



For Immediate Release

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Library Brings Back Food for Fines Program

Harlingen, Texas—For the fourth consecutive year, the Harlingen Public Library is giving patrons a chance to erase late book fines and help out the local homeless shelter/food pantry at the same time.

The Food for Fines Drive allows library users to substitute one can of food for each dollar they owe in overdue fines. Library Director Dauna Campbell says this is an opportunity to help the community while at the same time erase library fines no matter how far they go back. “This is a way to give people a clean slate. So they’ll clear their library record and help us feed the homeless.”

The drive runs from November 1-18 and all donations will go to Loaves and Fishes. The shelter is asking for basic staples such as rice, beans, peanut butter, cereal, can vegetables, canned fruit, meals in a can like stew, chili, soup, tuna, and canned meat. Each item will count as \$1 taken off the fine. The library will waive up to \$10 in overdue fines for each patron.

The first couple of year’s patrons really got behind the program and participated. Last year though, only six people contributed.

News From The City of Harlingen

Month/Year	# of food items collected	# of patron participation	total overdue waived
2015 November	120	20	\$84.00
2016 November	172	31	\$138.75
2017 November	43	6	\$32.50

Campbell hopes the interest will be renewed this year as everyone can make donations not just patrons who owe fines. Anyone interested in making a canned food donation can simply stop by the Harlingen Public Library located at 410 '76 Drive. The library is open Monday - Thursday from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 -5 p.m.

Again, for those who do have library fines, they can reduce \$1 for every canned food donation with a maximum savings of up to \$10.

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