One of the children’s librarians was at a store picking up supplies for a program. When the cashier noticed that she was from the library, the cashier expressed her gratitude at how she was able to receive a computer from the library’s Isle Connect program.

She mentioned that she had been taking online courses, but had only been able to do her homework on her phone. As soon as she got her computer, she was able to hop online and finish her assignment that was due that Thursday evening!

- ISLE CONNECT

By JOSE MENDELO
The Daily News

More than 100 people lined up outside Rosenberg Library on a cold Thursday afternoon to receive laptops, hotspots, and high-speed internet service as part of an organization’s initiative to help bridge the digital divide.

Rosenberg Library, 2209 Sedy Ave, was awarded more than $760,000 in federal grant money to provide 1,500 laptops, hotspots, and high-speed internet to those who never had access to that technology.

“This is exciting,” said Mike Miller, executive director of Rosenberg Library. The library teamed up with Compdated, a nonprofit organization, to give away 1,500 laptops to Galveston residents who lack access to the internet.

859 items delivered
15 items mailed
44 homebound visits

8,437 Visitors
2,093 reference transactions
14,305 circulation
20,539 Rosenberg website visits

61 ONSITE PROGRAMS sessions
1,358 attendance

4 OUTREACH PROGRAMS sessions
144 attendance

5 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS sessions
87 attendance

62 reservations
1,086 attendance

FRONT PAGE GALVESTON COUNTY DAILY NEWS

TECHNOLOGY: BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

‘I felt like I won the lottery’

Laptop giveaway answers prayers for digital have-nots

By JOSE MENDELLO
The Daily News

MONIQUE ROSS, 24, and Mike Miller, executive director of Rosenberg Library, provide items to those in need.

Jennifer Reynolds/The Daily News

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FRONT PAGE GALVESTON COUNTY DAILY NEWS
“I had the pleasure of working with Children’s Librarian Heather Owens. I asked for assistance in choosing age-appropriate books for my three oldest grandboys as a list for Christmas reading. Within 24 hours, she emailed me a wide array of children’s books, segregated into those three age levels. Moreover, she gave me titles for both of my two year old grandsons, whom I had mentioned, but hadn’t thought there would be titles for kids so young; Heather, however, went the extra mile for me and included suggestions for them as well.

As a retired director of a UTMB departmental publication and grant support office, I was particularly impressed by Ms. Owens’ rapid assistance and the trustworthiness she displayed in fulfilling a promise.

I’ve been a patron of Rosenberg Library for 40 years and have always felt very lucky to have access to such a wonderful library whose collection is vast and diverse and whose staff is always quick to assist.”

- MAC MCCONNELL

“Joan Elmer called to thank the Children’s department for their help in recommending books for her great granddaughter’s visit. The books were a hit! The great granddaughter had everyone in the family reading to her. Everyone had such a good time with the books, Joan reached out for more suggestions in hopes to purchase them as Christmas gifts.”

- CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT

“We really enjoyed our visit! My husband and I read Isaac’s Storm aloud together last year after our middle school granddaughter told us what she was learning in school about the Hurricane of 1900. Native Texans we are, but completely ignorant of the devastation that really took place. I’m proud of Galveston for rebounding and rebuilding and becoming the wonderful Texas city it is today!”

- INSTAGRAM

“Loved the 1900 Storm exhibit. Especially the written document from the child’s perspective.”

- VISITOR FROM MICHIGAN

"Perhaps you have checked off all the items you need for an incredible Thanksgiving dinner. However, one precious ingredient can only be found at your local library — books. During your preparations this year, remember that books are a vital part of any holiday celebration. Whether the kids are pouring over books while you pour the gravy, or the family reads together during bedtime, adding a book to the mix creates lasting memories.

- ROSENBERG COUNTY DAILY NEWS

$45,756.37 IN DONATIONS

Helping Families Find Holiday Books

2,458 public computer sessions
2,745 wi-fi sessions

16,466 total database uses
6,136 Database use
10,330 GTHC Digital views

$45,756.37 IN DONATIONS

Composing the holiday calendar can be a challenge. However, a little research into local events and traditions can provide a wealth of ideas for families to enjoy together. Whether it’s a local parade, tree lighting ceremony, or a visit to the zoo, there are plenty of opportunities to create lasting memories.

- ROSENBERG COUNTY DAILY NEWS

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

1,560 materials processed or added
7 collections added
2,115 items digitized