



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **What Better Way to Celebrate Read Across America Day? Weinberg Foundation launches 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Book Drive to support multi-million dollar Baltimore Library Project**

BALTIMORE (March 1, 2013) -- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States, together with The Heart of America Foundation, a national nonprofit focused on providing children with the tools for improved literacy, today launches a community-wide Book Drive which runs through March 15. **New books collected will be placed in school libraries being renovated as part of the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project.** Today's Book Drive launch is being held at one of those schools:

- **The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School**
- **507 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201**
- **9:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, Baltimore City Public Schools Chief Academic Officer, are scheduled to be the featured speakers for today's event which marks Read Across America Day, the start of Read Across Maryland month. Lieutenant Governor Brown also plans a brief tour of the school, beginning at 8:30 a.m., including reading to one class.

"During Read Across Maryland month and all year long, we ask educators and parents, whether at home or in the classroom, to encourage our children to read as often and as early as they can," said Lieutenant Governor Brown. "Once again this year, we are pleased to partner with The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to provide books for the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project to expand access to reading for more Maryland families."

**Today's 9:00 a.m. celebration at The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School will also include a student assembly as well as celebrity and other guest readers.**

Gently used books also will be gladly accepted and will be given to Baltimore Reads. **Those unable to contribute books directly can support the Book Drive by donating through a link on the homepage of the Library Project website, [www.baltimorelibraryproject.org](http://www.baltimorelibraryproject.org).** Last year's inaugural Book Drive collected 13,000 books, valued at roughly \$75,000. This past September, the Weinberg Library Project also celebrated the openings of three renovated school libraries, the first of 12 that will be included in the Project through 2015.

For more information on the Library Project Book Drive, as well as the Library Project itself, please visit [www.baltimorelibraryproject.org](http://www.baltimorelibraryproject.org) and follow on Twitter at #libraryproject.

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### **About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**

*The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the U.S. and Israel. Grants are focused on meeting basic needs and enhancing an individual's ability to meet those needs with emphasis on older adults, the Jewish community, and our hometown communities of Maryland, northeastern Pennsylvania, and Hawaii. The trustees, some of whom also serve as executive officers of the Foundation, are Donn Weinberg, Barry I. Schloss, Robert T. Kelly, Jr., Alvin Awaya, and Chair Ellen M. Heller. Rachel Garbow Monroe serves as the Weinberg Foundation's President. For more information please go to [www.hjweinbergfoundation.org](http://www.hjweinbergfoundation.org).*