

## **Press Release-For Immediate Release**

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### ***Cupertino Library Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Community Service***

#### **January 26 marks two decades of providing financial support and innovative programs to the world-class library**

**JANUARY 21 -- CUPERTINO, CA**—Cupertino Library Foundation (CLF) is celebrating 20 years of service to the Cupertino Library, one of the most beloved and trusted community assets. January 26, 2014, marks the official anniversary date of the foundation, organized in 1994 by city leaders when library services were threatened by budget cuts. Since then the foundation has raised more than \$3.1 million to support the library, including \$1.2 million in 2004 to purchase furniture and fixtures for the new library building adjacent to City Hall.

“Of all my volunteer service, I am so very proud to be working in concert with our world-class Cupertino library,” said Beverly Lenihan, CLF board member, “and to be collaborating with other organizations in the broader community.”

The Cupertino City Council set in motion the foundation’s creation when it asked two members of the Library Commission, Allan Bidwell and Charles Liggett, to gather board members and begin fundraising. The new board elected Edward Jajko as president of the foundation at the January 26, 1994, meeting. The Friends of the Library loaned the money necessary for becoming a tax-exempt organization and to finance start up costs.

The foundation has a history of not only raising funds for the library, its volunteer board members have proactively created, or supported the creation of, innovative community programs that fit the foundation’s vision of encouraging life-long learning and self-improvement among residents. Recent programs the foundation had a direct hand in creating include the S<sup>4</sup> Summer Super Science Search contest for middle school students, the Tech Toolbar and the upcoming Fusion: Art.Science.Technology series.

Popular programs the foundation has actively supported both financially and with volunteer support include the Film Series, the Performing Arts and Culture series, Silicon Valley Reads, the Planetree Health Information Center, the Santa Clara History Collaborative, and the Art Display Wall, among others.

This active partnership between the foundation and the library are part of what has made the library one of the most visited in the Santa Clara County Library District. The district itself was awarded a 5-star rating by the Library Journal for the years 2009-2012. In 2013 the foundation financed an independent study commissioned by the district that revealed a return on investment for local residents as high as 400 percent.

“We’re looking forward to meeting the next generation of foundation volunteers who will collaborate over the next 20 years in helping advance the library to a 5-star+ rating,” said Eno Schmidt, CLF president, and board member for the past 14 years. “We realize year after year we have endless opportunities to enrich our community through our passion and resources.”

The Cupertino Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 Public Benefit Corporation with the purpose [to raise money](#) to continue programs encouraging life-long learning and self-improvement through the Cupertino Library. The Foundation has the Non-Profit Seal of Approval by Guidestar demonstrating satisfaction of transparency requirements and is a member of the Google for Nonprofits program receiving tools to work efficiently. It seeks major donations from corporations and the business community and from other foundations as well as individual donations and planned gifts and bequests. For further information go to: [www.cupertino.libraryfoundation.org](http://www.cupertino.libraryfoundation.org)

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