

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library Celebrate a New Milestone

Branford, CT – At the recent Friends of The Blackstone Annual Meeting, there was an atmosphere of celebration as an additional year-end gift of over \$23,000 was gifted to the James Blackstone Memorial Library. This substantial donation is a continuation of the Friends' support throughout the year, which has now reached a total of \$72,000 for the fiscal year.

Barbara Barrett, President of Friends, highlighted the organization's history of generosity. Over the years, the Friends' gifting has shown consistent growth. From 2018 to 2024, the total gifts surged by 86%, accumulating to \$421,260 over the seven-year span.

A significant milestone was also announced: since the Friends' inception in 1988, the total contributions for enrichment activities and programs at the Blackstone Library have now surpassed one million dollars. This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our members and donors, the invaluable support of our sponsors, and the collaboration between the Friends board, library trustees, and staff.

Katy McNicol, Director of the Blackstone Library, stated "the Library is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of community members who volunteer their time to help raise funds that truly enhance what the library is able to offer Branford. Our annual budget forms a really strong base of service, staff, and collections, and the Friends' gifts mean we can also offer dynamic and vibrant programming, special collections like Quick Picks and the Library of Things, special equipment like the 3D printers, and special furniture for people to gather and relax. We are so grateful for our Friends!"

The Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this success and look forward to continuing their mission of supporting the library as a cornerstone of the community.

The Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the library.

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Katy McNicol, Library Director (left), and Barbara Barrett, Friends President (right)

Photo Courtesy of Diane Puchalski

End of Release