



**ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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**Illinois Library Association**

**560 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 330**

**Chicago, IL 60661-2692**

**Phone: 312.644.1896**

**Email: [tjenkins@ila.org](mailto:tjenkins@ila.org)**

**Geneva Public Library District Outreach Team Honored with  
2025 Alexander J. Skrzypek Award for Exceptional Service to People with Disabilities**

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) has named the Geneva Public Library District (GPLD) Outreach Team as the 2025 recipient of the Alexander J. Skrzypek Award for Exceptional Service to People with Disabilities. Sponsored by the Illinois State Library, the award honors individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of library services for people with disabilities in Illinois.

Named for Alexander J. Skrzypek—the first librarian for people with print disabilities at the Chicago Public Library—the award recognizes imaginative innovation, community leadership, and dedicated service that advances accessibility and inclusion in libraries statewide.

The GPLD Outreach Team—Lexy Rodriguez, Jordan McNamee, Ginny Sieck, and Stephanie Burnham—was selected for their visionary and deeply compassionate approach to outreach. Their programming serves individuals with developmental,

intellectual, and physical disabilities across the Geneva area, making the library a vibrant, inclusive space for all.

“Their work is not just inclusive—it is visionary, personal, and transformative,” wrote Meg Bingham, a vocational facilitator at Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative.

“They have trailblazed new models of inclusive library engagement and created real-world vocational training opportunities for students with disabilities.”

Among their many initiatives, the team leads:

- **Library to Go**, a delivery and programming service for residential and day programs like Marklund and Rising Lights;
- **Books and Beyond**, a biweekly book club for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- **Hands-on adaptive programming** in collaboration with post-high school transition programs;
- **Homebound support**, including personalized phone consultations and resource delivery for seniors and individuals with memory impairments.

In just one year, the team served over 1,000 senior residents, tripling engagement in memory care programs and significantly expanding services to individuals who would otherwise face barriers accessing traditional library offerings. Overall, more than 10,000 community members benefited from the team’s programs.

“Lexy and her team are the reason my daughter, who has autism, feels accepted and safe at the library,” shared Chuck Miles, Board Treasurer of the Geneva Public Library District and the Association for Individual Development. “They have unmatched passion—and make possible what once seemed out of reach.”

The Outreach Team’s work exemplifies the ideals of the Americans with Disabilities Act and offers a scalable model for inclusive, community-embedded library service. Their leadership not only enriches the Geneva community but also serves as an inspiration across Illinois.

The Alexander J. Skrzypek Award for Exceptional Service to People with Disabilities will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2025 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The Conference will take place on October 14-16, 2025, in Rosemont, Illinois.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

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### **About the Illinois Library Association**

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter within the American Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.