be able to offer services never before possible: HD video conferencing in the Library's new public conference rooms, live streaming of HD video broadcasts in the Lecture Room, computer classes ranging from the most basic to advanced themes, as well as business workstations for travelers and budding entrepreneurs.

In doing so, the Community Library will continue to fulfill its mission of **". . . providing free access to all forms of human knowledge to all people in our community. . ."** as well as to realize its Vision to **"enable success by being relentlessly relevant."**