



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marcie Smedley

Telephone: 702-207-4293

Date: June 21, 2023

E-mail: mlsmedley@hendersonlibraries.com

Henderson Libraries Partners with Project Marilyn Nonprofit assists women with period supplies

Henderson, NV – In an effort to provide even more relevant services to our community, Henderson Libraries is pleased to announce a partnership with Project Marilyn (<https://projectmarilyn.com/>), a nonprofit organization founded to help women and girls have access to feminine hygiene products. This means that people in need of period supplies may request “the package Marilyn left” for discreet, convenient, and dignified access to free period supplies. Both the Gibson and Green Valley Libraries are Finding Marilyn sites and have supplies available.

“I am so delighted to partner with Henderson Libraries to provide more people in Southern Nevada with a healthy and dignified period,” says Wendi Schweigart, Founder of Project Marilyn. “Henderson is a community that we love, but have not been able to effectively serve until now. The fact that the team at Henderson Libraries sees the value in this mission means the world to me and our clients. PERIOD.”

Personal hygiene products are the least donated supplies; people don’t typically stop to think about what a homeless person does when they have their period. In fact, two in five people with a period cannot afford supplies in a given year due to lack of income and, because period supplies are classified as luxury items, spending Federal Funds, including Medicaid, SNAP, or EBT, to purchase them is not allowed.

Often, adults and teenagers will use items that are not intended as such, risking infections and possibly even fertility issues. In addition, one in four girls miss school each month because they lack proper period supplies. That’s why each easily-transportable Project Marilyn bag contains enough tampons, maxi pads, and wipes to carry a person through their monthly cycle.

According to Henderson Libraries Executive Director Marcie Smedley, “We all know that libraries are about more than just books—they have evolved into community centers, existing to help the public through a variety of services. Being a Project Marilyn distribution point means that we are able to reach even further into our community with items that are necessary for a healthy life.”

The mission of Project Marilyn is to ensure everyone has a healthy and dignified period. PERIOD. Project Marilyn assembles period kits and distributes them to other nonprofits. Period supplies are often overlooked so Project Marilyn is working to fill that void. Project Marilyn officially became a 501(c)3 in April of 2019. The nonprofit organization is named after and dedicated to Wendi’s mom, Marilyn. The logo is her photo and her actual signature from her driver’s license that Wendi kept after she passed away in 2011 from breast cancer. “We miss my mom so much each day, to do this in her memory, makes us feel like she’s still with us.”

Established in 1944 as a single library in Downtown Henderson, Henderson Libraries operates four locations in Henderson, providing free access to materials, programs, and services to meet the diverse and varied needs of the community throughout Southern Nevada. For more information, please visit hendersonlibraries.com.

###