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Crandall Public Library Receives \$500,000 Memorial Donation

Glens Falls, NY - - Crandall Public Library has received a five hundred thousand dollar donation from Christopher Bennett, a Queensbury Native who now resides in Virginia, in memory of his mother, Anna J. Bennett, and aunts, Helen B. Whittemore and Mary E. Jones. This donation is the largest gift made by an individual the Library has received outside of its capital campaign for the renovation and expansion back in the late 2000s and bequests.

Bennett describes his mother and aunts as voracious readers who loved utilizing Crandall Public Library's services. "When my mother passed in February, I knew I wanted to commemorate her memory with a gift to Crandall. She and her sisters frequently enjoyed all the services Crandall offers, especially the Outreach program," stated Bennett.

Crandall allocated the funds to capital technology improvements. The first project will be updating the computer room that will bear the name of those the gift in remembrance of, *The Bennett, Whittemore, Jones Information Center*. "The generous contribution from Mr. Bennett will not just be used for new computers and software, but an investment in the future of the Library and technology," stated Library Director Kathleen Naftaly. "We plan to spend the money as it is intended, as a lasting legacy in memory of three long-time Library patrons. We are

humbled by Mr. Bennett's generosity. It is through gifts like this and the support of our community that we know the Library will be here for generations to enjoy for years to come."

Naftaly continued to say that the Library's first step will be to rename the room and upgrade the current computers and software, then expand to technology upgrades throughout the building. A few examples of improvements are adding touchscreen kiosks to access the Library catalog, upgrades to the projection equipment in the Christine L. McDonald Community Room, a Creation Space--a collaborative workshop area with equipment, technology, materials, and human expertise to guide users to make their dreams come alive, and adding more digital signage.

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About Crandall Public Library:

Crandall Public Library, established in 1892, offers a vast selection of approximately 350,000 reading, viewing, and listening materials (including digital formats); a Children's Library with several activity spaces; a designated Teen Center for our young adult audience; computer and internet access for all; expansive programming to provide educational, cultural, and literary experiences (and a state-of-the-art venue in which to present them); free meeting and program space for local non-profits; and a comfortable, accessible space in which to read, study, and socialize. Regularly offered at Crandall are a progressive film series, live music, children and family programs, lectures on a variety of subjects, book discussion groups, computer classes, and more. Unique to Crandall Public Library is the Folklife Center, offering programs, exhibits, and research related to cultural traditions of the region. In 2019, over 325,000 people visited the Library. Visit www.crandalllibrary.org.