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Editor: Please do not edit out ALA credit in the last paragraph.

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**BUCHANAN DISTRICT LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES  
\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Work with Residents with Disabilities to Improve Access to Library  
Facilities**

BUCHANAN, MI — Buchanan District Library has been selected as one of 300 libraries to participate in round three of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library install automatic door openers to make the library more accessible to everyone.

*“We are so happy to be part of this program,” said Library Director Meg Paulette Perez. “This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents with disabilities better. It will help us improve our services to ensure everyone feels welcome and comfortable in our space.”*

As part of the grant, library staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a community conversation with residents about access for people with mobility disabilities and use the grant funds to install automatic door openers on all library restroom doors.

The need for these improvements was brought to the attention of library staff by local community member (and now library volunteer) Wayne Moss. Wayne lives in Buchanan and frequently visited the library before becoming a volunteer. He uses a motorized wheelchair, and shared with staff that he often has trouble getting in and out of the restroom.

*“We are grateful that Wayne brought this problem to our attention,” said Library Director Meg Paulette Perez. “As soon as we realized this needed to be addressed, we began looking for ways to fund the improvements. This Libraries Transforming Communities grant was the perfect opportunity at the perfect time.”*

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the community conversation, please contact Meg Paulette at m.paulette@buchananlibrary.org.

Since 2014, ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and



resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

*“Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).”*

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