

Contact: Ari Z. Brooks, 240-777-0020
For Immediate Release: September 4, 2008

**Friends of the Library, Montgomery County
Brings Best-Selling Author, Award-Winning Chef,
Food Network Television Star to Rockville Library**

Chef Jeff Henderson, best-selling author and star of the Food Network's new reality show, "The Chef Jeff Project," will be at the Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave., on October 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., for "Read, Eat & Give," sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and the County's Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

Henderson's memoir and "New York Times" bestseller entitled "Cooked" traces his rise from drug dealer on the tough streets of Los Angeles to renowned chef at the Bellagio Café in Las Vegas. His new Food Network show debuts two days after his appearance in Rockville. It follows several youth from disadvantaged backgrounds through culinary skills training and reveals how their lives are changed through food.

The "Read, Eat & Give" event will feature a screening of the new television show and a book signing of "Chef Jeff Cooks: In the Kitchen with America's New Inspirational Culinary Star" (October 7, 2008). Tickets are \$35 per person and \$50 per couple. Tickets for members of Friends of the Library are \$25 per person and \$40 per couple. All proceeds will benefit disadvantaged youth seeking careers in the culinary arts and support the creation of "Teen Spot" – a project to help build library space to encourage safe alternative recreational and educational opportunities for young people.

Art Wallenstein, director of the Department of Corrections and honorary chairperson of the event, said, "As a reader and big fan of libraries, I am thrilled to be part of this event. The

-more-

Chef Jeff at Rockville Library

2-2-2-2

culinary program at our facility is a huge success, so I know how powerful this story is as a model for how we can help at-risk youth.”

“Montgomery County Public Libraries is proud to be part of the partnership bringing Chef Jeff to our supporters and customers,” said MCPL Director Parker Hamilton. “This program helps reinforce the philosophy embodied by our library in the correctional facility that reading and books can change lives.”

“This has all the ingredients of a great night out,” said Steven Snapp, president of Friends of the Library. “Chef Jeff is a terrific personality. His appearance gives county residents inviting reasons to come to the library. And, all of us who attend will get a lot of satisfaction out supporting the youth for whom Chef Jeff is such a charismatic advocate.”

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, the lead sponsor, is a 25-year-old non-profit membership organization with 15 chapters dedicated to enhancing and promoting public libraries through fundraising and advocacy efforts. The Friends operates two used book stores, and supports various literary projects that promote the work of local authors, encourage reading among children and enhance adult life-long learning.

For more information about Friends of the Library or to purchase tickets for “Read, Eat & Give,” visit www.folmc.org or call 240-777-0020.

###