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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Hopkinsville, KY October 12, 2020** – Hopkinsville Christian County Public Library (HCCPL) in partnership with the HCCPL Friends of the Library are excited to launch a new mobile hot spot pilot program on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

The program was made possible by a donation from the HCCPL Friends of the Library. The funding has provided the purchase of five mobile hot spots that will can be checked out by any patron, 18 years of age or older, with a library card in good standing.

Margaret Macdonald, HCCPL Friends of the Library President shared, "This all started on June 25, when Dr. Ryan Quarles, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, wrote in a Kentucky New Era editorial that internet access in rural areas is one of the most crucial needs of Kentucky residents. Director DeeAnna Sova and I had talked about this need from time to time, but we were apprehensive about the cost. Many jobs nowadays require online applications. Students need internet access in their homes. Many people do not have the means to subscribe to internet service. We hope we can build on this program and increase the number of hot spots available for library patrons to check out. The Friends of the Library organization is proud to be able to assist our library in launching this service."

Mobile hotspots are advantageous because there are no risks of going over your cellular data limit or reducing your phones battery life. Hot spots provide greater WIFI range, and multiple devices can connect to the hot spot for internet access. Mobile hot spots act as a modem/router and you can connect your laptop, tablet, or even a smart TV to it just like you would connect to any other WIFI network

"We take for granted that everyone has internet access at their home. There are many individuals that cannot afford internet and areas of our community that do not have internet capability. These mobile hotspots will bridge the gap for individuals and families that need that connectivity now more than ever", shared DeeAnna Sova, HCCPL Executive Director. "HCCPL is very appreciative of the Friends Group for taking the lead on this project and making it a reality. This would not be possible without their generous funding."

This program is designed for anyone, especially students attending virtual school and individuals working from home. The opportunity to check-out a mobile hotspot from the library provides internet access where there may be none. It also allows users to see how well a hot spot works for them in their area before they make the decision to purchase their own.

To reserve a mobile hot spot, visit the HCCPL circulation desk to pick up or reserve your hot spot. For a complete list of services that are available, hours of operation and to follow updates, go to <https://hccpl.org/reopening-policies/> or sign up for our E-newsletter from our homepage, <https://hccpl.org/>.

If you or your organization would be interested in providing funding for the mobile hot spot programs sustainability, please email [director@hccpl.org](mailto:director@hccpl.org).