

FOUNDATIONS

Wyoming Library

A publication of the Wyoming State Library

March, 2012

Sweetwater County event raises more than \$20,000 for Endowment Challenge

On March 14, the Sweetwater County Library Foundation hosted the internationally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors (www.harlemambassadors.com/) in Sweetwater County for a game at the



Western Wyoming Community College Gym. The Ambassadors played against the local hometown heroes called the Sweetwater County Read'n Rebels. The event drew almost 2,000 people, and raised more than \$24,000 through sponsorships, adult ticket sales, raffle and souvenir sales. Children attended free, their tickets provided by event sponsors. Funds raised will be matched 1:1 through the Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge. Great job Sweetwater County!

Have you had a great fundraising event to build your endowment? Share it with others! Send photos, amount raised and information about the event to Susan Mark, susan.mark@wyo.gov for possible inclusion in upcoming newsletters.

Photo: Two of the Harlem players taught Karla Duarte how to "pop her collar" to celebrate winning a game of musical chairs during half time. Photo credit - Brittany Wells, Public Relations Specialist Sweetwater County Library System

BIG news: \$3 million more for library endowments!

Big news for Wyoming library foundations from this year's State Legislature budget session: another \$3 million in match has been added to the Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge. This brings the total amount of state funds committed for match and endowment funds to \$18.1 million – with this addition, Wyoming library foundations can each access up to \$686,597 in match funds, in addition to the \$100,000 in incentive funds that was earned when cumulative fundraising hit \$2.3 million.

According to the State Treasurer's Office, any unspent funds from this new pot of money will revert to the general fund in 2017, two years after the revert date of 2015 for the funds currently in the Endowment Challenge. However, the legislation did not include any different deadlines for pledge commitments and receipt of pledges so those remain the same. Donations are eligible for the match if: (A) The gift was received or the transfer occurred during the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013; or (B) A commitment to make the gift or transfer was made in writing to the respective public library foundation, which commitment was received during the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013, and the gift was received or the transfer occurred not later than December 31, 2014.

Early 2012 saw a flurry of activity in endowment requests. Since January 1, \$1.2 million was added to Wyoming library endowments – \$400,038 in locally raised funds matched by \$814,656 in state funds – through the Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge.

Wyoming library foundations have raised \$4 million toward the goal of just under \$9 million needed to access all state match funds. State match and incentive funds received by the counties so far total \$9.6 million – since the challenge began, nearly \$13.7 million has been added to local endowments through local fundraising and state support.

Free webinar: Your Board and Fundraising

Grantspace is offering a free webinar, "Your Board and Fundraising," from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March . This class will cover the role of your board, why board members may be reluctant to fundraise and how to overcome these concerns, ways the board can participate in fundraising activities and tips for strengthening your fundraising board. For more information and to register for this program, visit:

[http://grantspace.org/Classroom/Training-Calendar/Live-Webinars/\(month\)/3/\(year\)/2012](http://grantspace.org/Classroom/Training-Calendar/Live-Webinars/(month)/3/(year)/2012)

This **Wyoming Library Foundations** newsletter is sent to the Wyoming county library directors for distribution to their library foundation and library board members. Individuals interested in viewing this can bookmark <http://will.state.wy.us/slpub/foundations/index.html>. Comments on the content of this publication or contributions to share with other library foundation board members can be sent to Jamie Markus at jamie.markus@wyo.gov or Susan Mark at susan.mark@wyo.gov. *Please note: Inclusion of links to fund raising websites does not imply endorsement of their products or services.*