Share Kits at Beloit Public Library

This project was started in August 2019 with input from The Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and the Rock County Council on Aging. The initial plan was to create memory care kits that would be promoted to families with loved ones that had dementia or memory loss. We expanded the project to be able to market to families with loved ones that had special needs or early memory loss and renamed them Share Kits. Eight kits were put together with the following themes: babies, dogs, cats, veterans, trains, games, cooking, and birds. These kits were in the process of being catalogued when the library was closed due to COVID. We were contacted during the closure by Beloit Health Systems to see if we had technology, they could borrow to use for their assisted living patients, and we offered the Share Kits instead. They loved the idea and were able to use them for six months with their patients. The kits have now been returned to the library where they will be cleaned and catalogued and made available to the public when COVID concerns have lessened. This project has already touched many families by them being used by Beloit Health Systems during the pandemic, not our original audience but a fortunate change of plans got them into the hands of patients that could use them. The advice I would give to other libraries taking on a project like this is to ask their colleagues for help or attend a conference program to help you with the planning. Do not do your work in a bubble and make sure you are spreading the word about your project with co-workers and patrons, you never know how far your network can go if you don't share.





