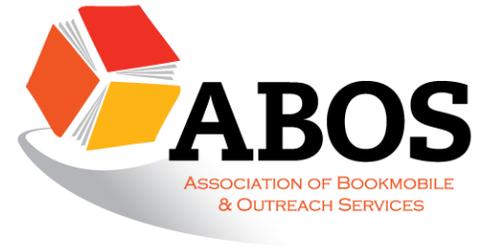


Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services

1190 Meramec Station Road
Ballwin, MO 63021



Press Release – For Immediate Release

Ann Plazek, Outreach Services Manager at the Medina County (OH) District Library and the 2017 ABOS President, is one of the three recipients of the 2020 ABOS John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award. The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award, sponsored by the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and Farber Specialty Vehicles, is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions and prominent leadership by an individual in Bookmobile and Outreach Services.

Ann Plazek has a long history working in libraries since 1981. She served as Children’s Librarian for Shaker Heights Public Library & Kent Free Library in Ohio. In 2007 she accepted the position of Bookmobile Supervisor for Medina County District Library, and was promoted to Outreach Services Manager position in 2011.

Ann was a speaker at the 2014 ABOS conference in San Diego, joined the ABOS board in 2015, and became Vice President/President-Elect for ABOS in 2016, serving as the 2017 ABOS President. Ann is a strong advocate to provide library service to underserved populations in any way she can do it. At board meetings, Ann was a voice of reason, gained consensus of the members finding ways to include everyone’s ideas, and encouraged the growth of the ABOS organization.

According to Suzie Muniak, Assistant Director at Medina County, “Ann is a gem & an innovator, always looking for new ways to get the library to where it is needed.” Some of her great accomplishments are as follows:

- Initiated new “Volunteer Recognition” program at MCDL; established more significant roles for volunteers, increased volunteer involvement by 50% above goal.
- Member of the “Leadership Medina County Class” of 2014
- Developed Medina County ROCKS (Reading Opportunities Create Kindergarten Success) workshops for parents & children, (as well as providing materials to take home), through a United Way grant.
- Participated in the “Living Well Data Revel” a United Way-backed collaborative effort by nonprofit, public & private sector partners that conducts health & quality-of-life assessments using best-practices to identify and prioritize county needs. Through her participation, she

learned there was a huge jump in the early literacy statistics from the Outreach daycare storytimes & ROCKS.

- At Medina County District Library, she created a deposit collection for families accessing services at the Medina County Job & Family Services
- During 2016, she initiated & promoted “Project Read Inside to Outside” continues to provide it with local incarcerated adults in the Medina County Jail. She works with incarcerated parents to train them read to their children, offering early literacy tips and then records those parents reading, which is sent to their children. It has touched lives and helps promote literacy to an important population.
- Provided Bookmobile service to Lodi Library members after their building closed due to structural problems. Her efforts helped ensure seamless library service until renovation was completed. She presented this experience at the ABOS conference, “Using your Bookmobile in a Crisis Situation” as a guide for fellow Outreach librarians.
- Ann instituted a bookmobile stop at Median County Home, which provides custodial care to adult residents. The Bookmobile empowers them to make their own library material choices. Ann has expanded library services to childcare centers and “unexpected” locations such as WID Dept. and story times in low-income neighborhood parks.
- Nominated for Ohio Library Council Library Innovation Award.
- Ann’s volunteer activities include: Medina County Senior Services Network member – Living Well Median County Committee; Median Hospital Community Advisory Board Member; and Hospice of Medina County.
- When the library closed due to Covid-19, Ann reached out to Feeding Medina County who was distributing meals to families & children, who were not receiving their meals due to school closings. Ann set up a partnership quickly with the Sheriff’s department to drop off many books for children of all ages. Books were bagged & distributed to families to have fresh materials to take home, read, & not worry about returning items while the library was closed.
- During the closing due to Covid-19, Ann quickly coordinated with her staff to call & check in with Outreach patrons who were not able to have visitors as well as not receiving their Outreach services. She & her staff let the patrons know they were missed, and made sure patrons were aware of other local services available to them through the Office for Older Adults, such as grocer or meal deliveries.
- Ann has been a member of the Medina County Senior Services Network, and this year was elected to a 2-year term as a member of the MCSSN Board of Directors. She currently serves as the network’s Secretary.
- In 2017, Ann was awarded the title of Library Journal “Movers & Shakers.” This award honors the transformative work being done by those in libraries of all types and sizes across the field. She was one of 52 people profiled to reflect the impact librarians can have through the

services and programs they deliver, their deep community connections and collaborations with partner organizations, and their one-on-one interactions with patrons.

- Nominated a Woman of Distinction for the Athena Award.

The John Philip Excellence in Outreach Award will be presented at the Awards Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, October 14, during the 2020 Virtual Conference of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services. The ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m. CST.