

[< BACK](#)

Ham Foundation gives \$50,000 grant to library

The North Conway Public Library said Wednesday it is the recipient of a matching grant from the Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 to be awarded upon successful completion of funds raised by October.

Following a large recent expansion, the library located at 2719 Main St. in North Conway Village is currently in the end phase of its fundraising campaign, "The Final Chapter," with a focus on completing the interior with furnishings, technology, books, shelving and more, said Library Director Andrea Masters.

"The addition has nearly doubled the size of the library, and it is now a modern state-of-the-art building with new construction that complements the magnificent history of the original structure," she said.

The North Conway Library has been serving the community since 1887. Despite construction and the shutdown caused by restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, Masters said the library has continued to provide materials via curbside service, online via the downloadable books program and via email within 24 hours. With the pandemic restricting access, the library started streaming video programs for its patrons: Kanopy, KanopyKids, Acorn and Qello.

According to Sharon Wroblewski, capital campaign chair: "As the pandemic has shown, libraries serve as beacons in times of crisis. "We thought our project was the perfect fit for the Ham Foundation's mission which strives to improve community life in the Mount Washington Valley and to foster the vitality of our community. We are grateful for their support."

Dot Seybold, executive director of the Ham Foundation, said Thursday: "The North Conway Public Library is a historical gem in the heart of North Conway. The Kendal C. & Anna Ham Charitable Foundation is pleased to offer the challenge grant at this time when the finish line is so close. The renovation and expansion of the library will provide years and years of benefit to the residents and visitors of North Conway."

For more information or to make a donation, go to northconwaylibrary.com or email andrea@northconwaylibrary.com. Those living in the Mount Washington Valley are eligible for a free library card. Current hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Friday from noon-4 p.m.



Pictured on the new bridge that joins the original building to the new expansion are (from left): Ham Foundation Executive Director Dot Seybold, Linda Eldridge of the Ham Foundation, Library Director Andrea Masters and Kathy Bergeron of the North Conway Public Library Board. (COURTESY PHOTO)