

The Friends of the Hasting Public Library would like to apply for one of the Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary donations to local charities. We have been deeply affected by all the efforts to keep everyone safe in response to the threat of COVID-19. Following the Governor's directives has been our paramount concern. But in following those directives we have had to cancel our two biggest fund raisers: our Ladies Victorian Tea and our October Wine Pairing and Basket Auction at Seasonal Grille. Along with those losses we were unable to sell parking spaces at the Highpoint Bank parking lot for July's Gus Macker or at the Ace parking lot for summer events at the Thornapple Plaza. It was also necessary to close our Book Store inside the Library for four months, take down our coffee station and cancel our Annual Book Sale. Our ongoing fight against the virus also means we will not be able to hold our usual Jingle and Mingle fund raiser. Last year we raised nearly \$17,000 through these fund raisers.

All these events help us sponsor the cost of one of the library's summer reading events as well as supplying incentives and publicity for the library's summer reading program. Funding other children's programs throughout the year and helping cover some of the cost of new children's books and materials is also part of our mission. In addition, we make sure the library has a presence in service clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis, along with membership in the Barry County Chamber of Commerce. We also provide funds so members of the staff can attend professional conferences that keep them up-to-date on new and changing library services. Along with those affiliations, we also help the library maintain their membership in the Michigan Library Association and other library organizations. Annually, we usually provide \$12,000 to \$15,000 for these and other needs that arise throughout the year

The Friends firmly believe that our library provides invaluable services to the public and we are proud of the support we have given them in the past and fully intend to keep doing so as long as we are able.

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