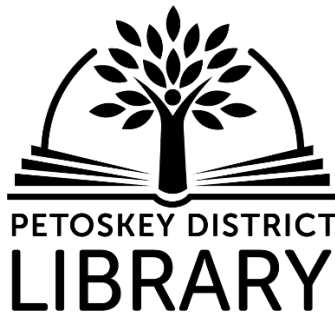




Contact: Stacy Cox
Telephone: (231) 758-3121
Email: scox@petoskeylibrary.org
Website: petoskeylibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 2024

Help the library give 'Loads of Love' this December

For years the Petoskey District Library (PDL) carried on a tradition of collecting canned goods and paper products from patrons who wished to waive their overdue library fines. The program was always so popular that patrons still ask about it.

In 2017, the library board changed PDL policy to eliminate the daily overdue fines, giving patrons flexibility and an extended grace period in returning PDL materials. While there are no longer overdue fines, the library has continued to keep the giving tradition alive.

Last year, the library housed a winter coat drive in the vestibule of its east door entrance on Mitchell Street, next to the 24/7 lockers. The initiative was wildly successful, with donated items flooding in and frequently overwhelming the entryway.

"These donations reflect our community's ongoing care and commitment to one another," said Jodi Haven, PDL's public services librarian. "We get a lot of people through our doors each day, and we know this time of year many want to find a way to give back."

This December, patrons can donate new hygiene and laundry products to "Loads of Love", a program which supports the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan (WRCNM) Safe Home. The Safe Home is operated 24/7 and provides a secure, caring and supportive place for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, and their family members. Families staying at the Safe Home are also provided with meals and all their daily needs at no cost.

Haven said the library is honored to have the opportunity to raise awareness about the Safe Home and partner with the WRCNM on its “Loads of Love” program.

Every day, brave individuals and families escape violence, seeking safety and a fresh start. Last year, 2,418 nights of shelter were provided to survivors at the Safe Home.

If you would like to contribute to the “Loads of Love” program, please drop off new hygiene and laundry products at the library’s main desk from now until December 20, or reach out directly to the Women’s Resource Center (wrcnm.org).

For more information about this effort or other library programs, please call 231-758-3100 or visit us online at petoskeylibrary.org. The library’s hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

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