

## The Bartholomew County Public Library Adds Resources for Grant Seekers

Grant seeking can be a time-consuming process, yet the payoff can be well worth the effort. To help, the Bartholomew County Public Library now houses a collection of materials that will prove invaluable to local nonprofit agencies looking for new funding sources.

Called a "Cooperating Collection," the library has partnered with the Foundation Center of New York to establish a funding resources collection at the Library. The collection is available during library hours and features regularly updated print publications and databases from the Foundation Center, the nation's leading authority on philanthropy.

The Cooperating Collection gives patrons immediate, on-site access to **Foundation Directory Online Professional**, which is updated weekly with four comprehensive databases – *Grantmakers, Companies, Grants* and *990s* (the IRS form which allows the public to evaluate nonprofits and how they operate). The directory provides a wealth of fundraising information crucial for the development of successful grant proposals. The fully searchable database includes detailed profiles of over 91,000 active US foundations and corporate givers, as well as an extensive file of recent grants by the nation's top funders. Also included are print directories, proposal writing guides and online training. The Library will hold training sessions on how to effectively use these resources and identify potential funders.

Because the majority of foundations do not make grants to individuals or to for-profit organizations, the library also offers the **Foundation Grants to Individuals Online** database. This resource includes approximately 6,000 foundations and public charities that offer grants to students, artists, researchers and other individual grant seekers.

The Foundation Center Cooperating Collection is located in the Bartholomew County Public Library Reference Area. It can be used by any member of the public seeking information on grants. The databases for funding research are accessible only through computers in the library. Most of the print material cannot be checked out, but patrons may photocopy and print materials for a small per-page fee. The library also has a good selection of grant resource books available that can be checked out. Visitors conduct their own research, but library staff can assist them in getting started. Grant seekers who want a comprehensive introduction to available resources can call Michele Bottorff at the Bartholomew County Public Library at 812-379-1266 for an appointment.

*Michele Bottorff is a reference librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library*