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NEW LIBRARY OFFERING

Concert to benefit Kindermusic program

By Chris Worst

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COLDWATER — For 13 years, Diane Pridgeon and Susanne Wise have held a benefit concert at Tibbits Opera House in memory of several family members.

The proceeds from this year's concert, which will take place on Saturday, will help the Branch District Library conduct a special program for area children.

"Lisa Dove will do Kindermusic," Pridgeon said. "A lot of families may not be able to provide that for their children, but with this offering (the program will be available to them)."

Kindermusik is a program for young children that uses music to aid in their cognitive development. Dove said children would come to the library with an adult and participate in classes involving music, rhythm and movement.

"We do activities that are music- and poetry-themed with movement that's appropriate for their age," Dove said. "The older (children) get ... they start to play simple rhythm instruments like bells and sticks and drums and things that are safe for them to use, and yet they get to experience touching and feeling and hearing."

Dove said music has been shown to help with the mental development of children, as well as to provide bonding opportunities for children and parents.

"Music has been proven to be excellent for brain development, excellent for science and math, for coordination," Dove said. "Every part of the brain is touched through music.

"As they're growing (at) such a crucial time in their development, using music is nothing but awesome," she added.

Branch District Library director Evette Atkin said the funds from the benefit concert would go directly to the development of a Kindermusic program through the library; classes would be held at the Coldwater branch.

"Bringing music to children early has a ton of benefits," Atkin said. "It's just really important, especially to expose children who haven't had the opportunity to be exposed to it before.

"Any excess funds (from the concert) would go to something that Diane (Pridgeon) and I agree on, including possibly adding more music to the (library) music collection or other opportunities for children," Atkin added.

Dove said she has taught Kindermusic for 15 or 16



Emma Stuman (left) and Jocelyn Summer participate in a recent children's program at the Branch District Library, Coldwater Branch. The library will begin a new Kindermusic program with fund obtained from a benefit concert at Tibbits. CHRIS WORST PHOTO

years. She typically teaches students for a fee, but the program at the library would be free and open to all children in a certain age range.

"There is a fee to come to (my) Kindermusic (classes), and unfortunately some people can't afford it," Dove said. "Any time I have an opportunity to be able to do this, I do jump at it."

Pridgeon said the program would not be in place until the late fall or early winter. Classes, she said, would most likely be held in two sessions of four weeks each.

"We thought it would be good to keep it in a time-frame that is manageable for parents," Pridgeon said. "We think we'd get success

that way."

Atkin said whether or not the program would continue in future years will depend on the popularity of the program. She said some of the funds that will be obtained from the recently-approved millage may be used for library programs.

"If the library offered it, that would be for free," Atkin said.

For more information on the annual concert, go to <http://www.thedailyreporter.com/article/20140909/News/140909079>. For more information on the Kindermusic program itself, visit www.kindermusic.com.