

News Release – OWWL Library System to Provide Free Period Products in Fourteen Libraries

(Monday, February 13, 2023) Canandaigua, NY — The OWWL Library System is partnering with libraries in Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties to provide free period products in their public restrooms. Coinless dispensers stocked with tampons and pads will be installed at the System’s headquarters in Canandaigua and in fourteen OWWL Libraries. They are:

- Avon Free Library
- Dansville Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Honeoye Public Library
- Lyons Public Library
- Newark Public Library
- Palmyra Community Library
- Perry Public Library
- Pike Library
- Red Jacket Community Library
- Victor Farmington Library
- Wadsworth Library
- Warsaw Public Library
- Wood Library

Having these products available free for library patrons will create a more equitable experience for library users. OWWL Library System Program Director Suzanne Macaulay said, “Patrons will not have to choose between using the library and leaving the library due to their period and not having products on hand.” The products and wall-mounted dispensers were purchased through Aunt Flow and are ADA-compliant.

Across the country, libraries, schools, universities, museums, stadiums, and community centers have brought Aunt Flow to their organizations. Their menstrual product dispenser system can also be found in thousands of locations including Akron-Summit County Public Library, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Footprint Center, Princeton University, Apple, Netflix, Google, and Viacom. Founded by Claire Coder in 2016, the mission of Aunt Flow is to ensure everyone has access to period products.

“The Honeoye Public Library is excited for this partnership opportunity focusing on providing essential items for patrons, items that no one should ever be without,” said Honeoye Public Library Director Janelle Speca. “Having menstrual products available will make for a more

comfortable library experience.” Sheila Koeberle, Assistant Director of the Lyons Public Library, agrees. “The Lyons Public Library is thrilled to participate. This partnership will assist us in providing a basic need for our library patrons.”

Each of the fourteen partner libraries will receive one wall-mounted dispenser and a start-up amount of product stock. The libraries have committed to continuing the program beyond this initial phase. “Our hope is that this is just the start of OWWL Libraries providing free menstrual products and that others are inspired to start sustainable programs,” Macaulay said. “We view it as stocking toilet paper, soap, and paper towels.”

The OWWL Library System, headquartered in Canandaigua, New York, supports library services and the 42 OWWL Libraries serving Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties. Visit owwl.org to learn more.

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News Media: For more information, contact OWWL Library System at 585-394-8260 x1106 or communications@owwl.org.

