

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Library Foundation Premieres New Spencer Road Library

(St Peters, MO – March 22, 2012) Nearly 200 guests walked the red carpet on the evening of Tuesday, March 20th for the VIP Premiere of the new Spencer Road Library. The St. Charles City-County Library Foundation hosted the sneak peek fundraiser to celebrate the culmination of its (re)Discover Your Library capital campaign and the public opening of the 54,000-square foot library on Wednesday. Guests toured the building before it opened, spoke with staff members about a variety of library services, and learned how the Library Foundation provides support to the St. Charles City-County Library District’s 12 branches throughout the county.

“We were thrilled to show off the new library that people are so excited about. It is truly a tremendous resource for our community and the Library Foundation is proud to support this project. Through the generosity of individuals and our community partners, this is absolutely a place for everyone,” said Kristin Williams, Executive Director of the Library Foundation.

The VIP Premiere also recognized several major gifts to the Library Foundation’s “(re)Discover Your Library: A Campaign for the Spencer Road Branch” which raised more than \$550,000 in support of the new library. Donors included:

- \$150,000 - Bob & Jackie Houck Trust
- \$75,000 - Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital, Siteman Cancer Center
at BJSPH & Progress West HealthCare Center
- \$50,000 - Charter Communications
- \$45,000 - Friends of the Library
- \$35,000 - Praxair Foundation

Such generous corporate and individual support of the Library Foundation allowed the St. Charles City-County Library District to build the new library without incurring debt or seeking a tax increase. General operating funds, reserve funding, and (re)Discover campaign funding resulted in construction costs of \$112.81 per square foot which is far below the national average for library construction. Donor contributions to the (re)Discover campaign provided funding for many of the enhanced amenities offered in the library including:

- a 100% increase in the number of public computers available
- a Youth Program room
- a Community Commons area of fully-equipped large and small meeting rooms for organizations, businesses, and individuals

(more)

- a center for non-profit and business resources with materials and customized services as well as small study rooms and fully-equipped conference rooms
- expanded meeting space for groups of all sizes
- a computer training room

Libraries are transitioning along with the community toward a business culture of telecommuters and the new branch provides a space for people to gather and interact, both professionally and socially, with new amenities such as:

- Drive up service window & drive up book drop
- Abundant comfortable seating
- Reading room with fireplace
- Separate areas for Teens and Children
- Silent Study areas
- Large event room
- Wi-fi throughout the building with plenty of plug-ins and seating for customers bringing in their laptops
- Outdoor plaza and an area for programming
- Vending area with coffee, beverages and snacks
- Double the parking of the previous branch

“I think people will be pleased with new library which offers so much more to the public and meets the needs of many. I invite the public to join the Library Foundation in investing in our libraries because it is truly an investment in our community,” said Williams.

The Spencer Road Library opened to the public on Wednesday, March 21st.

The mission of St. Charles City-County Library Foundation is to ensure excellent library programs, services and facilities for all people by developing and encouraging community investment and participation, today and tomorrow. www.stchlibraryfoundation.org

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