



# Press

# Release



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Wichita Falls Public Library to Start Hot Spot Checkouts**

Wichita Falls, Texas – The Wichita Falls Public Library has been chosen by the Tocker Foundation to implement a hotspot lending program for citizens of Wichita Falls and the surrounding area.

The library received 10 mobile hotspot devices to provide wireless internet access that can be checked out to patrons for a period of three weeks, just like other library materials. The purpose of the project is to strengthen broadband availability in rural counties.

Library Administrator Jana Hausburg said, “These hotspots will assist our community with internet access in many ways. You might be traveling to a remote area without WIFI and need to keep in touch with work or family, or you might be digitally unconnected and need to complete a school course or to help your kids do their homework. Now we’ve got hotspots for your convenience.”

“Although they look like cell phones, they won’t make calls,” continued Hausburg. The pocket-sized hotspots can provide free internet to a smartphone, laptop, tablet, or other devices with WIFI compatibility.”

According to Hausburg, library programs to ‘lend out the internet’ to bridge the digital divide have been successfully implemented in many locations through cellular-based mobile hotspot devices. Mobile technology presents many unique opportunities for the access in neighborhoods and communities suffering from a lack of available home-based broadband due both to affordability issues as well as simple absence of local facilities.

“Tocker donated the hotspots. They’ll pay for the internet service for about sixteen months. If we choose to continue offering this service, we’ll need to budget for it,” said Hausburg.

The Tocker Foundation was created in 1964 to implement the philanthropic interests of Phillip and Olive Tocker. The foundation supports small, rural community libraries within Texas serving populations of 12,000 or less and partners with libraries to meet the particular needs of their communities.

For more information, call the Wichita Falls Public Library at (940) 767-0868.

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