

Your public library affects the quality of your life—even if you rarely use it.

Like other parts of the infrastructure we depend on—water and electrical systems, roads, public safety services—a library is an essential part of a prosperous and safe city.

The Richmond Public Library is recovering from the deep cuts demanded by the City's 2004 budget crisis. Main Library hours have been largely restored, staffing has increased, and circulation is rising. Patrons are enjoying a renewed optimism.

## We're not there yet

But as well as we're doing, we're not doing well enough. Based on our city's population, the Main Library must nearly double in size. Enhancements to the Bayview and West Side branches are needed. And our residents' access to computer technology lags behind that provided in most public libraries today.

We have too much at stake not to respond to these challenges.



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RICHMOND  
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P.O. Box 70413  
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*Helping ideas take flight*

## Libraries change lives

Literacy programs, Internet access, skilled research help, business classes: the Richmond Public Library provides keys that open doors for all—and creates opportunities for young people in particular.

Our library offers positive alternatives: safe places where children can get homework help, foster their dreams, and develop the habits of lifelong learning.

Libraries change lives.



## Libraries help communities prosper

Public libraries are engines of economic growth, helping students achieve their potential, and helping adults train and retrain for jobs in our changing economy.

Libraries are places where business people find the data they need to keep pace with change; and homeowners, the know-how to maintain their investments.

It all adds up. Greater investments. Increasing property values. Better jobs. Brighter futures. Libraries are about so much more than books.

Libraries' economic impacts are documented. Studies show that for every \$1 spent on the library, a community sees an average of \$4 in return.

But the value of our public library isn't measured simply in dollars. Our library has been—and with our help will remain—a source of civic pride and identity.

*"A democratic society depends upon an informed and educated citizenry."*

*-Thomas Jefferson*

## Put your money where your mind is

Please use this form to mail in a donation today. You may also go to our web site, [www.rplf.org](http://www.rplf.org), to donate using a credit card or to download a donor form.

Contributions made to the Richmond Public Library Foundation do not replace library allocations in the City's general fund. Foundation funds are used for special projects and enhancements.

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