

Bedford Hills Free Library

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November 1, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

If you value your public library and all it provides, this is an important letter for you. Your response is critical to the future of your library.

Today the **Bedford Hills Free Library** is faced with funding cuts and an unprecedented demand for books and resources. More people are visiting our library than ever before. In fact, since 2005 our circulation of materials has grown by more than 33%!

In this difficult economic climate, the true value of our library shines through. More and more people appreciate the information and services we offer—everything from the latest books and magazines to our public computers to our outstanding free children's programs.

But the library's budget is stretched as far as it will go. Due to cuts in town funding, the library has had to reduce both staff hours and purchases of new materials. The very real possibility of further cuts in 2012 will have a disastrous impact on the services and programs we deliver to this community.

So I am writing today to ask for your help. Your donation to support the **Bedford Hills Free Library** is an investment that will pay great dividends for you, your family, your neighbors, and thousands of others right here in your community.

In these tough times, your fully tax-deductible contribution to support the library will help us provide books, materials and special programs to our diverse community of patrons— thousands of children and adults who depend upon our library every day.

The **Bedford Hills Free Library** is a lifeline for our community. But we need your help to meet the challenges we face:

1. **Doing more with less.** Every year the **Bedford Hills Free Library** serves more people and circulates more books and materials. Last year alone, over 80,000 books and materials were checked out, and even more people took advantage of our excellent programs and public computers. But funding from the Town has not kept pace with this growth for over a decade, and last year our funding sustained an *additional* cut of \$40,000. Our volunteers work exceptionally hard, but we simply cannot raise this kind of money through fundraising events alone - we must rely on YOU and your year-end donation to help keep our library's doors open.

2. **Helping people in a tough economy.** People are tightening their belts. And in times like these, our library's services are more valuable than ever, and therefore in greater demand. Books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and more are here for education, entertainment and self-improvement. Public computers are here to help patrons look for jobs and research new careers.

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3. **Educating our community's next generation.** No other library in our area offers the depth and quality of the children's' programs here at the BHFL. From our renowned story times to our innovative "Reading with Rescue Dogs" to our workshops, author visits and summer reading programs, we are helping the children of our hamlet cultivate a life-long love of reading that will prepare them well for the road ahead.

4. **Working with students of all ages.** Our library actively supports student achievement through reading motivation programs, teen book groups, and after school help at the library and through our website. We also offer community service hours and internships to high school, college and graduate students.

5. **Keeping resources up-to-date.** Like all libraries, the **Bedford Hills Free Library** needs to keep pace with the expanding universe of information sources and materials. Everyone deserves to have access to the latest books, magazines, audio books, DVDs, online information and other resources.

6. **Offering family-friendly space.** Our library has become a wonderful place for families to gather and spend time together. Our special programs and seasonal celebrations have become cherished traditions for many area families and we are proud to say that BHFL has been at the center of community spirit and celebration here in our hamlet since 1915.

Your fully tax-deductible donation helps provide people with the knowledge, cultural experiences and practical information they need to improve themselves and give back to our community.

Please take a minute to send your donation today. We'll use it wisely on behalf of all the people who use the **Bedford Hills Free Library**. And your donation will stay right here in our community, where you can see it at work every day. Your family, friends, and neighbors will benefit—and so will you!

I invite you to stop by our friendly community library to see just how many people are using our resources. Your gift will make a tremendous difference in their lives as well as in your own. The Bedford Hills Free Library is YOUR library - and it is more important than ever - so please give as generously as you can.

Sincerely,

Heide Shilstone

S. Heide Shilstone, President
Board of Trustees

P.S. Your contribution to the **Bedford Hills Free Library** will go directly to support services and programs that benefit those who need the library the most. That's why we're depending on your support. Please take a few minutes to send your tax-deductible donation today.

The BHFL is a registered 501 (3) (C) organization. Your donation is tax deductible according to federal tax law.