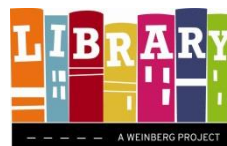




The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Craig Demchak, 443-738-1159
cdemchak@hjweinberg.org

Baltimore Library Project Book Drive Raises More Than \$22,000 Record amount of donations will provide nearly 3,000 new books for next renovated school library

BALTIMORE (April 7, 2017) – The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States, today announced the results of the 6th annual community-wide Book Drive in support of the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project.

A record amount of more than \$22,000 was collected through online and cash donations that will be used to purchase nearly 3,000 brand new, hardcover children’s books for this year’s soon-to-be renovated school library at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School, the 14th renovated library to date. The Weinberg Foundation has committed \$10 million, of the total \$30 million project investment, to build or transform up to 24 Baltimore City Public School libraries in an effort to strengthen academic achievement among students.

The grand total of Book Drive donations includes nearly \$3,400 collected as part of this year’s Penny Challenge. Each year, students at current Library Project schools “pay it forward” by collecting pennies and other cash donations, which are used to purchase books at that year’s new libraries. Nine schools participated this year including the winner—Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School—where students collected more than \$1,100.

Books that were donated at more than 40 locations throughout the greater Baltimore metropolitan area are still being counted. New children’s books will also be placed in this year’s renovated library, and gently used books will benefit the Maryland Book Bank, one of more than 40 supportive Library Project partners.

The Baltimore Library Project is a multi-year, collaborative effort to design, build, equip, and staff new or renovated elementary/middle school libraries in selected schools where existing funds can be leveraged. By the fall of 2017, the Library Project will be serving approximately 6,000 students or 10 percent of the total number of students, pre-kindergarten through grade eight, in all of Baltimore City Public Schools.

To learn more about the Book Drive and the Library Project, visit www.baltimorelibraryproject.org, and follow #libraryproject on Facebook and Twitter.

###

About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the US and Israel. Grants are focused on meeting basic needs and enhancing an individual’s ability to meet those needs with emphasis on older adults, the Jewish community, and our priority communities of Maryland, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Chicago, and Hawaii. The trustees, some of whom also serve as executive officers of the Foundation, are Alvin Awaya, Donn Weinberg, Robert T. Kelly, Jr., Fay Hartog-Levin, and Chair Barry I. Schloss. Rachel Garbow Monroe serves as the Weinberg Foundation’s President and Chief Executive Officer. For more information, please visit www.hjweinbergfoundation.org.