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## For Immediate Release

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## Giving Tree at Carnegie-Stout

December 4, 2018 – The Carnegie-Stout Public Library has introduced a “Giving Tree” as an extension of its six-month fine-free trial. The Giving Tree is a program that will match donors with the library accounts of children that are currently blocked from access due to fines and fees.

“The motivation in removing fines for past-due material is to increase access to library resources. About 22% of children who have library cards have blocked accounts due to fines or lost materials. Fines can be waived, but not lost materials due to the need for replacement of books or DVDs,” said Library Director Susan Henricks.

Donations are accepted for any amount and will go toward a child’s account that has a cost associated with it for lost materials. Donations are tax deductible. “We have contacted about 200 families to ask if they would like to participate in this program and are looking for help to spread the word, both to those who can benefit from this program as well as donors.”

The fine-free trial began on July 1, 2018 and concludes December 31, 2018. The fine policy will be reinstated on January 1, 2019 through at least the end of June. The Library is evaluating the outcome of the fine-free trial and the Library Board will determine whether to seek funding to allow the abolishment of fines permanently.

For more information on the Giving Tree program contact Carnegie-Stout Public Library at 589-4225.

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