



The Foundation

The Alachua County Library District Foundation

providing long-term support to the Alachua County Library District
through major gifts and bequests since 1989

July 2022

Foundation Funds One Hundred Additional WiFi2Go Hotspots

The Library District's WiFi2Go mobile hotspots have proven to be a big hit with library patrons. The Foundation provided an initial \$36,000 in April 2021 to purchase one hundred hotspots and a further \$36,000 in August 2021 for an additional one hundred hotspots. Given the overwhelming success of the WiFi2Go program, the Foundation in June, 2022, gave the Library District a third check of \$36,000 for one hundred more hotspot kits.



Alachua County residents can check out hotspots for seven days to connect up to five computers, smartphones, and other devices to the Internet. They can be returned to any library branch.

Hotspots will renew if there are no holds. While there are no data plan fees or data limits, service is dependent on the availability of the T-Mobile network where the hotspot is being used.

As of mid-June, 2022, library patrons have checked out the hotspots over eight thousand times and there were more than 160 holds for WiFi2Go kits. As Library Director Shaney Livingston noted after the Library

District began providing the hotspots to patrons, the program “doesn't solve the digital divide problem, but it addresses it.” With the addition of another one hundred kits, the Library District will be able to do even more about addressing the digital divide problem. And there will be even more patrons who share the sentiments of a 31-year-old woman who had been relying on her mobile phone's hotspot to upload work, stream, and call her family. She stated that, “When I discovered the library had the WiFi2Go, I was pretty excited. It makes it easier to FaceTime or talk with family.”

This third round of funding WiFi2Go kits demonstrates how, in the words of its Vision Statement, the ACLD Foundation is “enhancing the ACLD's ability to enrich the lives of everyone in our community.”

