



## Press Release – For Immediate Release

### Fundraising Scam in Otsego

The Otsego District Library was alerted to a fundraising scam this past weekend in the neighborhood of Kay and Dix Streets. Two well-dressed white men, in their early twenties, went door-to-door Sunday afternoon (October 5) asking for donations of \$10, \$20, or \$60 to the Otsego District Library's "Statuary Fund." These men were carrying paperwork with pirated library logos, 501c3 paperwork, and receipts. The men were in no way related to the library and had no approval to do this. "The library would never go door-to-door asking for donations. All donations are made in person at the library or via mail to the library," says Library Director Andrea Estelle.

The library has hosted an ongoing Sculptureworks display of nationally-known sculptors like Tuck Langland, Hollis Williford, and Rosetta, and has been fundraising to purchase the "Library Cat" sculpture by Rosetta. So far, the library has raised \$1050 of the \$5000 needed to purchase "Library Cat" through a change drive in the library, donation boxes at programs, selling book bags, and selling library buttons. The men may have seen the library's fundraising efforts advertised on the library's Facebook page or website.

"It is extremely disheartening and frustrating that anyone would target the efforts of our community's library for their own personal gain," says Library Director Andrea Estelle. "We sincerely hope that nobody gave these men any money and urge anyone who was in contact with them or has any information on this scam to contact the Otsego Police Department (269-692-6111). The safest way to donate to the library's sculpture fundraiser is to write a check directly to the Otsego District Library, marked 'Sculptureworks Fundraiser' and mail it or bring it in, or donate cash in person in the library building to the Sculptureworks change drive."

*Contact For Further Information:*

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