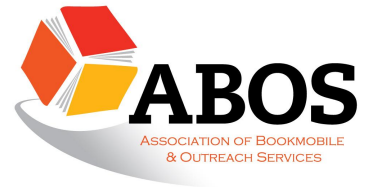


Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services

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Press Release – For Immediate Release

Lechelle Thornhill-Boothee, Outreach Services Assistant at the Queens Public Library in Jamaica, NY, is the recipient of the 2022 Rising Stars Award. The Rising Stars Award, sponsored by the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services, highlights the achievements of those new to the bookmobile and outreach profession.

Lechelle has been working at the Library for almost three years in the Outreach department. A major part of her role is to coordinate Outreach programming on the Mobile Library. She also organizes and distributes Library giveaways. As with everyone on the Outreach team, she also supports and enacts the various Outreach initiatives, including with shelters for homeless families and correctional and re-entry populations.

Lechelle has streamlined the email process for applying for a Book Mobile visit. She also maintains two Outreach calendars, which, for 2019, included 74 Book Mobile events and the dozens of days that the Book Mobile was providing replacement branch library service for a branch under renovation. Also, in part because of Lechelle's service, Mobile Library materials checkouts increased 120% from 2018 to 2019. Lechelle also does a lot of work with the library's giveaways. These are items that the library gives away at outreach events. Lechelle helps coordinate the receiving of these items and sending them out to community groups.

When Lechelle began her job in 2019, she had never worked for a library before. She was hired for her administrative and office experience and background. However, it became clear that Lechelle, once she saw all that the library does, became passionate about the mission of the library. She helped design the library's 2020 National Library Week concept and programming. She also worked in an outreach role with the Mobile Library and re-entry patrons. She contributes her ideas at meetings and trainings.

Lechelle's work within the Outreach department has made a large impact on the Queens community. In 2019, the Mobile Library provided 74 public programs, with attendance of 7,093 people. Some of these events in 2019 occurred at shelters for families experiencing homelessness. In 2019, the Mobile Library served 356 such patrons. In 2020, in the midst of the

COVID-19 pandemic, Lechelle still served the homeless shelter population. She helped coordinate the ordering of supplies to be given to families in shelters. In April 2020, Lechelle and the library delivered 2,100 board games and 120 writing journals, along with pens, to over 700 families living in six Queens County shelters.

The Rising Stars Award will be presented at the Awards Ceremony during the 2022 Conference of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services in Scottsdale, Arizona.