



First Independent
Ready When You Are.™

May 24, 2010

First Independent And Firstenburg Family Donate \$25,000 To Regional Library Summer Reading Program

As part of its 100th anniversary celebration, First Independent has teamed up with the Firstenburg family to donate \$25,000 to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library (FVRL) Foundation. The gift extends the reach and momentum of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District's 2010 Summer Reading program, which last year engaged 22,000 youth in summer activities.

"As we mark 100 years of serving Southwest Washington communities and look at the next 100 years, we firmly believe that investing in our children is the key to a successful future for us all," said Jeanne Firstenburg, President of First Independent. "Education has always been a priority for our bank and for the Firstenburg family. We're pleased to make a joint investment that supports our regional library system and encourages children and teens to keep reading and learning."

The Summer Reading program provides incentives for children and teens to read during the summer months of June through August, when school is not in session. Children from birth to age 12 earn prizes for every five hours of reading time. Teens age 13 to 19 earn prizes, including book store gift cards, for every 10 hours of reading. Registration for the Summer Reading program begins June 1 at the 13 Fort Vancouver Regional Library District libraries and three bookmobiles.

To build excitement and participation for the program, the library district hosts early Summer Reading celebrations with popular children's entertainers at branches throughout the region. The Firstenburg/First Independent gift creates the opportunity for many additional celebration activities in mid- and late-summer.

"The Firstenburg family and First Independent have generously pledged financial support, bank employee volunteers and marketing assistance to help us extend Summer Reading program activities later into the summer. We believe this effort will encourage more children and teens to participate in our program and become more familiar with the activities and services available at their local libraries," said Jacquelyn Keith, FVRL's Children's Services Coordinator.

About First Independent

A full service community bank with assets of nearly \$1 billion, First Independent serves SW Washington and Portland residents and businesses from 20 branches and offices in the region and a variety of online and mobile banking services. Headquartered in Vancouver, WA, with a long tradition of supporting local community organizations, First Independent is committed to enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. Member FDIC.

About Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation

The Foundation is a non-profit organization created in 1990 to fund the continued development and enhancement of quality library services in the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District. Activities of the Foundation include:

- *Funding innovative projects that would not otherwise be funded through tax revenues*
- *Managing a depository for bequests and financial gifts made on behalf of the regional library*
- *Recognizing and promoting the work of Fort Vancouver Regional Library volunteers*
- *Supporting the Friends of the Library groups through administrative and other services*
- *Serving as advocates on issues that are important to the Library*