

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

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### ***Gayathri Kanth Named Cupertino Librarian*** **5-Star Rating Keeps Library Among Top in Nation**

**JANUARY 2-- CUPERTINO, CA**—The Cupertino Library, a member of the Santa Clara County Library District, and the Cupertino Library Foundation (CLF), announce the appointment of Gayathri Kanth as Cupertino Community Librarian. Her appointment was effective October 28, 2013.

Her primary duties include the planning, direction and coordination of all operations of the Cupertino Library including 60+ staff, a 54,000 square foot building, 368,000 volume collection, 2.7 million circulation per year, 4.2 million budget, and a robust online presence.

“We are so pleased Gayathri has returned to Cupertino Library as our Librarian,” comments Eno Schmidt, CLF president. “Her desire to continue to make the Library relevant to our community means we will together be getting involved in some exciting programs and partnerships. We are already planning together.”

Kanth most recently worked as Community Librarian at the Saratoga Library. In her 12 years with the Santa Clara County Library, Gayathri was a teen services librarian, a collection development librarian, and Supervising Librarian for Adult and Teen Services at the Cupertino Library. She also previously worked for the Santa Clara City Library and the Mountain View Public Library. Gayathri was a 2010 Fellow of the prestigious Eureka Leadership Institute. Gayathri is a member of ALA (American Library Association) and CLA (California Library Association).

While serving as Saratoga Librarian for three-plus years, Kanth developed positive relationships with various city staff, schools, the Library Commission, Friends of the Library, local organizations, local media, library staff and residents. Her successful projects included creating a Local Government Resource Center with the City of Saratoga, support outreach and fundraising activities with the Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, outreach and advocacy presentations with the Saratoga Library Commission and designing and executing partnership programs and outreach events at local schools.

“I plan to leverage my leadership and implementation skills to build on the strengths of those Cupertino Librarians who served before me,” said Kanth. “Each of us brings our own style, but we each embrace the uniqueness and quality of Cupertino.”

The Library Journal has awarded the Santa Clara Library District a 5-star rating from 2009-2012. With a 30 million+ dollar budget overall, the district ranks number two in the nation for quality: <http://www.scccl.org/about/library-news/press-releases/santa-clara-county-library-district-earns-top-rating-in-national-publication>.

A recent independent study revealed how valuable the Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD) is to the cities it serves. Commissioned by the District and funded by CLF, the study revealed a return on investment for local residents as high as 400 percent. <http://cupertinolibraryfoundation.org/donate/return-on-investment/>

“The Cupertino Library Foundation was very pleased to support an independent, objective analysis of the economic value of library services,” said Schmidt. “While we are all library lovers who intrinsically appreciate the district’s contributions to enhancing early literacy, promoting lifelong learning, and other areas of community benefit, it’s very exciting to see such a high return on investment calculation that demonstrates the difference Santa Clara County Library District makes in people’s lives.”

The Return on Investment Study (<http://www.sccl.org/about/roi>) was conducted by BERK, a research firm based in Seattle, Washington. Researchers estimated that current District Library services are worth between \$83 and \$171 million in direct benefits. To calculate the return on taxpayer investment, only easily measured quantifiable items were used by BERK researchers. Items included direct library services such as the number of print and non-print materials borrowed by library users, the number of children’s, teen and adult programs offered at district libraries, and user access to technology and reference services. After a valuation was placed on these direct services, this number was then divided by SCCLD’s operating expenditures in fiscal year 2011-2012 (\$33.2 million). Researchers calculated that for every dollar spent by the district, the community received between \$2.50 and \$5.17 in direct benefits.

The Cupertino Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation with the purpose [to raise money](#) to continue programs encouraging life-long learning and self-improvement through the Cupertino Library. 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.cupertinolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.cupertinolibraryfoundation.org)

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