

BRADY LIBRARY- Helping a Town Grow

Outline Of Need: A public library in Brady, Nebraska was nonexistent. The need for such a facility was recognized by Dee Ann Green Birkel who posed its possibility at a town meeting when discussing the community's needs. The consensus was to proceed with a library and the planning began in earnest with the appointment of a library board. Fund raising started for the purchase of an old building that would be converted to the library. It was at that time that assistance was sought from USDA Rural Development.



“Brady would probably still be struggling along trying to complete the renovation process if the USDA Rural Development grant had not assisted us. Their funding covered the heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical work. They purchased the on demand hot water heater – thus saving us the expense of heating water when it was not needed. New energy efficient windows and blinds were installed, and three storm doors purchased.” -- Dee Ann Green Birkel

How Rural Development Helped:

An USDA Rural Development \$24,000 grant was received to facilitate in the renovation of the building and to purchase furnishings such as shelving, a desk, copy machine/printer, table and chairs plus a table for the Young Readers Room. The building was equipped with built-in shelving in four rooms with additional shelving purchased by \$8,500 in donations by the local chapter of The Red Hats – The Brady Beauties from the sale of a calendar.

The project brought forth community volunteers who helped with the fundraising and labor. The Brady High School Industrial Technology class helped tear out walls and assembled book shelves. The Class of 1963 purchased a computer, monitor, and a web cam which were installed by the High School Computer class. Over 100 people volunteered bringing forth the old fashioned feeling of a community working together to reach a goal.

The Results: Teamwork made the Brady Library happen. Today, visitors of the library enjoy the friendly feel. The selection of 7,712 books, 61 books on tape, and 330 videos that have been donated, mesmerize library goers. From January 2007 through June 2008, 700 patrons checked out over 2,000 books and videos – not bad for a town of 368 people! Community involvement is also witnessed by the volunteers who have donated 375 hours to staff the library since its' opening.



The Brady Library Board

“The Brady Library Board, representing the local community, wishes to thank USDA Rural Development for the support and patience with developing the Library from an empty, old building to a warm, vital and active facility that is now contributing to the life of our community. It has been a pleasure to work with the USDA Rural Development personnel.”
- Dee Ann Green Birkel