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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headline: Library Enhancement Groundbreaking

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The Mark & Emily Turner Memorial Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce ground breaking for the second phase of its library enhancement project. Funding for this enhancement is generously provided by Mary Barton Akeley Smith in honor of her parents Robert and Hope Akeley, by Ray and Sandy Gauvin, the Phillips-Green Foundation, and the Maine Humanities Council. Mary writes, “Upon completion of this project, patrons will notice a welcoming foyer added to the primary entrance, an intuitive layout of services, and an interior that captures the warm vibrant colors of Aroostook County.

Mary Barton Akeley Smith states, “I would like this part of the story to not be lost. It starts with my grandmother, my mother and father, my marriage to Rodney, his death, my decision to give to something that will make a lasting difference in a community that I hold dear to my heart. None of this would have happened without Rodney, his ability to rise above his circumstances and create a lasting impact in technology. This wouldn't have happened without the values instilled in me by my parents and Rodney's values regarding giving back. A friend told me not long after Rodney's death that the way to live with my grief was to find a purpose in life. My giving back is my purpose.”

“This is an exciting time for the library,” states City Manager, Jim Bennett. “Our community is fortunate to have such generous benefactors who truly care about the quality of services our residents receive. Their generosity will have a lasting impact on not only Presque Isle’s current residents, but on many generations to come.”

The library board’s Interior Design Committee has worked with Scott Simons Architects of Portland, Maine, to create a library that will serve as a showpiece for the community. The Library Board of Trustees signed a contract with general contractor H. E. Callahan of Auburn, Maine. The ground breaking ceremony will take place at Mark & Emily Turner Memorial Library, 39 Second Street in Presque Isle, on Monday, July 15, 2013, at 3:30 PM. Construction is expected to last six to seven months. Library services are expected to continue with minimal interruption. Any temporary changes to service will be announced through news outlets and on social media.