

June 2, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Albert Public Library Outreach Team wins provincial library award

ST. ALBERT —St. Albert Public Library is thrilled to announce that the Library Community Outreach Team has won the Library Association of Alberta Punch Jackson Award of Excellence for their outstanding service to the community in 2021. The Outreach Team is one of three recipients in Alberta to receive the award.

The award was announced at the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) annual general meeting on June 1. Kirk MacLeod, LAA President, says, “We are pleased to be presenting this award to a team whose multi-dimensional work has had such an impact on your community, both during and beyond the pandemic.”

Outreach services are always a key part of library services; Outreach staff meet people where they are at in the community, addressing barriers to access such as mobility, transportation, and awareness of the services. During the pandemic, however, the creativity and flexibility of the Outreach Team was vital. Library facilities were opened and closed several times by provincial order, and many St. Albertans were isolated, stressed, and disconnected – from each other, and from opportunities for learning, fun and human interaction.

“Our Outreach Team - Community Outreach Librarian Emily Brady and Outreach Assistant Anthea Dacruz-Smith – met every challenge of 2021 with creativity and enthusiasm,” says Peter Bailey, CEO of St. Albert Public Library. “They brought an astonishing range of library services out into the community, identifying vulnerable demographics, building connection points, and breaking down those barriers to access.”

The Outreach Team created outdoor scavenger hunts that could withstand winter weather. They developed self-directed outdoor programs that allowed families and individuals to participate in activities while safely maintaining social distancing, and offered popular summer storytimes at the Lacombe Community Garden and in the Garden Crescent green space. They created more Trail Tales and Stroller Tales than ever to engage with citizens of all ages as they moved through trails and parks. The Outreach Team went online, they went outside, they popped up with library services in the neighbourhoods that needed them most.

“The Outreach Team was a crucial adjunct to the library services being delivered through the two library locations in 2021,” Bailey says. “I am tremendously proud of their work and delighted that their achievements have been recognized with the Punch Jackson Award of Excellence in Library Service.”

MORE: Outreach Team statistics – 2021:

In person programs and services:

- 22 pop up libraries (excluding Summer Reading Game pop-ups) served 547 people
- 7 Forest Friends events served 153
- 12 storytimes in the park served 218
- 4 tours with the book bike served 204
- 31 Daycare and Preschool visits reached 607 children
- 31 materials deliveries to homebound St. Albertans

Self-directed and online programs and services:

- 60 Trail and Stroller Tales
- 53 visits to restock Community bookshelves at Nevada Place and Grosvenor Laundromat
- 23 online programs (Dragonology, Pokemon, LEGO Club, Wings of Fire) served 353 households
- 3 seniors and multigenerational programs served 99 participants



Media contact:

Leslie Greentree
Marketing & Communications Specialist | St. Albert Public Library
780-459-1750 | lgreentree@sapl.ca