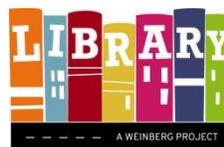




The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Live Counting Event Declares Commodore John Rodgers School Winner of Penny Challenge Supporting Baltimore Library Project Nearly \$3,400 collected by students for new books at this year's new library

BALTIMORE (April 7, 2017) – The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States, along with Baltimore City Public Schools hosted a live counting event today at Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School to announce the winner of this year's Penny Challenge in support of the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project.

Nine existing Library Project schools participated in the Penny Challenge this year, including the three finalists: Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School, Harford Heights Elementary School and Westport Academy Elementary/Middle School.

This year's Penny Challenge raised nearly \$3,400, including more than \$1,100 collected by students at the winning school—Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School in East Baltimore, which also won last year's Penny Challenge. The winning school receives new books equal in value to the amount the students at that school collected.

The donations, in addition to the money and books collected throughout the Library Project Book Drive that took place in March, will be used to purchase new books for this year's soon-to-be renovated school library at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School.

The Penny Challenge was an opportunity for students who have already received a renovated school library to pay-it-forward by donating their spare change. **Since 2014, in total, students taking part in the annual Penny Challenge have raised more than \$10,000.** This year's event was made possible by Dunbar Armored, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Maryland Book Bank.

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. 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. 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.

Please follow all Library Project developments at www.baltimorelibraryproject.org and on Facebook and Twitter at #libraryproject.

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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.