



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

David Kelsey, Outreach Services Librarian at the St. Charles Public Library in St. Charles, Illinois, is the 2018 recipient of the Illinois Library Association's Alexander J. Skrzypek Award. The award, presented and sponsored by the Illinois State Library, 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.

From the moment David was hired in February of 2015, he has embraced his position with passion, dedication, and perseverance, and constantly strives to create new and innovative service models to serve the Library's Outreach Services' patrons. Under David's leadership, the number of patrons served has increased by 350%. David demonstrates strong leadership abilities, a positive attitude, innovative spirit, and compassion. He directly makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those with disabilities, including those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Under David's leadership, Outreach Services now presents weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly programming at 7 senior facilities, presenting 25 programs a month that engage more than 250 seniors. David embraces new ideas, and has created engaging programming for seniors including: Educational and Engagement Kits, Caregiver Kits, The Attic - Memory Wagon, Memorable Pets activities, The Fidget Quilt Project, and Tales and Travel Memories programs. Many of these programs and tools are designed to provide enrichment activities for patrons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. David Kelsey and his colleague Tina Williams of White Oak Public Library launched the website: <https://librariansdementia.wordpress.com/> as a tool kit to share ideas, resources, and best practices serving patrons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. In addition, David Kelsey helped establish and is current co-chair of the RAILS Serving Patrons with Dementia Group, a system-wide networking group connecting librarians who work with patrons living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. This is the first group of its kind in the United States and was selected by ALA's Alzheimer's and

Related Dementias Interest Group (IGARD) to be the national model for future library dementia networking groups.

David's ability to develop, strengthen, and nurture strategic partnerships reinforces the value of library services in the community. Key partners include Northwestern Medicine, Lazarus House (a local homeless shelter), Salvation Army Golden Diners (Meals on Wheels), the Kane County Judicial Center, and clinics that offer free medical, dental, and counseling services to residents living below the poverty line. Recently, the St. Charles Public Library's Outreach Services Department was selected as the recipient of the 2018 ASCLA Exceptional Service Award.

In addition to being sought as a speaker at library conferences, David was published in the March/April 2017 edition of *Public Libraries* magazine with the feature article "The Power of Community Outreach: Meeting the Demands of the Growing Senior Population." The article addresses changing demographics in the United States and providing services to the growing population of seniors. David was also featured in the March/April 2018 issue of *American Libraries* magazine, with the article "Community Fabric." The Library Trends piece describes the St. Charles Public Library's recent communitywide "Fidget Quilt Project."

The Alexander J. Skrzypek Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, October 9, during the 2018 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Peoria. The luncheon starts at 12:00 noon.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release