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PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTER OPENS AT JULIA BOYER REINSTEIN LIBRARY

Funding Provided by Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

A new public computer center has opened at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library on Losson Road in Cheektowaga with a \$244,517 grant provided through the New York State Library Broadband Technology Program funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The computer center features 13 new laptop computers and 8 new desktop computers all offering high speed broadband access. The JBR Library currently offers two computer classes weekly on topics ranging from Microsoft Office products to Internet searching and safety to resume writing. In addition, library trainers are available to assist users of all skill levels on an as-needed basis, or by appointment for one-on-one training.

"We are so grateful we can support the needs of our community with this new computer center. In total our library now has 32 computers," said Christine Bazan, director of the Cheektowaga Libraries. "The downturn in the economy has led more people to rely on their libraries for employment and business searches, resume writing, and to enhance their own computer literacy. We provide all of this and, best of all, it is free."

For additional information about the JBR Public Computer Center and schedule of classes, please visit the library, or call 716-668-4991 (ext. 20) or get details online at <http://jbrpcc.org>.

The grants, awarded to 30 public libraries in New York, were made to advance public access to high-speed broadband services in high-need communities, advance the use of e-services for training, digital literacy and education, and to provide technical support and other resources for job and career advancement searches through anchor institutions such as libraries.

All 37 libraries in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System offer free computer use. In 2010 there were 860,530 public computer sessions, a 4.6% increase over the previous year. 2011 marks the 175th anniversary of library borrowing services in Erie County. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System provides hundreds of free services and resources to library cardholders, including book, DVD, and CD borrowing, downloadable materials, online catalogs and account management, hundreds of free programs, language translations, business and employment databases, and computer training. For more information, visit www.Buffalolib.org.

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