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Above: Robert Pilkington, principal at Beacon Charter School in Woonsocket, right, joins students and faculty members at the official opening of the school's new library. At left: Joyce Taylor, 16, speaks about her G Scout Gold Award project, in which she organized and built a school library.

## Books for Beacon



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Carol Mowry, a Spanish teacher at Beacon Charter School in Woonsocket, left, and math teacher John Butler join 16-year-old Joyce Taylor at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the new school library.

## ■ Girl Scout helps build Beacon Charter School library.

By JOSEPH FITZGERALD  
Staff Writer

WOONSOCKET — When you're a privately funded fledgling charter school with limited resources, buying books to furnish a school library can be expensive.

The Beacon Charter School, which first opened in the fall of 2003, has never had a proper library so Girl Scout Joyce Taylor, a 16-year-old junior at Lincoln High School, decided to do something about it.

As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Taylor, a member of Troop 564 in

Lincoln, helped build four 4-by-4 bookcases and coordinated a donation drive that netted more than 800 books to fill those cases. The "mini" library, which was unveiled in a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday morning, is located in a nook on the second floor of the school building on Main Street, the school's new home since the fall.

The new library will serve as the school's official library until a more expanded library is set up at the school, a secondary-level college prep program with an arts and business program.

Taylor, the daughter of Carolyn and George Taylor of Lincoln, is working to obtain the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts. The award focuses on a 14- to 18-year-old Girl Scout's interests and personal journey through leadership

skills, career explorations, self-improvement and service. Taylor has been involved with the Girl Scouts since she was 5.

To earn the coveted Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete 40 leadership hours, 30 career hours and three interest projects, among other things.

Taylor came up with the idea for the library from her mother, Carolyn, who is a special education teacher at Beacon Charter School. But you can't have a library without books — and that's when Taylor came up with the idea of holding a contest to see which of the school's teachers could donate the most books over a period of two months from November through December.

"Each teacher was asked to bring in books and the person who brought in the most

would win a pizza party," Taylor said.

When it was all done and over, two teachers tied for the prize and a whopping 800 books were collected.

"We got a ton of good books," Taylor said.

The next step was designing and constructing the bookcases to hold the books. The project took most of April to complete. She convinced two teachers at the school to construct the cases and she spent 15 hours sanding and staining the cases.

The entire library project took a total of 65 hours.

Taylor has big goals for the future, including college and a possible career in art.

This year she was the first place winner in U.S. State Jack Reed's art contest. There were more than 100 entries from throughout the state.