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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Juan Island Library is Raising Money to Expand the WiFi Hotspot Lending Program

(Friday Harbor, WA) – Tuesday, July 30th, 2024

The San Juan Island Library is thrilled to announce that its WiFi Hotspot Lending and Support grant has been accepted for publication in the SJI Cares Community Foundation Grant Catalog and encourages community members to donate during the San Juan County Fair.

The Library seeks to raise \$5,500 to expand its WiFi hotspot lending collection from 27 to 38 WiFi hotspots. This fundraising initiative highlights the Library's commitment to bridging the digital divide and providing crucial internet access to Island residents who lack infrastructure or income, increasing internet connectivity for residents in remote or underserved areas.

The San Juan Island Library is raising money for this project as part of the San Juan Island Community Foundation's 2024 SJI Cares County Fair Giving Campaign. Through this program, the first \$1,000 in donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Community Foundation. To be eligible for matching funds, donations to the Library must be made during the four days of the 2024 County Fair– Aug. 15–18.

Donors can contribute in person at the SJICF fair booth, online at sjicare.org, by phone to SJICF at 360-378-1001, or by mailing a check payable to SJICF (dated between Aug. 15–18) with San Juan Island Library in the memo line to P.O. Box 1352, Friday Harbor, WA 98250.

The San Juan Island Library's WiFi Hotspot Lending program benefits a diverse constituency in all income brackets who rely on the internet for work, education, and recreation. The success of the WiFi hotspot lending program will be measured by decreased wait times and increased access for patrons.

For more information about the Island Library's WiFi Hotspot Lending grant or to learn how you can support this initiative, please contact Gabriel Méndez, Outreach Coordinator, gmendez@sjlib.org, 360-378-2798 or visit www.sjlib.org.

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