



**THE
PUBLIC
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and
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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Major Gift from Carl H. Lindner Moves Proposed Merger and Expansion Closer to Reality for Bond Hill & Roselawn Branch Libraries

Fundraising for the proposed Bond Hill/Roselawn Branch Library Merger and Expansion Project got underway with its first gift, a very generous contribution of \$100,000 from financier Carl H. Lindner. In making this leadership gift, Mr. Lindner said, "I think anything we can do to help educate and provide learning tools for the children and citizens of Bond Hill and Roselawn will better serve our city as a whole."

The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County has been working with Gwen Robinson, Director of the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA), to work out details for the possible move to Jordan Crossing (formerly Swifton Commons). The merger is contingent on the negotiation of a lease with the CAA that allows operating costs of the expanded facility to be the same or less than the combined operating costs of the two current branches, as well as successful fund-raising for the costs (\$750,000) of furnishing the new branch library. To encourage and facilitate a library move to Jordan Crossing, the CAA has offered a \$150,000 allowance for carpeting, ceilings, and other finishes for the space.

"We are thrilled that Mr. Lindner has demonstrated his commitment to this proposed branch expansion with such a generous gift," said Kimber L. Fender, the Library's Executive Director. "We hope that his leadership gift will encourage and inspire other individuals and companies in the area to also get behind this exciting project. The merged branch will bring significantly improved library services to two Cincinnati neighborhoods, Bond Hill and Roselawn. It will be of tremendous benefit to the children and, indeed, to all residents of these neighborhoods. After years of serving these neighborhoods in two small, out-dated facilities, we will be opening a much larger, new facility to serve both neighborhoods."

Benefits of an expanded and merged branch library to the Roselawn and Bond Hill communities include:

- ✓ 12,000 square feet of space vs. 8,175 square feet (present Bond Hill & Roselawn facilities)
- ✓ Greater selection of materials
- ✓ More computers
- ✓ Program room for class visits and programs for children, teens, and adults
- ✓ A teen area specifically designed to meet the developmental, educational, and social needs of teenagers
- ✓ Inviting, attractive facility in much better condition than either of the current branches
- ✓ Easy access to buslines and ample free parking
- ✓ Centralized location for serving students from Woodward High School, CAA's Head Start programs, and neighborhood charter and elementary schools

The current Bond Hill Branch Library (1703 Dale Road) is very small, with no parking or handicapped access, while the Roselawn Branch Library (7617 Reading Road) is located in the Valley Shopping Center in a leased storefront. Neither Bond Hill nor Roselawn has room to expand the collection or computers and neither has a program room. The restricted space severely limits children's programming and class visits. With space for thousands more books,

additional computers, and a room for programs and class visits, the new Bond Hill Branch will greatly expand and enhance the services offered to the Bond Hill and Roselawn neighborhoods.

"Because the Library's budget has been flat for more than five years, the only way to make this project possible was by securing private funds and keeping operating expenses the same," continued Ms. Fender. "The new branch, although larger than the two existing branches combined, would not increase our operating costs."

Funds for the proposed branch must be secured by August 2006 with the anticipated completion date of the project of August 2007. Over the next few weeks, floor plans of the new combined branch will be presented to potential donors. The facility and potential naming opportunities within the branch will be discussed. Anyone interested in contributing to this project is encouraged to contact John Reusing, the Library's Development Director, by phone (513-369-4591) or email John.Reusing@CincinnatiLibrary.org.

Bond Hill Branch Library History

Library service to Bond Hill dates to 1899, when a deposit station opened in the community. The deposit location moved to a storeroom at the corner of Oakdale and California Roads in 1930, and three years later, relocated to a temporary location in the Bond Hill School. The present facility opened in a new building on April 4, 1936.

Roselawn Branch Library History

The Roselawn Branch opened for business in November 1951 at the Roselawn Center Building on Section Road. Approximately ten years later, the branch was expanded to twice its original size and a separate children's room was added to the facility. In July 1972, the Roselawn Branch relocated to larger quarters in the Valley Shopping Center.

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**