



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

Glenna Godinsky, Life Enrichment Liaison at the Gail Borden Public Library District is the 2020 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.

Ms. Godinsky brings enriching and engaging programs to residential communities of seniors and developmentally disabled adults and youth. She visits over 22 locations each month with her original and innovative programs that incorporate art, music, history, travel, geography, nature and other fields to stimulate the intellectual, social, and emotional well-being of the patrons she serves.

Ms. Godinsky and her team of volunteers deliver three main sets of programs: Tales and Travel, which is delivered to patrons with cognitive impairments takes patrons “around the world”. Her original program series Library Fun & Facts combines stories, info bytes, music and crafts. The third program is Cruisin’ the Country, wherein stories and crafts kits are delivered to her patrons who then pass on the finished crafts to the next care facility. Ms. Godinsky does not simply enrich her patrons’ lives, she empowers them to do the same. She encourages volunteerism in her patrons and many follow through in order to give back. She has been a great contributor to the field of providing library services to the cognitively impaired by sharing her knowledge, ideas, and material freely with anyone who is interested using various platforms.

Ms. Godinsky, a Certified Dementia Practitioner, has a special place in her heart for those experiencing dementia and for their caregivers. She has created Memory Cafes and the bilingual Café de los Recuerdos in the Elgin area to provide people with dementia and their care partners to enjoy stress free socializing.

The cafes are held at local IHOPs and Ms. Godinsky even trained the staff at the IHOP in basic dementia awareness in order to better serve those patrons.

Ms. Godinsky created a task force in Elgin, in partnership with the police and fire departments, senior services, health and wellness providers, city government and others to work together to earn Elgin the designation of Dementia-Friendly Community by the Dementia Friends America. She and her team of volunteers have trained various sectors in interacting and communicating with people with dementia.

Her programs have not gone unnoticed at the national level. In May of this year, Ms. Godinsky was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker.

Ms. Godinsky serves on the Marketing Committee of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and is active in the RAILS Serving Patrons with Dementia Group. Ms. Godinsky attends many roundtable discussions of the Alzheimer's Association at Rush University Hospital and she does many presentations on this topic.

The Alexander J. Skrzypek Award will be presented at a ceremony that will be held in conjunction with the 2020 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, which will take place virtually in October.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release