

A Strong Foundation

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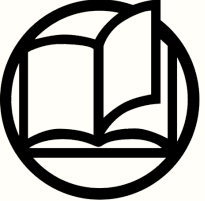
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The O'Neal Library: A library offering a wide range of books and resources for all ages. It is a place where you can find everything you need for your reading pleasure. The library is open to everyone and is a great place to spend your time. You can find books on a variety of topics, from fiction to non-fiction. The library also offers a variety of services, including book clubs and reading groups. It is a place where you can find everything you need for your reading pleasure.



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Susan Joan "Sue" DeBrecht 1951-2021[†]



Susan J. DeBrecht served the O'Neal Library for 32 years, from 1985 through 2017. She served as the Children's Librarian until she became the Assistant Director in 1986 and the Library Director in 1989. Sue oversaw the creation of the Mountain Brook Library Foundation which raised over \$8 million through a public and private fundraising campaign for the new library building completed in April 2001.

As a result of Sue's leadership, the O'Neal Library received the "Blue Ribbon Level Award" which is conveyed to public libraries in the State that have achieved superior excellence and service. The Library also received a prestigious four-star rating in 2016 by *Library Journal* in recognition of the collections, programs, and service to the community, the only four-star library in Jefferson County at that time.

Sue will also be remembered for her tireless advocacy for Library employees. She encouraged her staff to pursue higher education and supported continuing professional development. She secured travel funds for staff to attend national conferences, and she made sure the Library Board saw the results of that investment. Her legacy with the Susan J. DeBrecht Education Fund continues her commitment to staff enrichment and educational development.

-Lindsay Gardner

