Press Release

Don Daum is the 2014 recipient of the Illinois Library Association Alexander J. Skrzypek Award.

The award is given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library services for the blind or physically disabled in Illinois. Presented by the ILA and the Illinois State Library in honor of Alexander J. Skrzypek (1905-1976), the first librarian for the blind at the Chicago Public Library. Skrzypek’s career in libraries began in 1919 as a part-time page and he was named head librarian for the blind in 1952.

Don Daum has served as an AT&T Telephone Pioneer Volunteer for nearly 20 years of his retirement. As a volunteer he tirelessly fixes the machines that patrons of the Talking Books program use to access the books provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The Illinois Machine Sublending Agency (IMSA) depends greatly on the work provided by the AT & T Telephone Pioneers. Without these volunteers IMSA would not be able to devote the time and energy needed to run the other parts of their service program for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

In addition to the impressive longevity of his volunteer service, Mr. Daum delivers his volunteer work with enthusiasm and professionalism. He can be reached outside of his office hours and encourages communication whenever IMSA deems necessary. He can be counted on in a pinch and shows the same level of dependability when the times are not so hectic. His dedication to providing machines to IMSA’s patrons and the quality of his work is unfailingly outstanding.

The Alexander J. Skrzypek Award will be presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield, Illinois.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.