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**SLO LIBRARY FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$14,000 IN BARBARA BALTIMORE GRANT FUNDS TO LOCAL LIBRARIES**

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San Luis Obispo, CA – The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries awarded a total of \$14,069.46 from the Barbara Baltimore Library Endowment to fund four projects in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. “Barbara Baltimore’s generous endowment has allowed the Library Foundation to fulfill its mission of supporting and strengthening public libraries countywide,” says Foundation president Vera Wallen.

This year the Morro Bay and San Miguel Libraries each received a grant to purchase an Early Literacy Stations. Early Literacy Stations provide top-rated educational software programs for children in English, Spanish and French, and allows youngsters to develop keyboard, mouse and touch screen skills while developing eye-hand coordination. “Once children spend time at the Station, they tend to feel comfortable with the library setting,” observes Morro Bay librarian Jackie Kinsey. “It will allow them to form lifelong learning skills through the use of attractive, up-to-date technology.” Former North County Regional Librarian Kay Rader sees San Miguel’s station as an anchor for the library’s new project called The Kid’s Club – a club that will foster early literacy learning and afterschool programs for the North County.

Barbara Baltimore funds were used by the Shell Beach Library to help purchase a Self-Check Station, with matching funds provided by the Friends of the Shell Beach Library. Giving patrons the ability to check out their own books will free up Michele Holland, the sole librarian at the small branch, to help other patrons with computer searches, or to locate materials.

The Library Foundation approved a grant to the Arroyo Grande Library to enhance and reconfigure its Teen Section. Using the Barbara Baltimore Funds, along with a matching grant from the Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library, Arroyo Grande purchased Chromebook laptops, shelving, arm chairs and an ottoman for the teens’ use.

The Barbara Baltimore Library Endowment was created with a bequest to the Foundation from longtime San Luis Obispo Library volunteer Barbara Baltimore. Her mission was to create a program of grants for projects that will be of lasting value to county libraries. The deadline for branch libraries and their Friends groups to submit grant applications for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is September 30.

The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries is a non-profit public interest corporation which conducts advocacy, fundraising and program activities to support and strengthen the County’s public libraries. The Foundation’s next fundraising event will take place on September 19 when it hosts a lecture by noted author Ann Perry at the Cuesta Performing Arts Center in conjunction with the Central Coast Writer’s Conference. For more information on the Foundation, or to make a donation to one of its programs, go to [slolibraryfoundation.org](http://slolibraryfoundation.org).

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