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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL April 24, 2014 – The Panama City Beach Library Foundation received a significant grant from The St. Joe Community Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the ongoing improvement of the quality of life of the people who live, work, and play in Northwest Florida. The St. Joe Community Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,000 to help the Beach Library purchase new books this year for children through young adult.

Upon providing the PCB Library Foundation the good news, Janet Greeno, Executive Director for The St. Joe Community Foundation, said, “The St. Joe Community Foundation is proud to contribute these funds for the purchase of new books for the Panama City Beach Library. In the next few months this Library will be filled with children reading books while on Summer break and what better way to enjoy the Summer and learn at the same time than with new, up-to-date books. One of the Foundation’s key goals is improving education and funding new books for our community library meets this goal. “

According to Heather Ogilvie, Branch Librarian at the PCB Library, the generous donation of \$4,000 from St. Joe Community Foundation will provide funding for approximately 300 to 400 new books for the Children’s Department. This supplements the existing collection, adding a variety of fiction and non-fiction currently in demand in the Early Childhood collection, including picture and board books, as well as Beginner Readers, Juvenile and Young Adult Fiction and Non-fiction.

The donation makes it possible for the PCB Library to maintain a wonderful selection of the finest published materials available for the children in our community. When the children attend programs at the library, they leave with stacks of books to read at home. Currently, a variety of well-planned children’s programs are offered: Book Babies, PCB Storytime!, Beach Kids!, and 2014 Children’s Summer Reading Program to include reading, art and music. Therefore, it is essential to have new books for these children to check out and read at home.

The Panama City Beach Library Summer Reading Program of 2013 welcomed 1,254 participants. During the fall and winter 1,952 babies, toddlers and their families attended the Early Literacy programs and afterschool program for school-aged children that features a variety of literacy-based activities, arts, crafts and games. A professional comic artist offering art instruction and a professional music instructor will be added to the summer program.

During the last couple of years, since relocating to a larger facility, the PCB Library, with the help of the PCB Library Foundation and donations from generous individuals, businesses and organization such as The St. Joe Community Foundation, has provided additional services and resources. With the determination of the PCB Library Foundation, the strength of the excellent library staff and the enthusiastic support of our community, the Children’s Services have been expanded to meet the needs of the city, creating a culture of lifelong learning at the Panama City Beach Library.

About The St. Joe Community Foundation:

Since its inception, The St. Joe Community Foundation has provided nearly \$18 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. The Foundation provides charitable grants to nonprofit agencies in Bay and Walton Counties. The Foundation’s primary focus is strengthening education, improving healthcare, protecting the environment and supporting local cultural interests. These efforts help build healthy, caring, long-lived communities. For more information, visit www.stjcf.com.

About The Panama City Beach Library Foundation, Inc.:

Founded in 2010 by a group of dedicated volunteers, the Panama City Beach Library Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Its mission is to support the PCB Library and to help donors achieve their charitable goals. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed more than more than \$32,000 to the Beach Library and created an endowment, a permanent fund, in the amount of \$20,500. The endowments produce income annually – and in perpetuity – for the PCB Library. “A quality community deserves a quality public library” resonates with the Board of Directors of the Foundation. For additional information, visit www.beachlibrary.org.

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