



## Gaylord Area (MI) Branch

Maureen Derenzy, Media Coordinator

Phone: (989) 350-4567 (cell)

Email: [mderenzy@gmail.com](mailto:mderenzy@gmail.com)

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### Press Release

#### AAUW giving supports education and literacy

Gaylord – An annual tradition within the American Association of University Women Gaylord Area Branch will benefit two programs with a mission to advance education. This year, donations collected from personal members as a part of AAUW's holiday giving program were designated to the Otsego County Library's 1000 Books before Kindergarten program and the Foster Care program under the Otsego County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Mary Fox, AAUW-Gaylord Area Branch treasurer, recently stopped at the Otsego County Library to deliver a \$300 check to support the early literacy reading program. 1000 Books before Kindergarten promotes reading aloud at home during early childhood. According to Jackie Skinner, program coordinator, "1000 Books is a practical and fun way to make reading aloud to children a family habit that leads to success in school and instills a love of reading that lasts a lifetime." The program is open to all Otsego County families with children ages 0-5; parents and caregivers are encouraged to learn more by stopping at any of three library locations in Gaylord, Johannesburg or Vanderbilt, or visiting the library website at [www.otsegocountylibrary.org](http://www.otsegocountylibrary.org).

Two young women identified by DHHS, who were formerly a part of the Foster Care program and now pursuing higher education goals, have each received \$210 to assist them with education-related expenses. "Our AAUW branch has a long history of support for women who wish to attain new skills," states Fox. "When the Foster Care program identified a need, we wanted to help." Persons wishing to learn more about the Foster Care program can contact DHHS at (989) 732-1702.

AAUW is a nationwide organization that advances equity and education for women and girls. The Gaylord Area Branch empowers through education awards, educational programs and honoring the achievements of local women. For more information, visit [gaylord-mi.aauw.net](http://gaylord-mi.aauw.net) or email [aauwgaylord@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgaylord@gmail.com).

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**For immediate release**