

## **The Monkton Community Library Fund**

Recently, both Bellwether Architects and MAUSD held community meetings in Monkton to discuss plans for the future. During these meetings, feedback was encouraged, and the need for a new community space in Monkton was made plain.

One community member wrote, “Besides our school, Monkton lacks community infrastructure.” We need **“a place for all ages.”**

Resident Kathy Malzac said, “As a “commuter town,” Monkton needs a place to gather and meet each other face to face. What better place than a library to come together for all manner of reasons and events! **If the goal is to strengthen community, we need a space that allows for that.**”

And another resident wrote, “I want to have pride in my town center and have **a central place for the community to gather.** We need this. It’s what’s missing in Monkton.”

**The Russell Memorial Library trustees believe a new library is that place.** And we aren’t the only Monktonites who think so!

Local business owner Bill Martin says, “In this age of electronic communication and social media, **libraries are more important than ever.** To strengthen your muscles you exercise, to strengthen your mind you exercise your brain by reading.”

And 30-year resident Marilyn Cargill says, “The library has played an important role in my family whether we were borrowing books, asking questions of the librarians or helping at the annual Strawberry festival. And while I love our cozy little library it is simply too small to be able to effectively serve our town. We currently cannot host author events, book clubs, or other community-centric events within the walls of our library- in fact it’s too small to even have more than one comfortable reading chair! **I believe Monkton needs a library that meets the needs of our entire community** which covers everything from space for a town-wide event to a corner for avid readers of all ages to curl up and browse through interesting books!”

### **Our Vision**

For more than 48 years, the Russell Memorial Library has opened the minds of Monkton residents to the wonders of reading, and also learning, and creativity. Over that time, we have been fortunate to retain skilled and imaginative librarians who’ve made the most of the space and its limitations.

Now that the Monkton Building Committee is working with Bellwether Architects, we have the opportunity to build a **fully-functional library facility** that will allow librarians to expand their resources and meet the current and future needs of our residents. And with questions swirling around the fates of local schools at the same time we consider the needs of our growing senior population, it is imperative that we come together-- that we collaborate-- to create a space for education and connection that will serve our community no matter the ages or changes around us.

**Our vision** for a new Russell Memorial Library is to create more than a place to house books: we want to build a **community hub.** Imagine a welcoming space where people of all ages gather and connect.

Imagine expanded open hours, comfortable reading areas and an easily accessible book collection. Imagine a media center with computers, wifi, and printers -- plus a children's section, a place for teens to study, and a programming area for adult classes, community groups and special events.

### **Imagine having another place to learn!**

Some of us already have: the Monkton Girl Scouts were the first to make a donation!

### **How much is the library worth to you?**

We have raised about 10% of our \$100,000 goal and every dollar counts.

On paper, the library provides about \$28 in value annually per capita-- roughly the same price as a hardcover book. For the price of just one book, every Monkton resident gets access to over 4000 hardcovers, 100 audiobooks, and 7000 ebooks-- plus personalized recommendations from our librarians. You also get board games, passes to ECHO, Shelburne Museum and Shelburne Farms, VT State Parks and VT Historic sites. You have access to newspapers, the Vermont Online Library, and free online continuing education classes. All that and programming: game night, poetry club, kids' story time, special events... the list goes on!

### **Why should you support this improved library space?**

Investing in community facilities has a **positive impact on property taxes and home values**. Investing in community **builds community**. And by investing in the library, **you invest in lifelong enrichment for yourself, your family, and our unique Monkton community**.

### **How You Can Support.**

1- **You can donate!** Write a check to "**Town of Monkton**" noting the "**Monkton Community Library Fund**" and give it to the town treasurer. The treasurer is available Mon/Tues/Fri from 8am-1pm and Thurs from 8am-1 pm and 4-7 pm. **If you'd like to donate at the library directly**, stop by during open hours and Deb or Kat will assist you. *Online donations will be welcome soon - see the library website: [www.russelllibraryvt.wordpress.com](http://www.russelllibraryvt.wordpress.com)*

2 - **You can volunteer!** Help spread the word about our cause and our campaign to neighbors, friends, and family. Or, visit the library for opportunities to help with fundraisers, upcoming events and community outreach.

3 - **You can vote YES!** Vote YES on the March 2020 bond vote for a new community center.

\*The campaign monies will go toward funding our new library with or without passage of the bond vote. If you donate in person, you can opt in or out depending on the bond vote.

### **What to Expect**

Once under construction, library trustees will apply for state and local grants to help secure funds for expanded programming, amenities and open hours. Here is a short list of over 200 organizations that support VT libraries:

Vermont Humanities Council \* □ VCF Paul Post Fund \* □ Rise VT \* □ Awesome Without Borders  
VT FolkLife Center \* □ Neat Repeats Middlebury \* □ Five Town Friends of the Arts \* □ Summer  
Performer Grants  
ARSL Continued Education Grant \* □ VTLIB Library Planning Grants \* □ VTLIB Large Competitive  
Grants

### **What's in it for You**

Besides a new community hub? Well...

- All donors receive an invitation to a Capital Campaign Celebration... library swag included
- All donors will be recognized on a Donor Wall in the library
- Donations over \$1000 may name a book shelf, book section or reading chair
- Donations over \$10,000 may name a defined area within the library

Your donation will help the Russell Memorial Library fulfill its mission to “promote positive growth in our community by providing free access to library materials, resources, and programs for personal enrichment, self-education and leisure.”

With community support, we will fulfill the dream of an updated library to serve our area for generations to come.

**Have questions?** Please visit the RML website, stop by the library, or call/email RML trustee Theresa Schwegel (802)777-2262/[theresaschwegel@gmail.com](mailto:theresaschwegel@gmail.com)