

Grant for Plymouth family center

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PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth Family Resource Center was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Main Street Community Foundation to support the purchase of books for Plymouth Family Resource Center's Raising A Reader literacy program.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said the grant was awarded from the Myra Boccardi Desroches Advancing Young Minds Fund.

"This fund was established in memory of Myra and will continue her passion for children and literacy by awarding grants to organizations to provide literacy and other services, and to provide the resources needed in the mission of advancing young minds holistically," Rajotte

said. "Myra's family makes recommendations on the organizations that receive the grants, and they were ecstatic to award this one to the Plymouth FRC."

The Plymouth FRC will be presenting the Raising A Reader literacy program for children 5 years of age and under with their adult caregiver. The program will

Be offered to 12 families over a 12-week period. The FRC will be following the Raising a Reader model and tailor programs to the needs of the families who join. Their goal is to place books into each home to grow the family library and to expose children to the amazing world of books. Funds from the grant will be used to purchase books for the families in the program.

"Raising a Reader's award-winning, evidence-based programs help caring adults set their children up for success by creating shared reading routines," Fund Advisor Michael Desroches said. "Those are the skills that we created the Fund

to foster in our work of Advancing Young Minds."

The Myra Boccardi Desroches Advancing Young Minds Fund was created in 2022. The Fund's advisors, Michael Desroches and Rebecca Boccardi Zappone, Myra's husband and sister respectively, support the Fund's mission by recommending organizations that provide literacy services and resources needed to make literature more accessible to young minds.

Lori Borysewicz, Plymouth FRC

coordinator, said the "Raising a Reader" program supports not just students, but entire families.

"Family engagement is at the core of what we do," Borysewicz said. "We have designed our programs to foster social emotional learning and healthy family relationships, while teaching our children the learning skills they will need to thrive in school and beyond. We are grateful to the Advancing Young Minds Fund at MSCF for helping us further that mission here in Plymouth."



There to present the grant was Myra's family, including Michael Desroches, Ryland Desroches and Becky Zappone.

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