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MCPL’s Story Center Hosts ‘1,000 Footsteps’ Exhibit

Quilt Display at Woodneath Library Center Shares Refugee Journeys

Kansas City, MO – From November through January, MCPL’s Woodneath Library Center [8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO 64157] will house a special new exhibit called 1,000 Footsteps Tell the Story. Each month, the exhibit—located across from the Barista de Casa Café in the Library—will feature a unique quilt that depicts the creator’s journey from her home country to the United States.

Created by students of the Once We Were Refugees program, a Kansas City-area organization that offers vocational classes to resettled refugees, each quilt serves as a visual representation of the family's flight from home—often to refugee camps in other countries before arriving in the U.S.

“We’re honored to bring this exhibit to Library customers and local residents,” said Mark Livengood, Director of MCPL’s Story Center. “Not only is each quilt a testament to the strength and perseverance of the person who created it; it is also an inspiring form of storytelling that focuses on the bonds of family.”

The quilts in the 1,000 Footsteps exhibit share stories of families from South Sudan, Iraq, and Syria. Alongside each quilt, there is an explanation of the journey and a photo of the artist. In addition to the exhibit, The Story Center will host a conversation on Wednesday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodneath Library Center where attendees can learn more about the artists’ journeys, the exhibit, and Once We Were Refugees. Register for this program, or stop by the Woodneath Library Center any time during regular hours to view the exhibit.

Funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, The Story Center at Mid-Continent Public Library was developed to help people create and share their own stories and connect with the stories of others. To learn more about the programs, services, and resources offered by The Story Center, visit mystorycenter.org.

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Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.