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### Largest grant since 1998 **Technology foundation** awards \$500K to library

*Susan Shultz Times Reporter*

The **Darien Technology Foundation** recently awarded its largest grant yet, \$500,000, to the **Darien** Library Capital Campaign. This grant is the largest the **foundation** has made since its founding in 1998. The money will be spent to replicate the present **Darien Technology Foundation** Center at the new library as well as to provide computer stations, innovative **technology** and enhanced alternate work spaces throughout the new building.

"The **Darien** Library is a vital part of the community and the DTF is thrilled to partner with the fundraising campaign in an effort to provide 'best-in-class' **technology** for the new building," Ward Glassmeyer, **foundation** vice chairman, said about the grant decision.

The **Darien Technology Foundation** Center planned for the new library will be a similar learning environment to the current center. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn computer skills and programs (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Web site Design, Digital Photography, and Photoshop Elements, among others) through classes offered by the library as well as by the **foundation**. Digital cameras, video equipment and laptops will be available for loan. Scanners and printers will also be part of the new **technology** center.

"We are so pleased that the strong partnership between the **Darien Technology Foundation** and the **Darien** Library will be amplified and extended because of this generous gift," Kim Huffard, the **Darien** Library president and capital campaign co-chairman, said. "**Technology** is fundamental to many aspects of what we hope to accomplish by building this new library and the DTF initiative will assure the success of our efforts in the future. This is an example of the leadership that is transforming **Darien** and we are thankful to continue this successful partnership."

In addition to the new **Darien Technology Foundation** Center, the grant provides money for a portion of the \$1.8-million **technology** budget in the new library. This will clearly establish the library as a technological leader offering cutting-edge services. The **foundation** believes that this significant grant meshes seamlessly with the mission of providing technological resources to local schools and community organizations, a press release said.

Library director Louise Berry was pleased with the announcement of the grant. "This gift will help in the ongoing initiative which is currently underway to transform the current library. The funds donated will provide for significantly better resources to all the residents of the community in the years to come."

Discussing the **technology** plans that are in place, Berry said: "We are setting out to build one of the first libraries of the future - and we want it to be known as the "great good place in town, a community center that is a destination.

By enhancing the user's experience with **technology**, the **Darien** Library can provide even greater range of services to the community, in new and innovative ways. This next generation of **technology** is going to touch all of our lives."

The **Darien Technology Foundation** is proud of the role it will play in the new library. "**Technology** is rapidly changing and is a vital part of our community," Glassmeyer said. "The DTF is committed to providing **Darien** with the resources necessary for staying abreast of the technological innovations that both affect and enhance our daily lives - this significant \$500,000 grant allows us to do just that. We are grateful to our many donors who understand and support this mission."

Pam Dysenchuk, executive director of the **foundation**, said that the decision to make the large donation took a lot of discussion by the **foundation**.

"When the library started the capital campaign, they came to us and asked us if we would like to make a grant to replace their current **Darien Technology** center. We thought long and hard about it," she said.

Dysenchuk said the board felt that the current **technology** center at the library is extremely wellused and is a very popular place.

"We wanted to have the opportunity again to be part of the new library since we are such a vital part of the present library," she said.

One aspect of the grant was that the board wanted to have "ownership" over the **technology** in other parts of the library as well, so that the money would pay for workstations and other advanced **technology** aspects. When that was worked out, the grant was a done deal.

"The board said, OK, this was the right things for us to do. Our grants are not normally going to be that large. This is our largest grant to date, and all the money will be used for **technology**," she said.

Dysenchuk said the **technology foundation** already has such a great relationship with the library, and this grant will just enhance and continue it.

"The present center is so well used, and we wanted to be able to continue that relationship - the library and **technology** center is such a big part of the community and the new library will continue to do that," she said.

For more information about the **Darien Technology Foundation**, visit the Web site [dariantechnologyfoundation.org](http://dariantechnologyfoundation.org) or e-mail [pam.dysenchuk@dtfoundation.org](mailto:pam.dysenchuk@dtfoundation.org).