



**HOWARD COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
Public Education for All

## Media Release - for immediate release

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### **Howard County Library System Friends of Howard County Library System Look to Future With Name Change**

#### *Harvest Celebration Meet & Greet to Celebrate Name Change to Friends & Foundation of HCLS*

ELLICOTT CITY, MD-- Friends of Howard County Library System is now **Friends & Foundation of HCLS**, a name more representative of its activities and efforts that formalizes both the role the organization plays now and its direction for the future.

"Our new name and focus is more inclusive—in the way that we engage with donors, and the opportunities for donors to participate in Friends & Foundation activities," said Phillip Dodge, Friends & Foundation Board Chair.

To celebrate the name change, the Friends & Foundation Board will host a **Harvest Celebration Meet & Greet** on Wednesday, November 15 from 4 - 6 pm in the Enchanted Garden at the HCLS Miller Branch. Timed to coincide with the last day of the Farmer's Market at the Miller Branch, board members will discuss the new name, strategic direction, and ways to get involved. The event will feature a virtual reality demonstration with Google Exhibition, a book exchange, and lawn games. Guests will have the opportunity to sample local food and refreshments from River House Pizza (at the Farmer's Market) and Hysteria Brewing.

"Private support strengthens the Library's capacity to not only innovate and pilot new initiatives, but also expand proven, high impact initiatives like Battle of the Books and Summer @ Your Library. In 2017 Friends donations were crucial in launching HiTails Ambassadors and the new ukulele curriculum. By having the ability to adapt to the changing needs of our community, HCLS is empowered to take new risks, evaluate the results, and invest in areas that have the greatest potential to ensure HCLS continues to be a world-class organization," said Dodge.

Friends & Foundation of HCLS, a 501(c)(3) organization, represents more than 2,000 donors. Through their contributions, they demonstrate the value they place on Howard County Library System and its education mission. Donors are committed to raising the standard of excellence of  
(more)

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***Friends of Howard County Library System Look to Future with Name Change (continued)***

HCLS by helping to fund initiatives and services at a level above the library's yearly operating budget. Donations to Friends & Foundation of HCLS are tax deductible. Depending on the donation amount, donors receive various benefits including an e-newsletter about HCLS happenings, advance notice of author and other special events, a commemorative bookplate, and complimentary tickets to a fundraiser or signature event.

To learn more, visit the Friends & Foundation website at [hclibrary.org/friendsandfoundation](http://hclibrary.org/friendsandfoundation) or contact HCLS Development Specialist Rita Hamlet at [rita.hamlet@hclibrary.org](mailto:rita.hamlet@hclibrary.org).

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