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For Immediate Release

Special Gift for the New Year: Long Time Volunteer Bequeaths \$400,000 to Library Foundation

Rapid City, S.D. – Dec. 30, 2009 – The new year will start with some good news for the Rapid City Library Foundation: Their endowment goal has nearly been achieved with one check.

Former Rapid City resident Virginia F. Holtry, who died in February at the age of 84, left a bequest of \$400,000 to the Rapid City Library Foundation. Holtry had formerly served as a volunteer at the library for several years.

With a single donation, this bequest will further the Foundation's mission of:

1. Improving access to information for all citizens in the community
2. Enabling the library to continue to serve as a center of learning, research and entertainment
3. Expanding library services to the community by engaging with other service organizations and utilizing new technologies

"This truly is a remarkable gift, for which we are very grateful," said Library Foundation president Nancy Gowen. "Virginia's contributions as a library volunteer already placed her very close to our hearts. To bequeath so much of her estate for the benefit our citizens is a remarkable act of generosity."

Holtry moved to Rapid City after the death of her husband in 1984. With her experience as an architecture student at University of Michigan as well as a small business owner, Virginia brought an ample amount of knowledge and excitement to her role as a library volunteer. As a dedicated volunteer, Holtry was willing to do whatever was needed to ensure that patrons had their information needs met.

"Volunteers like Virginia are the back-bone of a public library; willing to provide services, aide and support," said Gowen.

With only \$20,000 left to raise, Holtry's generosity will go far in making the Rapid City Library Foundation's endowment campaign a success. Past support from the Foundation led to the expansion of the Downtown Library in 2001 as well the interior reconfiguration project that was completed in 2008.

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The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and Internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today named the Rapid City Public Library's downtown library as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."

Find video footage of RCPL events at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>
Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>