**Rotary District Grant Application**

**Describe the project objectives.**

The Gilmer Library seeks to improve our teen room space in order to better appeal to our 12-18 patrons. As part of the Sequoyah Regional Library 2022-2024 strategic plan, our goal is to have library spaces that are conducive to collaboration and gathering of all community members. Unfortunately the Gilmer teen room is not meeting this goal and is focused primarily on desktops and teen collections. While Gilmer teen material circulation increased from 2,166 to 2,457 (13.43%) from July 2022-June 2023, teens rarely use the room to collaborate or access the desktops.

     Most library collaborative seating is located outside the teen room. These spaces are shared by adult patrons and are subject to interruptions and distractions. Teen patrons use these areas more frequently than the current teen room and are in need of a welcoming dedicated space for their needs.

     The Rotary Foundation grant would allow the library to purchase new furniture and supplies for the teen room. The project includes removing the current desktops and repurposing the space with work and lounge seating. The improved teen room would feature a whiteboard, collaborative tables, and a more flexible layout for charging portable devices. This would make the space more inviting for individual study and group work, as well as social time outside school hours. Teens could also better use Chromebooks and other portable devices in place of desktops.

**Humanitarian Efforts: Describe how the project will benefit the community and/or improve the lives of the less fortunate.**

According to the most recent data of the Georgia Governor’s Office of Student Achievement, 25.4% of students enrolled in Gilmer County public schools are economically disadvantaged. Providing a more inviting teen room would offer economically disadvantaged teens a public space outside school hours to focus on educational goals. The new teen room would also give teens a literacy-focused environment during the Summer and Winter school closures.

**Publicity Plan: How will the general public know this is Rotary sponsored project?**

The library will share the project and Rotary’s sponsorship with Gilmer County Public Schools.  We would also request to feature an article in the Times Courier that highlights the benefits of the new space and Rotary’s sponsorship. There would also be a plaque installed inside the room that honors Rotary’s sponsorship.