



defiance public library system
Defiance • Sherwood • Hicksville

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release, 10/21/22

Contact: Taryn Lawson, communications coordinator

tmlawson@defiancelibrary.org

419-782-1456 ext. 1106

‘Charlie Cart’ Would Bring Fresh Food Education to Hicksville

[HICKSVILLE] – Johnson Memorial Library is hoping to enhance its programming with the purchase of a Charlie Cart: a mobile kitchen and curriculum for food education.

“The great thing about a Charlie Cart is that it’s not just a full kitchen on wheels, but it also comes with a full food-education curriculum and classroom-tested recipes,” said Angela Powell, branch manager at Johnson Memorial Library, 116 W. High St., Hicksville.

The curriculum is geared to the K-5 crowd, but Powell has big ideas for the Charlie Cart that would include all age groups. Grades 1-6 might learn to crack an egg or wash dishes, while teens could learn to make ramen, smoothies and more. Adult classes and demonstrations, like breadmaking, would also be on the schedule, Powell said.

As Johnson Memorial Library lacks a kitchen, food programming has not been possible in the past.

“It’s important to provide food-education programming, because research shows that it equips children with the necessary skills to improve their health throughout their life, and helps with their emotional wellbeing,” said Powell, whose interest in the project was piqued after she heard about it on a library podcast.

Taking part in this relatively new program would also give Johnson Memorial Library and Hicksville a chance to stand out, she added.

“Until recently, the Charlie Cart Project was only on the west coast in libraries and schools,” Powell said. “Now, you can find them across the nation in some museums, food banks, and farmers’ markets.”

Defiance Public Library
320 Fort St.
Defiance, OH 43512
ph. 419-782-1456
fax. 419-782-6235

Johnson Memorial Library
116 W High St.
Hicksville, OH 43526
ph. 419-542-6200
fax. 419-542-1015

Sherwood Branch Library
117 N Harrison
Sherwood, OH 43556
ph. 419-899-4343
fax. 419-899-3479

www.defiancelibrary.org

Those who would like to donate can make out a check to the Friends of Johnson Memorial Library, and list "Charlie Cart" on the memo line. A total of \$15,000 is needed to fund the program; to date, \$600 has been donated. For questions or more information, contact the library at 419-542-6200.

"The best donation so far was from a 10-year-old girl who gave us 91 cents because she thought the idea sounded fun," Powell said. "Johnson Memorial Library loves to provide quality educational programming to Hicksville for all ages. A Charlie Cart would help us provide in an area we previously weren't able to."

XXX

PHOTO CUTLINE: Angela Powell (left), branch manager at Johnson Memorial Library, and Branch Associate Amber Headley show off the thermometer they will use to track donations for the Charlie Cart: a mobile kitchen and food-education curriculum they hope to bring to the library.