The Essex Foundation News

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Essex Foundation Awards $10,000 to Improve Ivoryton Library's Website
Grant supports a rebuild focused on easier navigation and improved accessibility

The Essex Foundation (TEF) awarded a $10,000 grant to Ivoryton Library Association (ILA) to rebuild its public website and improve community access to programs, events, services, and local resources. The current site is outdated, difficult to maintain, and not fully accessible to all community members. The new website will be designed according to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which guide the creation of digital content accessible to people with disabilities. It will feature clear navigation, mobile-responsive layouts, updated content, a simplified page structure, and templates for events, programs, and announcements. A proven content management system with easy-to-use editing tools will enable staff to maintain the site independently. Basic security measures, backups, and provisions for long-term sustainability will support a modern website intended to meet current digital and accessibility standards.



The rebuild budget covers design, development, photography, brand elements, and staff training. The project is intended to give individuals, families, students, educators, and other library users a more engaging, user-friendly way to find local programs, resources, events, services, history, and community activities. ILA Executive Director Colleen Goodrich described the project's importance: "An updated website strengthens the library's role as a community hub and improves access to information for all library and community users." Goodrich added, "We are so grateful or The Essex Foundation's support of this vital project."

The Essex Foundation's Board of Directors enthusiastically approved the grant request based on the project's many benefits to community members. "The Ivoryton Library is a valuable local asset," said TEF President Strickland Hyde III. "Its mission and this project align perfectly with the Foundation's commitment to making a difference in the lives of Essex citizens. We are happy to support this project."

The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1970. It relies on bequests and donations from the community to provide funding support for a broad range of needs not met by other organizations or sources. More information can be found online at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing: contact@theessexfoundation.org.

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Pictured Above (from l-r): The Essex Foundation board members Gary Riggio, Judy Bombaci, Marla Bogaert, Stickland Hyde III, Bruce Glowac, and Jim Clark present a $10,000 website rebuild grant award to Ivoryton Library Association staff and board members Colleen Goodrich, Sharon Lewis, Kathy Marois, Deborah Brown, Shannon Williams, and Ethan Goller.