



Committed to the future of rural communities.

New Hampshire—Rural Housing Service

Community Building

The Public Library — Heart of the Community

Outline Of Need:

The public library was one of the few public buildings in Whitefield, New Hampshire. The 106 year old structure was antiquated; bulging with books, lacking simple amenities such as hot water, and was out of compliance with accessibility laws.

Even its single bathroom doubled as office space and the basement was growing mold.

How Rural Development Helped:

The community provided \$150,000 matching funds and USDA provided a Community Facility Direct Loan of \$80,000 and grant in the amount of \$170,000. The USDA Rural Development funds were possible because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The Results:

The new 1400 square foot addition will be completed in the fall of 2011. The addition will be fully accessible with a 34 seat meeting room, kitchen, office, bathrooms, children's room and an expanded media center.



Librarian Sandy Holz proudly shares the plans for the new library.

“The library will be accessible to all, at long last,” said Sandy Holz, Whitefield librarian since 1974. “The new meeting and children’s rooms will allow programming and story hours which we could not have downstairs in the moldy old basement,” added Holz.

The town pledged in 1904 to “support the library forever and forever.” They are living up to that commitment.

Holz proclaimed, “There is no way we could have done this project without the Rural Development loan and grant.”

April 2011

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities

Investment: \$80,000 Direct Loan and \$170,000 Grant

Partners: Tillotson Fund—\$50,000

Local fundraising: \$150,000

Demographics

Whitefield, NH

Rural Population—2,038

Impact:

- Historic Preservation
- 34 Seat Meeting Room
- Expanded children’s library, media area and computer space