

Social services now available weekly at several area libraries

Published: Sunday, 3 November 2019 21:09

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NEW BRITAIN - Free social services are now available at the New Britain Public Library.



Herald file photo The library.

As a collaborative effort across several local libraries, a social worker is available to offer free services one day a week. For New Britain Public Library, that service is every Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Wednesday, then moving to 1 to 5 p.m. starting Nov. 13.

For the Plainville Public Library, service days will be on Tuesdays and Berlin-Peck Memorial Library will offer services on Thursdays.

The free service is made possible through grant funding from the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain and partnering with the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Berlin, and Plainville libraries. The Main Street Community Foundation of Bristol was also part of the collaboration.

Kaylah Smith, program associate and assistant director of development for the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, said when the community need was made known, it was important for the foundation to be able to help address it.

The idea originated at the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library, which local residents saw as a safe place to be. Many families facing homelessness sought comfort from the library and because the issues became complex, the library reached out to the foundation for help.

“This is truly a prime example of what happens when a community collaborates,” said Smith. The grant funding is part of the foundation’s community response grant, where funds are used to connect people with critical needs to the necessary help. “When we hear of a need, we try our best to figure out how we can use available funds to help make it easier for people to find help.”

For more information, visit www.nbpl.info.