



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

The Adult Services Department of the Deerfield Public Library is the recipient of the 2018 Illinois Library Association Readers' Advisory Service Award. The award, presented and sponsored by the Adult Reading Round Table, recognizes excellence in the planning, development and delivery of readers' advisory service to adults and teens.

Deerfield's Adult Services Department was selected for their innovative, impactful Read Without Boundaries program. This year-long program was launched in January 2018 to challenge patrons to read outside their comfort zone, with the goal of strengthening the community, broadening understanding of others, and providing insight into different cultures, opinions, and perspectives. Each month of the program features a selected theme meant to challenge patrons to read one title that promotes empathy or understanding. Readers receive prizes for individual challenges and completing the overall program. The program is an adult program, but adults of all abilities are encouraged to participate, regardless of reading level.

Claire Steiner, Head of Adult Services cites positive feedback from participants, stating: "Many participants expressed that they would never have read a book like the one they chose had it not been for the challenge. The program has provided the Deerfield community with a multitude of opportunities to grow as readers and thinkers."

The impact of the monthly challenges was documented through patron responses:

January Challenge: Read a Book Written by an Immigrant or with an Immigration Story

- *“Made me think more about the current refugee crisis and the enormous challenges facing those forced to flee their homes.”*
- *“It reminded me that immigration is more complex than just “wanting a better life” and that it’s easier to understand anyone when you know more about them. I’ve had this book on my “to-read” list since 2015 and I’m glad the reading challenge brought it to the top.”*

February Challenge: Read a book with a theme of love, kindness, empathy or compassion.

- *“Everyone has a need to have someone notice their existence.”*
- *“This is essentially the kind of life I want to lead, making a positive contribution to the world.”*
- *“Everyone has a story and is struggling with demons we know nothing about. We should not judge others before we really know them.”*

More information about the Read Without Boundaries program can be found at the <http://deerfieldlibrary.org/read-without-boundaries/>.

The Readers’ Advisory Service 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