

NO ROOM TO GROW! Pawnee City Public Library Opens New Modernized Library

Outline of Need:

Pawnee City is a community that continues to grow but sadly the old Carnegie Library was not able to grow with it. It was not feasible to try to expand the existing structure so the library board and foundation decided to build a new, more spacious library to house all the new technology and vast number of books that had been acquired over the years. Constructing a new structure would also make it accessible, complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and providing much needed services to all the residents in and around Pawnee City.



How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development assisted with a \$160,000 community facility direct loan and a grant in the amount of \$172,000 funded by the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) library initiative. This library was also funded with a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant. Also, \$203,000 was raised by the Library Foundation through community donations.

The Results:

The community of Pawnee City was able to celebrate the new library with a Grand Opening and Open House on August 19, 2011. Many attended this event to see the 6,500 square foot new building with all new amenities including adult and children reading areas, a sleek modern circulation desk, well-equipped meeting room with separate access for public use after hours and plenty of needed storage space.

Looking around the new library, patrons will see the new technological equipment such as computers and scanners. Internet access and word processing programs will allow them to perform a variety of tasks from writing a resume to surfing the web. They will also see that all the furniture is new, from the shelves to the table and chairs so they will be sitting in style and comfort. This library will be better able to suit the needs of this growing community.

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