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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**San Juan Island Library Expands WiFi Hotspot Lending Program**

**(Friday Harbor, WA)** – The San Juan Island Library is excited and grateful to announce the successful expansion of its WiFi Hotspot Lending Program. This much needed upgrade is brought to you by generous funding from the San Juan Island Community Foundation and the residents of San Juan Island, given through the San Juan Island Cares Community Foundation Grant Catalog during the San Juan County Fair. Thank you for your support!

Since its inception in April 2019, the Library's WiFi Hotspot Lending Program has circulated hotspots 1,600 times, making it one of the most popular lending collections at the Library. Now, with the success of this new funding initiative the Library has been able to increase its lending collection from 27 to 38 WiFi hotspots, significantly reducing wait times for patrons in need. The new hotspots are on the shelves and in circulation!

Aimed at providing crucial internet access to residents of San Juan Island, this program is essential for addressing the growing digital divide and ensuring that all community members, regardless of income or infrastructure, have access to vital online resources. This program is particularly important for residents living in remote or underserved areas, as well as those transitioning to the island who require reliable internet for work, education, and recreational activities.

"With this expanded program, we are taking a significant step toward ensuring equitable internet access for all islanders," said Gabriel Méndez, Outreach Coordinator at the San Juan Island Library. "Our goal is to mitigate the effects of the digital divide and provide essential resources that foster community development and lifelong learning."

For more information about the San Juan Island Library's WiFi Hotspot Lending Program please contact Gabriel Méndez at gmendez@sjlib.org or call (360) 378-2798.

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