

LIBRARY **HOTLINE**

Breaking News For Library and Information Decision Makers

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\$1 Mil. Endows Family Place At Middle Country Library, NY

Philanthropist Horace Hagedorn, founder of the Miracle-Gro Plant Food Company, and his wife Amy, donated \$1 million to the Middle Country Public Library on Long Island, NY, several months ago, to establish an endowment for the Family Place program. The center in the library branch in Centereach has been named the Hagedorn Family Place in honor of their generosity. That center is part of a renovation and construction project. The ribbon-cutting was held late last year. The Hagedorns' most recent gift is the largest gift from a single source ever received by the library.

The Hagedorns have given grants to the library since 1996, to support the development of several special projects

including the Community Resource Database of Long Island and Family Place. As part of the library's recent two-building expansion project, they contributed \$100,000 to the Enhancement Campaign. In addition, because of their strong commitment to the concept of Family Place libraries, they have personally funded the establishment of two Family Place library sites in Port Washington, NY, and Stuart, FL, communities, where they have residences.

"Family Place is both a philosophy and way of providing services to young children and families as well as a specially designed, welcoming space in the library for young children, parents and caregivers, equipped with toys, books, audiovisual materials, and hands-on interactive learning activities," Barbara Jordon, assistant director, explained to *Library Hotline*. The Hagedorn center and a similar center in the Selden branch of the library are two of 160 such centers across the country, cre-

ated in partnership with Libraries for the Future, a national library advocacy organization based in New York City. Children's librarians from the participating libraries attend an intensive three-day training institute at Middle Country, followed by on site visits and technical assistance over a two-year period.