

February 23, 2010

Ms. Sharla Jeter
Executive Director
MS Doss Foundation
PO Box 1677
Seminole, TX 79360-1677

Dear Ms. Jeter,

As you are aware, Texas public libraries are a large part of the educational infrastructure of our state. We promote literacy, encourage personal growth, and provide a means for people and communities to interact and prosper. I am writing to invite the MS Doss Foundation to participate in that growth through support of the Alpine Public Library in Alpine, Texas.

Providing free, high-quality materials and programs to our patrons allows them to reach beyond the confines of geographic and economic isolation, which are real factors affecting life in far West Texas. Our mission to create lifelong learners embraces literature, language, outreach, and technology as tools to help bridge these gaps.

As we look forward to moving into a new library facility in late 2010, we are faced with the extraordinary cost of purchasing a large collection of new books. These books will augment our current circulating collection and allow us to meet library standards for number of materials per capita on opening day. We are asking the Foundation to consider funding the children's portion of this "opening day collection" at a cost of \$10,000, approximately 17% of the total projected cost. We have already received pledges and donations for another 20%.

From its humble beginnings to the present, the Alpine Public Library has grown through the dedication of and commitment of time and money by the citizens of Alpine and surrounding areas. Our citizens rightfully take pride of ownership in our library.

In 1947, the El Progreso Club, a women's study club, organized the first public library for the ranching and railroad community of Alpine. The newly formed El Progreso Public Library was located in the corner of a local retail store, and its first books were donated by guests at an afternoon tea hosted by the club. In spring 1948, the Brewster County sheriff's garage was donated for the library's use, and a volunteer stepped up to serve as the first librarian. As the book collection grew and the circulation increased, the need for more space became evident. An intensive fund-raising drive was instigated by the El Progreso Club with a goal of \$14,000 to purchase a more spacious facility. Property on North 7th Street, across from the Brewster County Courthouse, was purchased and dedicated in 1950. In 1970, the Alpine Public Library was further expanded and renovated to its current unique and charming configuration. The library was incorporated in 1949.

In 1951 the library received 501(c)(3) non-profit status. We receive yearly donations from the city and county, but we remain autonomous and maintain a robust fundraising strategy. A significant portion of our income comes from sales in our used book store, which is operated by the Friends of the Library. We manage one branch library 26 miles away in Marathon, Texas. We offer books, audio and video materials, public use computers, children's programs, outreach for the homebound, and occasional computer classes, all within our approximately 3,000 square feet 1940s-era building. We look forward eagerly to expanding services in our new 9,000 square foot building.

We hope that our small rural library might fall within the interests of the Foundation, and that you might consider helping us provide materials for our new library serving the entire Big Bend community. Please let us know if you feel interest in our project, and might consider a formal application.

My best regards,

Paige Delaney
Executive Director