

John J. Snyder Fund of Lancaster County Community Foundation Approves \$25,000 Grant for Historic Amelia Givin Library in Mt. Holly Springs

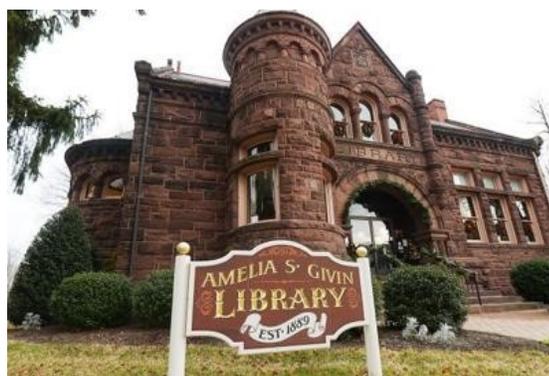


Mechanicsburg, Pa. – The Cumberland County Library System Foundation has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the John J. Snyder, Jr. Fund of the Lancaster County Community Foundation for roof repairs at the historic Amelia S. Givin Library in Mt. Holly Springs.

Cynthia Stratton Thompson, director of the Amelia S. Givin Free Library, comments, “The Board of Trustees and staff of the Amelia Givin Library are thrilled to receive a very significant grant from the John J. Snyder, Jr. Fund to assist with much-needed roof repairs to our aging building. Our historic library has long been a hallmark in the community, with a

long tradition of serving people of all ages and backgrounds. The library is truly unique, named as a National Historic Landmark in 2004. With cuts in funding over the last number of years, preserving this gem has become more and more difficult with limited funds. The John J. Snyder, Jr. grant will help us preserve our 130-year-old building to continue to be there for future generations. We are so appreciative of this opportunity!”

Located at 114 North Baltimore Avenue in Mt. Holly Springs, the Amelia Givin Library was constructed during the public library movement of the late nineteenth century, which was fueled by various additional philanthropic efforts of organizations such as the Carnegie Foundation. The building is an example of the popular late nineteenth century Romanesque Revival style. The library was designed by Pittsburgh architect James T. Steen using classic Richardsonian elements including: broad round arches, use of towers with conical roofs, rusticated ashlar masonry, battered foundation walls, banks of windows, deeply set windows and doors, squat columns, and carved ornament.



The Amelia S. Givin Free Library is a National Historic Landmark and the oldest public library in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania



An example of Amelia Givin's unique "Moorish fretwork"

The interior of the Givin Library owes its woodwork to Moses Ransom, an Ohio artisan who reinterpreted Victorian ornamentation to create "Moorish fretwork," a machine-made Open Barley Twist molding woven together to form a myriad of lattice-like screen designs. These lattice screens were constructed by interlacing machine-carved helical wooden sticks into elaborate ornamental patterns that are reminiscent of Harem screens from the Middle East.

Amelia Givin Library is the oldest of eight public library locations in Cumberland County. All are members of the Cumberland County Library System.

Cumberland County's public libraries lead their communities with educational, cultural, and entertainment programs, as well as authoritative and interesting materials. Students from Cumberland County's nine public school districts – Big Spring, Camp Hill, Carlisle Area, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, Mechanicsburg, Shippensburg, South Middleton, and West Shore – benefit from School-Year STEM, the Summer Learning Program, and many other library programs and services. The Cumberland County Library System is one of the busiest library systems in Pennsylvania, with more than 107,700 active library card holders visiting their libraries 1,171,574 times a year and circulating 2,273,924 items. More information on the Cumberland County Library System can be found at www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

The Cumberland County Library System Foundation is a federally tax-exempt not-for-profit organization, EIN 20-8077580, with a mission to support the Cumberland County Library System and its member library collections, program services, and innovative initiatives. More information about the Cumberland County Library System Foundation can be found at www.CCLSFoundation.org.