FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Canyon Lake Library to Join the Ranks of Local Bookmobiles Providing Access to Books and Resources for the Community

Canyon Lake, TX – The Tye Preston Memorial Library is pleased to announce the acquisition of substantial funding through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Special Projects Grant program. This funding will allow the library to purchase a brand-new bookmobile, expanding their existing Library Outreach program and bringing mobile library services out to the community. The bookmobile program is expected to launch at the start of 2024.

This project is one of more than 40 grants made possible this year by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. “TSLAC is pleased to recognize and support the important work of Texas libraries in delivering innovative information services that strengthen local literacy, workforce and digital opportunity efforts,” said TSLAC Director and Librarian Gloria Meraz.

The bookmobile project aims to expand the reach of the library's services by bringing books and resources directly to neighborhoods and communities around the lake that may have limited access to the library’s physical facilities. The mobile library will travel to schools, community centers, senior living facilities, and underserved neighborhoods, delivering the joy of reading and promoting literacy in every corner of the community. This initiative aligns with the library's mission to serve the informational, recreational, and educational needs of the community’s residents and seasonal visitors – to be a place where minds expand and imaginations soar, a place where books are only the beginning.

The bookmobile will be a Transit-style van fully equipped to support the variety of outreach services currently provided by the Tye Preston Memorial Library, including library pop-up stops around the lake, home outreach services, school visits, and more! It will be stocked with a diverse collection of books and materials suitable for all ages and interests. The vehicle will be staffed by friendly and knowledgeable librarians and some of the library’s dedicated volunteers who will offer personalized assistance, recommend books, and facilitate various educational programs and workshops.

Board of Trustees: Susan Bogle, Richard Prins, Bob Arnold, Cheryl Pantermuehl, Savannah Allen
Head Outreach Librarian Mara Benitez says that the bookmobile is just another of many library endeavors that have been powered by the library’s dedicated crew of volunteers. “The Library was originally run by volunteers when it first opened in 1971” said Benitez. “It’s great to see how this tradition has carried on over the years through all of our services, including this expansion of our outreach services. We couldn’t do all that we do without our volunteers!”

Library Director Natalie Shults expressed gratitude for the generous support, stating, “The acquisition of this bookmobile will be a game-changer for our library and the people we serve. Libraries serve entire communities and the beautiful hill country can make it trickier for some folks to get to us. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring the magic of books and knowledge directly to those who need it most.”

The Tye Preston Memorial Library anticipates the bookmobile to hit the road within the next few months, following the completion of necessary preparations and logistics. The exact schedule and stops will be announced in due course, ensuring that everyone can benefit from this exciting new service. For more information and updates on the bookmobile project, please visit the library's website at tpml.org/LAKEmobile or by reaching out to the library at 830-964-3744 and outreach@tpml.org.

ABOUT THE PRESTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
The Tye Preston Memorial Library is a vibrant and community-focused institution dedicated to providing free and accessible resources, programs, and services that support learning, literacy, and cultural enrichment. TPML is committed to being a hub of knowledge and exploration for residents of all ages.

ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION
Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs to improve their lives and communities. TSLAC provides historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print material because of physical or reading disabilities. For more information, visit www.tsl.texas.gov.

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