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CONTACT: Cara Burton, (757) 787-3400

EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR



Photo above: ESPL Foundation volunteers stuff envelopes for a capital campaign mailing.

(ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA) January 22, 2019 – The Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2019. Incorporated on August 5, 2009, the Foundation was formed to assist the library board of trustees to secure funds to support the library system in ways the annual operating income did not. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a volunteer board of directors.

After realizing the Accomac library building was needing expensive repairs, the library Friends and the Trustees began to talk about the need for a study of library services on the Eastern Shore of Virginia as a whole. In 2007 the Trustees engaged Dr. John Moorman, a respected library consultant, to do such a study. The Friends paid \$6,000 for the study, which was delivered in 2008.

As a result of the Moorman Report, the Trustees began to discuss the possibility of a new regional library. The Trustees decided that creating a foundation would be of assistance as the Library launched efforts for a new library, and, eventually, for building an endowment. In particular, a foundation would be a recognized vehicle for applying for corporate and government grants. After filing Articles of Incorporation with the Commonwealth of Virginia in November, 2009, the Foundation held an organizational meeting to adopt bylaws and elect directors and officers. The Foundation applied for and received tax-exempt status from the IRS in May, 2010.

Since then, the Foundation has raised money for the Eastern Shore Public Library through a variety of means including fundraisers, private and corporate donations, grants, and planned giving. They continue to raise funds for the new regional library and the Eastern Shore of

Virginia Heritage Center to be built in Parksley. Foundation volunteers will be celebrating their tenth anniversary throughout 2019 as they reach their fundraising goals for the building project.

One of the anniversary events will be the Groundbreaking ceremony in spring 2019. Generous contributors offering the largest donations will be given special recognition at the Groundbreaking and Grand Opening ceremonies. The ESPL Foundation also plans to recognize substantial donors by engraving their names on the donor recognition walls. One wall will be for library contributors and another donor wall will recognize donors to the ESVA Heritage Center. Those wishing to commemorate or memorialize family members will have the opportunity to name components of the new Heritage Center in their honor.

The ESPL Foundation will hold its Raising the Green for the New Regional Library fundraiser on Saturday, March 16 at the Island House Restaurant. To purchase tickets call (757) 787-2500. To donate to the new library or the Heritage Center, please send donations to ESPL Foundation, PO Box 554, Accomac, VA 23301. Those wishing to discuss naming opportunities, pledges spread over a number of years, or gifts of stock or other property please contact the ESPL Foundation President Colette Nelson at (757) 787-2500.

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