

The Thorson Memorial Library received a \$50,000 grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation to help improve health for all the residents of Grant County. The funds will be used for Project J.O.B.S. (Jobs, Opportunities & Benefits). Thorson Memorial Library and the Grant County Child & Youth Council will work with the Work Force Center, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, area institutions of higher learning, along with local organizations to develop and implement the program.

The Thorson Memorial Library grant is one of four awarded to libraries across the state to help increase the opportunity for residents to reach their full health potential. "We recognize that libraries are key gathering places in communities and are a logical location to base programs that can help people be their healthiest," said Stacey Millett, senior program officer for the Foundation. "We applaud the efforts of libraries to collaborate with other community nonprofits and are pleased to be able to support these projects."

The program is part of a larger health equity initiative launched in 2011 that seeks to ensure that all Minnesotans have an equal opportunity to live a healthy life regardless of income, education, race and other socioeconomic factors that affect health.

Gail Hedstrom, library director stated, "We are really excited for the positive impact this grant will have on our community."

For more information on Blue Cross's grant making programs, visit bcbsmnfoundation.org or call (651) 662-3950 or toll free at 1-866-812-1593.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation exclusively dedicates its assets to improving health in Minnesota, awarding more the \$31 million since it was established in 1986. The Foundation's purpose is to make a healthy difference in people's lives by improving the community conditions that affect the health of children and families.