



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Bonnie Carl

Director

Milltown Public Library

715-825-2313

milltownpl@milltownpubliclibrary.org

**Milltown Public Library RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES
\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities on March 4, 2024.**

Milltown Public Library has been selected as one of 310 libraries to participate in round two of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library assist visually impaired adults.

"We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity," said Library Director Bonnie Carl. "This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents with disabilities better. It will help us improve our services to ensure this population feels welcome and comfortable in our space."

As part of the grant, Milltown staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a conversation with residents about being visually impaired and how to utilize the grant funds to provide alternative reading materials.

We provide service to an increasing senior population and, it is common that as we get older our eye site is impacted. This is among the most common problems adults develop between ages 41 to 60. This normal change in the eyes' focusing ability, called presbyopia, will continue to progress over time. The most common causes of vision loss among the elderly are age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataract and diabetic retinopathy.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Bonnie Carl at 715-825-2313, or visit milltownpubliclibrary.org for more information.

Since 2014, ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

"Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)."