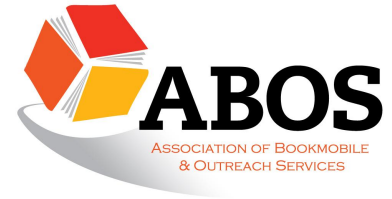


Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services

1190 Meramec Station Road
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Press Release – For Immediate Release

Mary Wood and Sandra Davis, Community Engagement Manager and Library Media Specialist at the Cobb County Public Library and Cobb County School District in Marietta, GA, are the recipients of the 2022 Preschool Outreach and School Services Inspirations Award. The Preschool Outreach and School Services Inspirations Award, sponsored by the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and in honor of Danielle Marshall for her outstanding work with 3C Patient Advocacy, is presented annually to a library, department, or an individual who has provided exemplary library outreach services to children and students in their community, from age infant to college.

Cobb County is a community located north of Atlanta and is considered part of the Greater Atlanta Metropolitan Area. The county has a population of 750,000 people from a wide range of language and cultural backgrounds. The Cobb County Public Library (CCPL) is a 15-branch system with 1 Bookmobile serving the community. Within the Library's service area there are two school systems, Cobb County School District (CCSD) and Marietta City Schools (MCS), together they serve an estimated 116,000 students.

In the Fall of 2021 Cobb County School District Media Specialist, Sandra Davis, and Cobb County Public Library Community Engagement Manager, Mary Wood, began planning a campaign to redistribute gently used books from affluent areas in Cobb to underserved communities in Cobb at no additional cost to schools or the Library. A collaborative outreach program called Books2Keep was established.

In order to acquire materials to distribute, individual schools in Cobb County School District hosted successful book donation drives in the Spring of 2021. Once the books were collected, Media Specialists and the Library Bookmobile team began sorting through the materials grouping them by reading level. Sandra surveyed Media Specialists to allow them to nominate their school's surrounding neighborhoods to be selected as locations for the Books2Keep stops over summer break.

With the feedback from Media Specialists and their understanding of under-resourced communities in Cobb, the bookmobile team began contacting parks, apartment leasing offices, mobile home communities, and churches to schedule Books2Keep Bookmobile visits. School staff were invited to meet Bookmobile staff onsite to help readers find their “just right” books for the summer. While on site, schools and library staff answered questions from caregivers about nearby schools and registered families for summer reading. In 2021, Cobb-Marietta Books2Keep was able to distribute 5,686 books to families and children throughout the community.

The initiative was accomplished without adding cost to either organizations’ budget. However, the project involved 376 staff and volunteer hours, plus fuel for the Bookmobile. Due to the generosity of the county’s families, the Bookmobile was able to continue to offer Books2Keep stops in 2022 and both organizations are planning for an exciting Books2Keep 2023.

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