**Project Name:**

“North Todd Library: Past. Present. Future”

**School Display Name**: North Todd Elementary

**Contact Information:**

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**Project Short Description**:

High levels of moisture were sustained in our library due to a faulty HVAC system. Flooring, shelves and books were damaged. The goal of “Past. Present. Future” is to create a space that celebrates our heritage yet is designed for what students need now and what can be envisioned for the future.

**Project Budget**: $12,620

**Grant Amount: $4,820**

**Raised Budget: $0**

**Detailed Budget Figures:**

MSI Meridian Stone Wall $3,320.00

Broken down:

30 boxes of flat rock @ $66 per box = $1980

26 boxes of corners @ $50 per box = $1300

2 packs of starter strips @ 20 box = $40.

10 gallons of paint @$50 per gallon = $500

Décor flame electric fireplace and installation =$1,000

The need to renovate the library was just recently discovered. We have not had the opportunity to raise money.

(1)The Todd County Board of Education will pay for the flooring that will be installed, which will cost approximately $7,800.00.

(2)North Todd’s PTO holds several fundraisers throughout the year. However, the Kentucky Department of Education’s accounting procedures for school activity funds, prohibits the use of said money for building/construction purposes.

**Project Schedule:**

October 2015 – New carpet installed

January/February 2016 (assuming grant is awarded) materials and supplies ordered

March/April 2016 – rock wall constructed, walls painted and fireplace installed

May 2016 grand re-opening of the library and kick-off summer reading program

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**Project Description**

1.The mission of our project is to create an environment that would encourage teachers, students, parents and the greater community to collaborate, communicate and share. We envision a library that embraces its rural surroundings and heritage (PAST), meets the needs of our teachers and students (PRESENT), and evolves into a welcoming space that encourages exploration, creation and collaboration for years to come (FUTURE). 2.North Todd’s library program has traditionally worked hard to promote reading and establish a barrier-free learning environment. Built in 1988, the library space is very dated. The moisture problem created by the HVAC system may be a “blessing in disguise”, as we now embrace the possibility of transforming our library with our project “Past. Present. Future.” This plan would provide the opportunity to create an environment that when combined with student –driven learning welcomes school community to “dream big” all within the confines of a safe, nurturing, healthy and beautiful space. With a large number of our population residing in rental houses, apartments or mobile homes, this renovation would help to create a sense of connectedness among students and teachers, an important step in fostering conditions that make learning possible. This welcoming space would be one which all would be proud. In planning the décor of the library, special attention was given to include design that would acknowledge our farming heritage and local landscape. Cost efficient carpet flooring and paint in a complimentary color establishes the base of our plan. A faux rock wall will be the focal point of our project and bring to mind the hills, cliffs and streams that dot our landscape. We could refer to the wall as our “stepping stones to learning”. To complete the look, a décor flame electric fireplace with a barn beam mantle will pay tribute to our farming roots and provide ambience. Our new flexible space with moveable chairs and tables would encourage collaboration that the previous space had discouraged. Lunch time book clubs, makerspace area, independent or group reading areas, Genius Hour and STEM activities are a few examples of the educational opportunities and enrichment activities this space will provide for our K – 5 students. Apart from the everyday use that we envision, the library would become the perfect place for students to present projects to family, after school club meetings, PTO, district trainings or family events. Our beautiful library will be enjoyed for generations to come.

**Project Grant Reason**

(1)Repairs to our library became necessary when the HVAC unit connected to the library malfunctioned and created a moisture problem in the library. The excess moisture affected books, flooring and shelving. This unanticipated expense has created a hardship for our local board of education. The cost to replace flooring and repair the HVAC unit will be taken out of the general fund to keep insurance premiums from increasing. No funding will be available to repair shelving, paint the library or replace books. We are especially deserving of the Lowes Toolbox for Education Grant not only for the reasons described above but for our belief that a redesigned library space will become the learning hub of the school, motivating our students to want to visit the library to explore and create. Our new space would be celebrated and shared by the community and opened up for use by groups connected to school like PTO and local groups such as 4-H.

(2) Todd County’s main industry is farming and the local tax base to support the schools is small. North Todd is a school-wide Title 1 school with 100% of the population participating in the free school lunch program. Our school needs help with funding as the local resources to fund the project do not exist otherwise. Therefore, without the support of this grant, the idea to transform the library into the learning hub of the school will not be realized.

**Project Volunteer Plan**

Our school does not host a chapter of SkillsUSA. The majority of our work will be completed by school maintenance, however volunteers will be called upon from school employees or parents that may have special talents or skills such as painting or carpentry that could be lent to the completion of our project. We are also looking at the possibility of working with Todd County Central High School’s FFA program to allow students from the agriculture construction class, many of whom are former North Todd students, to hone their skills as they work with us to enhance our library.

**Lowes Help Description**

We can use Lowes’ employees to help with all phases of the project. As these tasks will require some level of experience with materials and tools, we foresee a wonderful mentoring opportunity arising with Lowes employees working alongside our FFA students. Lowe’s employees may also be of assistance with the selection and delivery of materials. We look forward to developing new friendships with our local Lowes store.