

PRESS RELEASE

St. Joseph County Public Library
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Library Announces Return of Food 4 Fines Program

South Bend—St. Joseph County Public Library (SJCPL) patrons who owe money for overdue materials will be able to reduce or eliminate their fines and help replenish a local charity's cabinets, the library announced today.

Food 4 Fines, which enables patrons to reduce their fines by \$1.00 for every item of non-perishable food donated, will take place December 3 through 9 at the Main Library downtown, the eight branch libraries, and the Readmobile. All proceeds collected will benefit the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Patrons should note that food items are being accepted for fines only and not for lost materials. Should a patron return lost materials, food may be donated in lieu of the fines that have accrued on the returned items. Food may not be used to pay for any collection fees the patron owes, nor may food be used to build up credit for future fines.

Guidelines of the program are:

All items must be non-perishable—no fresh food, no expired items.
A donation (equivalent to \$1.00 in fines) is considered a can or a package of food.
All donations must be unopened and in good condition (no damaged, dented, or rusty cans or torn boxes).
The item must be designed for sale as a package (for example, a package of individual servings of pudding, which is sold as a package, will count as \$1.00, not \$4.00).
Alcoholic beverages, bottled or canned beverages (water, juice, or pop), candy, or U.S. government food products will not be accepted.

In 2005, the last year Food 4 Fines was conducted, SJCPL patrons and staff donated nearly 10,400 items of food. Additionally, more than 2,000 items were collected this past summer during RetroFest, held at the LaSalle Branch on August 26. Details of the program may be found on the library's website at <http://www.libraryforlife.org/whatsnew/foodforfines.html>.

The St. Joseph County Public Library, founded in 1888, is located at 304 South Main Street, South Bend, and has eight branches serving the residents of St. Joseph County. For more information, visit our website at www.libraryforlife.org.

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