Harford County Public Library

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LIBRARY HONORS VOLUNTEERS AT 19th ANNUAL CELEBRATION

(Belcamp, Maryland – April 30, 2018) On April 17, Harford County Public Library held its 19th Annual Volunteer Celebration at the Bel Air Church of the Nazarene.

180 people attended the event which honored library volunteers who donated at least 10 hours of service during 2017. Awards were presented to volunteers who reached milestone hours from 100 lifetime hours up to 4,000 lifetime hours with nearly 100 volunteers receiving awards this year.

Volunteers are unsung heroes who work behind the scenes to provide assistance to librarians and customer service staff. Last summer over 350 middle and high school students helped to register the bulk of the 19,096 children who participated in Harford County Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge. In addition, in 2017 the 11 Friends of Harford County Public Library groups donated over $51,000 to support programming and to purchase much needed special items for the library.

Volunteers help in all of Harford County Public Library's 11 locations and during the 2017 calendar year, 1,104 volunteers gave over 32,700 hours of the time to the Library.

The Library also has two outreach programs where volunteers share their love of reading with children. On average, over 1,200 preschool children in licensed day care centers were read to and entertained by our Sharing the Gift volunteers each month. While Partners in Reading volunteers met with 240 students weekly to show struggling readers that reading is fun.

"Our library volunteers give so much of their time and energy to the community," stated Library CEO, Mary Hastler. "The Volunteer Celebration is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the value and commitment that these volunteers bring to the library."

To find out more information on volunteering please can contact your local branch or Michele Louderback at Louderback@HCPLonline.org or by calling 410 273 5601 x 6508.

Harford County Public Library operates 11 branches located throughout Harford County. The library serves more than 194,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of

more than 4.7 million. Harford County Public Library is the recipient of the 2017 *The Daily Record* Innovator of the Year Award. For more information, visit hcplonline.org.

Photo Cutline:
Harford County Public Library staff celebrated Library volunteers at the 19th Annual Volunteer Celebration on April 17 from left: Human Resources Director Charles Ross, Havre de Grace Volunteer with 2,000 hours Bonnie String, Havre de Grace Volunteer with 1,000 hours Jean Kitlowski, Bel Air Volunteer with 4,000 hours Leslie Riden, CEO Mary Hastler, COO Daria Parry, Senior Administrator-Public Services Beth LaPenotiere

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