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## Press Release

**The Pembroke Public Library is the 2016 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.**

The Pembroke Public Library's mission is to be "committed to promoting the benefits and joys of reading, lifelong learning, and the discovery of ideas through virtual and physical collections and services for the community. The library will empower people to find and evaluate information and remain current with new technology."

Located 20 miles south of Kankakee, IL, and serving over 1,000 residents, the Pembroke Public Library has embodied a can-do spirit that belies some areas of crucial need, namely in terms of staffing and budgeting. The library staff does this by making use of available resources, and creating partnerships that ensure its patrons receive the services they so richly deserve, those that in other, more affluent parts of the state, are taken for granted.

As in many communities, childhood literacy is a service area that requires much more time and attention. A partnership created with the faculty and students of Olivet Nazarene University provides for after-school tutoring, in addition to other fun, literacy-based activities during out-of-school time. Through its Pembroke Together initiative, a holistically developed curriculum from Compassion International it implemented, the library can provide growth opportunities in art, academics, and athletics.

Because of this specialized partnership, the Pembroke Public Library continues to provide the attention and dedication needed, so that no lack of resources is immediately evident, and the children remain on par with their peers from all over the state.

The Reference Services Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon held on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, during the 2016 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Rosemont.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release