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### **Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library Announces \$475,000 Donation**

Officials of The Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library announced a gift of \$475,000 to the Foundation from the estate of former library employee Margaret S. "Peggy" Peterson.

Jeffrey Smith, Foundation for BCPL president, made the announcement on behalf of the Foundation. "Today the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library is proud to announce the largest one-time gift in the history of our organization, appropriately enough from a former BCPL employee," Smith said.

"We are sincerely grateful to Ms. Peterson for her generosity and for her careful planning. Her gift will serve as a lasting legacy for all who use BCPL and its wide array of services, as the Foundation will put it toward our recently-initiated endowment campaign," Smith added.

The Foundation for BCPL last year began planning for a \$1 million endowment campaign that will support children's literacy efforts throughout the library system.

Former co-worker and current BCPL employee Jim DeArme noted, "Peggy was a delight to work with. She was intelligent, funny and caring and served BCPL in a variety of roles throughout her 23-year career, mostly serving the public at the Catonsville Branch from 1965 to 1981."

"She was passionate about reading," Mr. DeArme added. "She grew up using the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore and was a regular BCPL customer as an adult, even before she began working for BCPL in 1963 where she stayed until her retirement in 1986." In addition to the Foundation for BCPL, Ms. Peterson also left \$475,000 to the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Founded in 1991, the Foundation for BCPL provides funding for projects that encourage children and young adults to cultivate a life-long enthusiasm for reading and learning and acts as an advocate for the library to ensure that library services continue on into the future.