

Hello,

Thank you for considering the Alice Kiehl Memorial Fund, which supports Putnam District Library, as a possible recipient of a donation. While it's true that all funds can benefit from a donation, it's especially true for Alice Kiehl Fund.

Firstly, the primary donor to this fund, Friends of Putnam District Library, unfortunately disbanded in late 2019. While the disbandment did not come as a shock, it created a need for the library to fundraise in 2020 and beyond in order to support fund growth, as the fund would no longer receive donations FOPDL fundraisers. Due to the pandemic, and the library being closed to the public for three months, the board and staff have not organized any fundraisers for this year. This is both because it is difficult to fundraise in the current climate, and also the staff and library board have a lot on their hands keeping up with the ever changing rules, safety protocols, and regulations.

Additionally, the Alice Kiehl Memorial Fund would benefit from a donation because future financial revenue for the library is potentially worrisome. Economic experts do not know exactly how the pandemic will affect things like property tax rates and state funding in the coming years, which are the primary revenue streams for the library. If revenue streams were to decrease, the library would partly rely on the Kiehl fund to continue providing high quality services to the community.

It is imperative to a thriving community that a library functions at the highest standard possible, and arguably even more important in periods of slow economic growth. Libraries, including Putnam District Library, are sources of comfort, help, answers, and support to all members of a community. They constantly look to their community to see what is needed, and try to find ways to support those needs. Putnam District Library is a strong pillar in the Nashville community; this remains true even during the pandemic.

I hope that the Barry Community Foundation considers the Alice Kiehl Memorial Fund as a recipient of a donation.

Thank you for your time,

Savannah Shilton,
Library Director