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**Illinois Library
Association**

Press Release

Rhonda Johnson, Youth Services Manager at the Hudson Area Public Library District, as the recipient of the Golden Ticket Award for 2014.

The Golden Ticket Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding local contribution in library services to young people in her/his community. Awarded by the Youth Services Forum, this award is generously sponsored by Quality Books Incorporated (QBI).

The Hudson Area Public Library District serves the city of Hudson (*a population of approximately 1,800*), as well as the Lake Bloomington area and areas around Money Creek. Ms. Rhonda Johnson has made a positive, lasting impact in library services for children within this community, which is located in the northwest corner of McLean County, about ten miles north of Bloomington-Normal. Rhonda has provided a variety of outstanding and innovative programs including: class visits for the Hudson Elementary School; A Fall Family Festival; Family Gingerbread House Decorating; Award Books Voting & Parties; Local History Programs for Scouts; Teen Programs (*including a Teen Advisory League*); Winter Reading & Summer Reading (*first class programming on a small town library's budget*); and the Hudson History Scavenger Hunts. All of her programs promote a love of books, reading and libraries.

Because of its size, Rhonda balances a number of roles at the Hudson Area Public Library District. Not only is she the Youth Services Manager, but she is also the Head of Cataloging; she purchases all of the books for children and teens; and she has been the interim director of the library on two separate occasions. Ms. Johnson recruits volunteers, as well as, trains both volunteers and new staff members. On some occasions, Rhonda has even been called on to take on a maintenance role; hanging library pictures; assembling shelving and hauling furniture.

Rhonda is a powerful force in getting children to read in the Hudson Area Community, as "*her personal interest in feeding the need to read shines through in her determination to help all share in the love of literacy*".

For Immediate Release

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Rhonda Johnson will receive the Golden Ticket Award at the Illinois Library Association's Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Prairie Capital Center in Springfield. She will also be honored at the Youth Services Author Breakfast, featuring children's book illustrator Don Tate, on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, which will be held from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. For further information, please contact the Illinois Library Association.