



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LITERACY ACCESS FUND ANNOUNCES 2019 GRANT AWARD
TO THE FRIENDS OF WELLES-TURNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

CHESTER, PA - Literacy Access Fund, a 501(c)(3), public charity, announces a grant award of \$7,500 to the Friends of Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury, Hartford County, Connecticut. Literacy Access Fund secures funding from corporate, foundation, and individual partners in order to provide financial support to underfunded public libraries through a competitive granting process. The goal of the organization is to help libraries provide equal access to quality resources for young learners, regardless of economic factors.

This award to the Friends Group, which raises money to be used at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library, was made possible through partnership funding from the George H.C. Ensworth Memorial Fund. The grant will help fund the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology for young children and other library resources.

Melinda Smith, President of the Friends Group Executive Board, noted the Board's gratitude to Literacy Access Fund for the award. "We are pleased to provide this funding opportunity to the library to increase their book collections and technology for brand new readers. It is important for students to find materials that they can confidently access to maintain reading skills over the summer months."

"This funding will help us increase our collection of books for new readers and enhance our summer reading program," according to Barbara Bailey, Director of the Library. "Adding digital tablets will allow the children and their parents to work together in a quiet area, enhancing their early literacy skills that are the focus of our weekly Tinkerlab. This will also target brand new readers in kindergarten and first grade at the six Glastonbury elementary schools

Deborah B. Sorgi, Ed.D., Chair, Director & President of Literacy Access Fund, shared her thoughts. "Literacy Access Fund is pleased to support the Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library's efforts to enhance literacy skills for young children. Ms. Bailey's initiatives to add digital technology to enhance basic reading skills for the library's youngest patrons is admirable and will help serve the Glastonbury community in a positive way." Dr. Sorgi also noted, "We continue to identify and support underfunded public libraries to help their littlest members read and succeed in school and life."

For more information about Literacy Access Fund, visit <http://www.literacyaccessfund.org/> or call 610-833-6411.

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About the Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library

The Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library promote a cultured and literary community by providing supplemental funding for the facilities and services of the Glastonbury public library. Activities over the past year include sponsorship of the library's summer reading program, fundraising through book sales, purchases of books, CDs, and DVDs to augment the library's collection, and more.

About Literacy Access Fund

The mission of Literacy Access Fund is to make literacy a possibility for every child, in every community. The organization supports the public library as a community learning hub and a vital extension of the classroom and awards grants to underfunded public libraries to increase equal access to early literacy skills for young learners. Literacy Access Fund is headquartered in Chester, Pennsylvania, with the ability to support public libraries across the United States.