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**LITERACY ACCESS FUND PRESENTS GRANT AWARD  
TO THE READING PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

CHESTER, PA - Literacy Access Fund, a 501(c)(3), public charity, announces a grant award of \$10,000 to the Reading Public Library Foundation in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Literacy Access Fund secures funding from corporate, foundation, and individual partners in order to provide financial support to underfunded public libraries through a competitive granting process. The goal of the organization is to help libraries provide equal access to quality resources for young learners, regardless of economic factors.

The award to the Foundation, which raises money for use at the Reading Public Library, was made possible through partnership funding from Univest Bank and Trust Co., based in Souderton, PA. The grant will help fund the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology for young children and other library resources.

Kenneth A. Haupt, President of the Reading Public Library Foundation's Board of Directors, noted the Board's gratitude to Literacy Access Fund for the award. "This award demonstrates the commitment that the Reading Public Library staff, volunteers, and board members all share in ensuring that access and sharing of informational materials remains critical to learning and literacy development in our community. The staff should be commended on their continuous efforts in making our library facilities so incredibly welcoming to people looking to learn and expand their love of reading."

"This generous grant from Literacy Access Fund will help us close the digital divide at the Reading Public Library," according to Bronwen Gamble, Executive Director of the Library. "Providing the quality tools and programs we need for STEM education will help us prepare children for school and beyond in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Deborah B. Sorgi, Ed.D., Chair, Director & President of Literacy Access Fund, shared her thoughts. "Literacy Access Fund is pleased to support the Reading Public Library's initiatives to add technology to enhance literacy skills in an engaging, interactive way. Ms. Gamble's short- and long-term goals will reach residents who cannot easily access the library by bringing mobile technology and STEM programs into the surrounding community." Dr. Sorgi also noted, "We continue to identify and support deserving public libraries to help their littlest members read and succeed in school and life."

For more information about Literacy Access Fund, visit <http://www.literacyaccessfund.org/> or call 610-833-6411.

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***About the Reading Public Library Foundation***

Incorporated in 1996, the Reading Public Library Foundation raises important private dollars from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Foundation funding for the Reading Public Library covers general operating expenses and special projects that ensure quality collections and services for the residents of Reading and Greater Berks County.

***About Literacy Access Fund***

The mission of Literacy Access Fund is to make literacy a possibility for every child, in every community. The organization supports the public library as a community learning hub and a vital extension of the classroom and awards grants to underfunded public libraries to increase equal access to early literacy skills for young learners. Literacy Access Fund is headquartered in Chester, Pennsylvania, with the ability to support public libraries across the United States.