Library Equity Access Fund Report 2022

“The purpose of the TLN Library Equity Access Fund (LEAF) is to provide financial assistance to one or more member libraries each year to further equitable access to resources through the cooperative.”

This report is to comply with Board policy stating that “The TLN Executive Director will provide the Board of Trustees with an annual accounting of how any LEAF awards were distributed, what awards were used for, and any outcomes of award distribution.”

Fund Overview

LEAF Budget for 2022: $10,000
LEAF Expenditures for 2022: $4,581*
LEAF Allocation for 2023: $10,000
Current LEAF Balance: $15,419

*Ledger report attached.

Overview of Survey Reporting from Participants

All participating libraries reported the following:

- TLN LEAF helped my library and community to participate in TLN initiatives, projects, services, and/or programs.
- My Library and Community benefited from LEAF assistance.
- I feel that LEAF helps TLN provide equity to its member libraries.
Award Distributions 2022

Awardee: Ecorse Public Library
Amount: $1,581.49
Purpose: Overdrive participation and KN95 masks.
Outcome: “Our library, The Ecorse Public Library, in Ecorse, Michigan has benefitted greatly from the LEAF support. We received $1,519.09 from LEAF to support our Overdrive implementation and annual subscription, and $62.40 for KN-95 face masks. The former was hugely impactful for us and our community, as it allowed us to more easily access and implement Libby usage in our community. Ecorse is in a unique position, as the library has been closed for a number of years due to staffing issues, building deterioration, and now, ongoing construction efforts. Our community is enthusiastically awaiting the return of the library but in the meantime, has been without any library services at all. When we were able to offer Libby access to our residents, we were met with relief and gratitude. We have had residents say to us that they feel that Ecorse is finally catching up with the surrounding cities with eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines available! We have been so grateful to TLN for their support in this initiative which has removed a physical barrier for many patrons and made our presence as a city library more equitable, even while our building is closed.

Thanks for the $62.40 for KN-95 masks, we were able to protect our staff while participating in local events and programs. Without these masks, we would have had to use library funds to purchase masks of this caliber in order to attend local meetings and interact with our residents.

With our circumstances in Ecorse, an already economically disadvantaged community, we want to do anything we can in order to offer our patrons some equity compared to our neighboring communities. TLN Leaf certainly assisted in this effort, and we have received excellent feedback about the services we were able to offer thanks to TLN Leaf!"

Awardee: Pinckney Community Public Library
Amount: $93.60
Purpose: KN95 masks
Outcome: “The Pinckney Library benefited from $93.60 worth of KN95 masks, which were a godsend. Masks were provided to our staff members, who received 2 pairs each. The rest of the masks were offered to our patrons. Our staff members would be the first to say that the masks were very heavily used in our community. We provide a basket at the main doors and by half a week’s end, the mask basket is empty, and needed to be refilled once more."
Anecdotally, we were providing disposable masks--ones that we could purchase cheaply through Amazon--prior to receiving the KN95 masks from TLN. I am sharing now that once we started offering the KN95 masks, those masks were gone as quickly as we could make them available in the basket at the main entrance, while the disposable ones usually take longer to be taken. A few of our elderly patrons have even thanked us for providing them with KN95 masks for free. One even mentioned that “This is why I come to your library. I feel safe here.”

As our library’s office supplies budget is very limited, focused mainly on processing our collection and supplying our library programs, having been the recipient of LEAF assistance to keep our community and staff safe and healthy was greatly appreciated by our Board of Trustees, staff, and patrons."

**Awardee:** River Rouge Public Library

Amount: $2,906.15

Purpose: Overdrive participation

Outcome: “We are so happy to be a part of the Library Network System here at River Rouge Library. Steve will always be there for you anytime you may need him. Any questions you may have Steve is sure to have an answer. Steve is always willing to share his knowledge and expertise. Since River Rouge Library is located in a high poverty area, we are always looking for programs and grants to provide better services for our community. As soon as I saw an e-mail from Steve about the available funding for Overdrive (LIBBY), I was very excited and respond back to him immediately.

TLN LEAF funding is very useful for small libraries like River Rouge. On behalf of River Rouge Library, we would like to thank all the TLN board members for issuing the funds for LIBBY services. Due to many of our community members, and active library users not having internet service at home it was hard for us to determine how this service will be used. This is such a perfect opportunity for River Rouge Library; we will be able to have a trial with LIBBY services, and reevaluate the demand of this app for the next year.

We are currently having some furnace problems at our library. Our city is working on getting the necessary parts in order to repair any problems. In case the city requires a close of the library for couple of weeks, the closure will be the perfect opportunity for library patrons to utilize LIBBY. We are very pleased with the TLN services, and the hard-working staff TLN has to offer. Without your help, smaller libraries, like ours would not be able to thrive as they do. Thanks again to all the staff members, Steve, and the TLN board for helping River Rouge Library.”
The Library Network
Job Ledger Report
For the Period From Oct 1, 2021 to Sep 30, 2022

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Phase IDs: LEAF. Report order is by ID. Report is printed excluding Balance Forward and including Retainage.

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