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Press Release

Christine Steck, Outreach Services Assistant at the St. Charles Public Library, is the recipient of the Illinois Library Association's (ILA) 2021 Oberman and Rich Reaching Forward Conference Grant, which is presented by the ILA Reaching Forward Forum.

Throughout her tenure in the Outreach Services Team, Christine has been devoted to providing exemplary library services, programming, and engagement activities to seniors in the St. Charles community. Christine is a model employee who displays kindness, compassion, and concern to every senior patron.

“During the past four years, Christine has led more than 150 senior programs that have engaged over 2,250 seniors,” said David Kelsey, Outreach Services Librarian. “Christine also hosts weekly read-aloud programs and one-on-one engagement, which enables seniors to maintain their joy of reading. I frequently hear heartwarming stories that Christine’s programs are the highlight of seniors’ weeks, helping them to reminisce and engage. Christine’s work has been described by several senior facility staff members as an ‘outreach ministry.’”

Librarians across RAILS have attended programs to learn, be inspired, and be trained by Christine on how their libraries can better reach seniors living in facilities through programming. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, Christine immediately modified services to meet the demands of seniors in the community. Christine helped the SCPL Outreach Services Team receive the distinction of being the first Outreach Program in the United States to launch virtual programming.

Christine Steck will receive free registration to the 2021 Reaching Forward Conference and a framed certificate. The award will be presented at the virtual Reaching Forward Conference on Friday, May 7, 2021.