The Raymond E. Mahoney New Opportunities Fund was established through the estate of Raymond E. and Alice C. Mahoney of East Lansing, Michigan. Raymond served as acting state librarian for Michigan. He was a member of VISTA and had been a volunteer with the Office of Service to the Aging. His wife, Alice, who was born and raised in Maspath, New York, served for two years as librarian at the Aquilar Branch of the New York Public Library. She then became a specialist in children’s literature for the New Lincoln School, an experimental school founded by John Dewey and operated by the Teachers College at Columbia University.

As librarians, both Raymond and Alice knew the importance of library resources. In Michigan, their Mahoney Memorial Fund supports children’s library services and the use of libraries by all Michigan families. Workshops on children’s library services use children’s gardens to build reading skills, journal writing, and family literacy.

As the University progresses to new levels of academic excellence, expectation for the quality and breadth of its libraries grows accordingly. The Mahoney New Opportunities Fund helps to ensure that when there is progress to be made, there are resources available. With these funds, the libraries are able to stay on the technological cutting edge; to acquire rare books; to digitize unique resources and make them accessible; and to develop and maintain an expert, innovative, and enthusiastic library faculty and staff.

The Mahoney estate has also funded a Named endowment.

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