



RCPL Foundation Announces Creation of the

Ethel Bolden

Minority Scholarship

The Richland County Public Library Foundation has established the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship in honor and recognition of Mrs. Ethel Bolden's years of service to the Richland County community and its libraries. The \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded annually from 2010 through 2013, and possibly thereafter. The scholarship seeks to encourage and provide financial support to students from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups towards the completion of their Masters in Library and Information Science.

Ethel Bolden, consummate advocate and pioneer for library services to African-American children, worked diligently for 40 years in the community to promote reading and establish excellence in library services. She established the first elementary school library at (formerly all-Black) Waverly Elementary, served as school librarian at Perry Junior High, worked as the first African-American faculty member and librarian at Dreher High School, and served twice on the Board of Trustees at the Richland County Public Library.

o **Eligibility Requirements**

Individuals are eligible to submit an application for the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship if they:

- Are a legal resident of South Carolina.
- Have been fully admitted into an ALA-accredited program offering the Masters in Library & Information Science (full or part time status).
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service or other activities that reflect leadership abilities.
- Have shown outstanding academic performance.
- Are a member of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

o **Forms to Submit**

The following information must be submitted and postmarked by **March 15, 2010**:

- Proof of admission into an ALA-accredited MLIS degree program.
- Completed application for the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship.
- Current resume.
- Letters of reference—Two letters of reference from individuals who are able to describe the applicant's academic, work and/or community service achievements are required. References should be placed in sealed envelopes and postmarked no later than March 15. Letters should be sent to Tina Gills, Development Manager, Richland County Public Library, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201.
- A 300-word essay that describes the applicant's interest and any work in the field of librarianship, including volunteer work. Also indicate what specific competencies or characteristics applicant believes he/she can bring to the librarian profession and level of community involvement and leadership potential.

o **Frequency and Amount of Awards**

The Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship will be awarded annually in 2010 through 2013 in the amount of \$2,500.

o **Deadline for Application**

Application, proof of admission into an ALA-accredited MLIS degree program, current resume, letters of reference, and essay must be postmarked by **March 15, 2010**.

o **Notification of Awards**

Applicants will be notified regarding their status by June 1, 2010.

o **To apply, please contact:**

Tina Gills
Development Manager
Richland County Public Library
1431 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-929-3424
tgills@myrcpl.com

o **Applications can also be downloaded electronically at www.myrcpl.com/foundation.**

Application for the Ethel Bolden Minority Scholarship

Personal Information

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Are you a South Carolina resident? YES NO
(Please circle one.)

Indicate if you are a member of a minority racial or ethnic group.
(Please check one.)

- African American
- Asian American
- American Indian
- Hispanic American
- Other (please indicate) _____

Please indicate the name of the institution to which you have been accepted into an
ALA-accredited MLIS program
(Please attach copy of proof of acceptance.)

Name of Institution _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please attach the 300-word essay that describes the applicant's interest and any work in the field of librarianship, including volunteer work. Also indicate what specific competencies or characteristics applicant believes he/she can bring to the librarian profession and level of community involvement and leadership potential.



RCPL Foundation Vice Chair Bob Gahagan, RCPL Deputy Director Valerie Rowe-Jackson, Columbia native Charles Bolden and RCPL Deputy Director Helen Ann Rawlinson pose by the tree in the Children's Room of the Main Library that was dedicated in honor and memory of Ethel Bolden.