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FOUNDATION FOR THE KENT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUNDATION FOR THE KENT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY Targets the 53% loss in budgetary funds supporting the library's collection.

Chestertown, September 26, 2025: The Foundation for the Kent County Public Library (KCPL) Board of Directors met with members of the KCPL Board of Trustees, the KCPL Director of Office Administration Chris Walmsley, members of the Friends of the KCPL, and members of the Chestertown Library Board, Inc. to exchange thought on this year's plans for library support. The Foundation, a 501c3 charity, approved an annual fundraising campaign to update the library's collection. The funding for this essential process has been reduced by 53% due to government budget cuts over the past three years. A revitalized collection will include the latest and greatest non-fiction literature, A/V offerings, STEM and Early Literacy materials, Large Print books, and popular bestsellers—something for everyone—all prominently displayed on new shelving at the front of the library. The fundraiser will support a refreshed collection at all three libraries. The proceeds from the Foundation's annual appeal supports a mission to ensure the best access for the most members of the community—helping many help themselves.



The 2025 Foundation for the Kent County Public Library includes: Treasurer Dawson Hunter, Administrative Secretary April Marshall, Recording Secretary and Rock Hall Representative Rick Coffin, Friends of the Kent County Public Library representative Dr. Virginia Newlin, Chestertown Library, Inc. representative Mackey Dutton, KCPL Board of Trustees representative Deborah Westerland, North County representative Jillian Starkey, Foundation Chair Barb Macbeth, and Access for All Avid Readers representatives Ivette Furneisen, Mary White, and newest member Tracye Landon. Serving the

Kent County Department of Social Services for 41 years, Tracye has recently retired. Her professional experience provides a vital perspective on the community's needs, especially those of more vulnerable populations—important consideration in support of public library services. In the photograph, the leaders of KCPL funding partners: Friends President Deborah Collier, Foundation Chair Barb Macbeth, Chestertown Library, Inc. President Joan Horsey.