



For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Harman

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703-324-8300

susan.harman@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org

Fairfax Library Foundation Announces Completion of Gateway to Freedom Project with May 2 Dedication Ceremony

Fairfax, VA – The Fairfax Library Foundation Board of Directors and the Gateway to Freedom organizing committee are proud to be hosting a dedication ceremony on May 2, 2015, to commemorate the completion of the Gateway to Freedom Project and the 40th anniversary of the Vietnamese refugees' resettlement in the United States. The ceremony will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, located at 7415 Arlington Boulevard in Falls Church.

Mr. Toa Do, a member of the Gateway to Freedom organizing committee, says of the project, "It provides [the Vietnamese community] with a unique opportunity to express our gratitude to America and the residents of Fairfax County, who have given the Vietnamese refugees a new homeland and the chance to live free again." The resettlement occurred in the 1970s as a result of the Vietnam War.

The Gateway to Freedom project began in 2010 with the Vietnamese Americans of Metropolitan Washington, DC, the National Institute of Administration Alumni Association, East Coast USA, and the Quang Da Mutual Association. During the first and second phases of the project, nearly \$50,000 was raised to expand the Vietnamese language collection at the Thomas Jefferson library and to begin construction of the brick walkway, a symbolic "gateway to freedom." The walkway features engraved bricks and a plaque in front of the library, which lists the sponsors who contributed \$1,000 or more.

The final phase of the Gateway to Freedom project was launched in September 2014, with the goal of completing the brick walkway and raising an additional \$25,000 for the collection. During this final phase of the project, the group surpassed its goal and successfully raised \$38,000.

The Fairfax Library Foundation and the Gateway to Freedom Committee are pleased to unveil the completed brick walkway and plaque at the May 2 dedication ceremony. In addition to the donors, state and local elected officials will be in attendance.

Fairfax Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational organization committed to providing supplementary support to the Fairfax County Public Library. The Foundation, while reinforcing the need for continued and increased public support for the Library, serves as a catalyst for attracting private funding from individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations to enhance library services for our community.