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Sunderland Foundation Donates $250,000 to Library Capital Campaign

The Wichita Public Library Foundation announced today a $250,000 gift from the Sunderland Foundation as part of its “Margin of Excellence Campaign” to build Wichita’s new Advanced Learning Library.

Don Barry, Chairperson for the Wichita Public Library Foundation is pleased that the Sunderland Foundation has joined the effort to bring a new downtown library to Wichita. “Their willingness to invest in this project and to see the impact it will have on so many people is inspiring. We appreciate the Sunderland Foundation’s mission and understanding on how a new Advanced Learning Library will create new opportunities in our community.”

For more than 60 years, the Sunderland Foundation has invested in the places and spaces where non-profits do their work. Grants from the Sunderland Foundation help build the places where families in distress find help and healing, where young minds grow and thrive, and where communities come together for celebration and inspiration.

The Sunderland Foundation was established in 1945 by Lester T. Sunderland, who served as president of the Ash Grove Cement Company for 33 years and was a highly respected leader in the cement industry.

For more than six decades, the Foundation - which is still managed by Lester T. Sunderland's descendants - has focused on supporting bricks-and-mortar projects, awarding grants to non-profits in the Kansas City region and other areas where the Ash Grove Cement Company does business.

The Advanced Learning Library Capital Campaign serves to augment the City’s $30 million investment in what is being called “a community keystone project.” The campaign has secured more than $6.7 million toward its $8 million goal.

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