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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anna Fuhrman 202 333 9295

Anna Velazco 202 727-4943

T-Shirts and CDs to Benefit the DC Public Library

A Georgetown merchant has developed **T-shirts** (infant through adult) **and CDs** to be sold in shops throughout the city. Proceeds of the T-shirts will go directly to the Georgetown Library Recovery and Restoration Fund, a dedicated fund established by the DC Public Library Foundation to help rebuild the classic neighborhood gem, restore and replace the bulk of the branch collection, and bring back a library that serves all the residents of this community. Proceeds from the CD will benefit the library system as a whole.

Inspired by the classic children's book Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson, the design (featured on both the shirts and the CD cover) shows the spunky Harold drawing the historic Georgian building back to life with his purple crayon. A quote from the book accompanies the illustration: "Luckily, he kept his wits and his purple crayon." In a block below the drawing are the words: Georgetown Library Recovery and Restoration Fund.

The design was developed by Joe Kerr and Anna Fuhrman, Georgetown residents and owners of Proper Topper. Their P Street shop is just a couple of blocks away from the library, as is their home, from which they walked to watch the fiery scene on the morning of April 30th. They had also strolled there twice a week with their 2 year-old daughter, Lucy, for Story Time.

The Children's Reading Room was hardest hit in the fire; Fuhrman and Kerr wanted to find a way to get other businesses, residents, and especially children involved in the process of bringing the Library back better and stronger than ever. "The children who spent so much of their young lives in that building need a way to feel positive about progress that can be made after the scary fire," said Fuhrman. "T-shirts are an easy way for kids and adults alike to show support." **The shirts are 100% cotton and will sell for \$14 (toddlers and youth), \$20 (men's), and \$24 (women's).** (Proper Topper is subsidizing production cost. 75% of the sale price will go to the Fund.)

Next, they contacted their friends at **Gypsy Eyes Records**, a local record label specializing in lyric-driven acoustic rock. Owners Rob Kalani Tifford and Josh Read, quickly embraced the idea of creating a Benefit CD - a compilation of songs from Gypsy Eyes artists and friends (including Vandaveer, Revival, These United States, Brandon Butler, Shortstack, Mikal Evans, and Rose). The recordings will be contributed by Gypsy Eyes Records and artists, and production costs will be paid by Proper Topper. **The CD will sell for \$12.**

Benefit merchandise will be available by June 20th in a variety of shops throughout the city (a complete list will be available soon) and online at www.properopper.com.

For further information about the DC Public Library Foundation, please contact Anna Velazco, Executive Director, at 202-727-4943 or make a donation online at: www.dcplfoundation.org