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## Press Release

**Alexandra Annen of the Homer Township Public Library District is the 2017 recipient of the Illinois Library Association's Reference Services Award. The award recognizes an Illinois librarian or institution that exemplifies excellence in providing assistance to library users as they seek and use information. The award is sponsored by Ancel Glink.**

Through innovative programming and unique partnerships, Alexandra Annen has displayed a creativity and responsiveness to the changing needs of the Homer Township community. This dedication to the user extends beyond the library through a broad range of outreach initiatives, which have established the Homer Township Public Library District as an enthusiastic and willing community partner.

Alexandra's specialty is dynamic programs with a twist, where all programs have a reading and leadership tie-in. To support such programming, Alexandra has sought grants and awards like the 2015 Summer Intern Program Grant. This funding was used to provide a stipend to five teens who planned and promoted teen events that summer.

For busy patrons, Alexandra developed pop-up programming like Crafty Pop-Ups. Instead of registering for programs months in advance, pop-up programming allows the library to announce craft sessions via text message just days before the event. This method of promotion has built excitement among adult users and expanded the library's marketing to more user-friendly technologies.

Under Alexandra's guidance, library programming has reached local school districts, community colleges, senior villages, newspapers and other libraries. She also formed a partnership with StoryCorps, the Veterans History Project, and the Homer Township Oak Arbor 787, of the Gleaner Life Insurance Society, to collect and preserve the personal histories of Homer Township residents.

Because of these specialized services and partnerships, Alexandra Annen has proven to be an outstanding library advocate to the Homer Township community. Her innovative, responsive leadership has had an impact not only on her local community, but her active participation in professional organizations has seen her share her success with library professionals on the local, state and national levels.

The Reference Services Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon held on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, during the 2017 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Tinley Park.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release