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For More Information

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Historic \$1 Million Gift Presented to the Omaha Public Library Foundation

Citing a passion for education and literacy, the late Virginia C. Schmid of Omaha awarded a \$1 million bequest to the Omaha Public Library Foundation. The check was presented by Schmid's niece, Marty Davis of Bellevue, on January 6.

Per Schmid's wishes, the gift is designated exclusively to Omaha Public Library's A.V. Sorensen Branch – located in the heart of Dundee at 48th and Cass Streets – in support books, capital expenditures, and other branch improvements.

Additionally, "in no event shall any of this gift be used for the ordinary operating expenses of Sorensen Branch," according to paperwork accompanying the donation.

This \$1 million gift marks the largest single contribution the Omaha Public Library Foundation has received in its 31-year history.

"We are truly humbled and even a bit speechless following the news of this extremely generous gift from the late Virginia Schmid," said Omaha Public Library Executive Director Laura Marlane. "Before moving to Omaha, I had heard this was a very philanthropic community. This is proof positive of such support. We are overwhelmed with gratitude."

Marlane and her staff will soon begin discussions on how the \$1 million gift will be used at Sorensen Branch. The A.V. Sorensen Branch Library and Recreation Center was opened in 1976. Matt Couch serves as branch manager.

Virginia Schmid passed away in October of last year. She and her late husband, Marvin, met at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the late 1930s. They married in 1941. Throughout her life, she was a dedicated volunteer. According to Davis, Schmid loved travel, fine food, ballroom dancing, family, and friends.

Founded in 1985, the Omaha Public Library Foundation raises funds and advocates for Omaha Public Library. Through its year-round fundraising efforts, it routinely supports library programs, services, and special projects. Visit www.omahalibraryfoundation.org for more information.