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### St. Marys County Celebrates Gates Grant Success

The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners and the Library Board of Trustees joined forces Tuesday, July 15, to celebrate a grant-matching milestone, recognize important community donors and kick-off the next phase of the fundraising campaign.

Library Director Kathleen Reif announced that the library had met the full match for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations Opportunity Online Hardware Grant. The Library, therefore, will receive \$18,200 from the Gates Foundation. In fact, the community has contributed more than \$12,000 towards the goal in just 5 months, well ahead of the June 2009 deadline.

The funds from the Gates grant will be used to purchase computers and related software and furniture for the three libraries. The additional computers will begin to arrive and be installed at the Lexington Park Library in the fall. Recognizing the need to sustain this new equipment, the Board of Library Trustees is continuing the fundraising effort through June 2009 with the establishment of The Library Technology Fund: Phase Two of the Gates Foundation Grant. The goal is to raise an additional \$20,000.

Reif accepted a check for \$2,000 from Wayne Davis of W. M. Davis Inc. to kick off Phase Two. Since Mr. Davis had already donated \$500 to this effort, this is the single largest donation thus far. A complete list of donors for the Gates Foundation Grant and information about the fundraising campaign can be found at the Library's website at [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

"The speed with which these funds were donated by the county's businesses and library customers is testimony to the value placed upon strong library services by our community," states Alan Dillingham, President of the Board of Library Trustees. "It is rewarding to know that we live in a county whose citizens believe that their libraries are valuable information and education resources."

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