

Mary Jacobs Foundation contact@maryjacobs.org

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## New Name and Mission for Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation

Rocky Hill, NJ: The Mary Jacobs Memorial Library was founded in the early 1970s as a result of a generous gift from Harold Jacobs in order to honor his wife's memory and provide benefit to the community. The library was formed as a new and needed entity to serve Rocky Hill and Montgomery and has been a community meeting and educational space for many years. The Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation, a private, non-profit organization, has seen and made changes over the years, but has always been devoted to its mission to sustain Mr. Jacobs's gift and to enhance the community.

With the unexpected announcement of a new library and the upcoming closure of the Mary Jacobs branch, the Foundation spent many months searching for new possibilities for the branch. The 2020 Agreement between the Somerset County Library Commission (SCLC), the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library Foundation, Montgomery Township, and the Borough of Rocky Hill represented the culmination of months of negotiations and a plan for the future. At its conclusion, the Foundation felt reassured that some library services would continue in the Borough for the short term.

After the 2020 Agreement was finalized, the Foundation next set out to envision its future. Remaining dedicated to benefiting the community, the Foundation developed a new mission and vision and has rebranded itself as the Mary Jacobs Foundation.

The Foundation's first project is to adapt a portion of its building at 64 Washington Street to house abridged library services, provided by SCLC, in the Borough of Rocky Hill. The planning and execution of this building project represent hundreds of thousands of dollars that the Mary Jacobs Foundation will invest in the community.

Going forward, the Mary Jacobs Foundation will continue to benefit the community by providing funding for community-based projects that enhance the areas in and around Rocky Hill. The Foundation envisions a community in which people come together to enjoy each other's company, learn from each other, work together to achieve common goals that benefit residents, ensure the environmental and physical sustainability of the area, and promote peace, understanding, and generosity. To that end, the Mary Jacobs Foundation will provide support for projects that promote creativity, sustainability, and engagement in the community.

To learn more about the Foundation's new mission, as well as the timeline and plans for the new space, please visit maryjacobs.org. Join the mailing list to keep up to date with the Foundation's progress.

While the Foundation, like many in the Rocky Hill area, is saddened by the changes to Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, it looks forward to a bright future fulfilling its new mission.