



The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME I ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2018

Issue Highlights

- *New Vehicle Acquisitions*
- *A Variety of Summer Reading Programs*
- *Discovering Volunteer Reader-Advisors*
- *Coordinating with Other Community Organizations*
- *Maker Mobile!*

FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Our secret is out! Nationwide, outreach services are leading the way in serving our communities by providing resources and programming to those unable to come to our buildings. We are ambassadors of good will, representing our libraries proudly. And we bring people back to a love of libraries and into our buildings, as well.

What an amazing year for ABOS! We have a record number of memberships, conference attendees, and active committee members. I'm so proud to be part of ABOS – with people who are committed to service, networking, and our library communities. I would encourage you to think about running for the ABOS Board, becoming an active member of a committee, and keeping your membership current.

I hope you enjoy Raleigh, plenty of networking opportunities, and the wonderful assortment of informative presentations! Join us next year in Omaha, Nebraska!

Take care and keep in touch via our listserv, social media, and our conference!

Tina

#ABOSNC2018

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Car magnets and mugs will be available at the annual conference!

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OUT & ABOUT

ROCHESTER HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY GETS A NEW BOOKMOBILE

By Mary Davis

Last winter, the Rochester Hills Public Library's Community Bookmobile was taken off the road. We did not realize it was for good, but we soon learned the brake part we needed was obsolete. After

batting around several ideas, we found a used vehicle for sale and thankfully our board approved the purchase, contingent on an inspection of course! We were thrilled to pick the vehicle up from the Coshocton Public Library in Ohio. After some cosmetic

changes including cleaning walls and shelves, changing the carpet, and switching out some graphics, we were excited to get back on the road. All total, we were off for almost five months, and our patrons (and bookmobile staff) were becoming restless. Patrons love the new vehicle. They remark on the spaciousness and brightness but by far the biggest comment is about the actual size. It is a few feet longer and a bit wider than our previous bookmobile, and patrons appreciate the difference. One patron simply said, "Your new bookmobile? It's sharp." We could not agree more.

*"Your new
bookmobile?
It's sharp."*



The newly acquired vehicle at its new home in Rochester Hills.

Mary Davis is the Outreach & Bookmobile Services Manager from Rochester Hills Public Library in Rochester, MI.

OUTREACH FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ADULTS

"The successes of the program were hard to measure by any kind of number."

By Kayla Kuni

When I was the Community Education Librarian for the New Port Richey Public Library, I developed interesting programming that would appeal to a variety of library users and non-users. One program I was always excited to host was my art and literacy program for special needs adults. I partnered with local adult training centers and hosted art and literacy classes on their campuses and also at the library. These classes were beneficial to all since I learned more about their school, but the students also

learned a lot about the library. The successes of the program were hard to measure by any kind of number. I saw success when students worked together, complimented the work of their peers, and felt comfortable interacting with library staff at the front desk. While this was an art class with a literacy component, it was much more than that. This class gave students the opportunity to meet their community and for the community to be aware of the adult training centers we had in the area. During my time with NPRPL, we hosted art

shows featuring student art work, we had an art class at the beach, and we got the students involved in the adult summer reading program. Programming for adults with special needs can be challenging, particularly if one has never worked with special needs adults before. As librarians, we are here to reach out to for feedback. If you have wanted to start a program for adults with special needs, please feel free to email me at kkuni@mail.usf.edu.

Kayla Kuni is a Librarian from Pasco-Hernando State College in Spring Hill, FL.



PULLING VOLUNTEERS OUT OF THIN AIR..AND CONNECTING YOUR COMMUNITY

By Glenna Godinsky

Volunteers may be hiding within your district! They could be disguised as residents of memory care centers. They could be children shyly watching your bookmobile roll into place. Hand them a pad of watercolor paper, paint kits, and modified paint-brushes to assist those with arthritis or other small motor challenges. (Attach plumbing foam found in your local home repair store.) First, invite activity directors of seniors' or children's care centers to hold a painting activity once per week until the pad of watercolor paper

has been decorated. Instructions: "Please paint sunset colors and don't leave any white spaces". Dry the paper flat. (For bookmobile routes, dry flat on baking trays.) Next, cut each paper into 6 "postcards". Invite a different group of seniors or children to create a craft using the postcards. Glue a silhouette of African animals crossing the savanna onto the card and draw some birds in the sky. Turn your customers into volunteer reader-advisors by listing their favorite book/author. Finally, put the completed postcards into a large bowl. At another senior center or bookmobile stop, invite

customers to draw a postcard from the bowl. This is their "gift from a neighbor" within the community. They can keep the artwork or pass it along within the community. They can check out the recommended book from you and read it to a grandchild or recommend it to a friend. Keep the concept of volunteering for the library growing within your community...and have fun connecting people as you go!

Glenna Godinsky is the Life Enrichment Liaison from Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin, IL.

#MORETHANBOOKS OUTREACH VAN AT PLANO PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Rachel Hadidi

Plano Public Library introduced a new outreach vehicle #morethanbooks to city council on June 12th and debuted to the public on June 16th at the Boys and Girls Club Juneteenth Arts and Music Festival. The vehicle increases library visibility in our community to non-users and underserved. The van was funded by the Friends of Plano Public Library. Staff will use the van (and all the goodies inside) to take classes and services throughout the city of Plano and focus on four populations: Career Development, Early Learning, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), and

Seniors. The new outreach van will allow PPL to roll up to any location, create new library cards, demonstrate tools, deliver classes and programs, and showcase how the library is more than books! #morethanbooks features:

- A large externally-mounted monitor to show videos and demonstrate services like eBooks and databases
- WiFi
- A bubble machine
- A large automatic awning to provide shade to staff and patrons.

PPL's focus will be attending local events and festivals, partnering with other city departments, and working with non-

profit partners to reach those who need our services.

Rachel Hadidi is the Community Outreach Librarian from Plano Public Library in Plano, TX.



Photo from Plano Public Library.

OUT & ABOUT

SUMMER READING FOR OLDER ADULTS

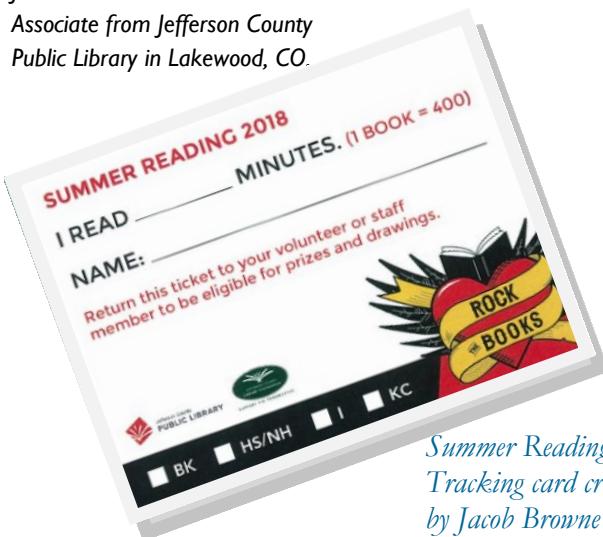
By Jacob Browne

Older adults served by bookmobiles and outreach services often don't need encouragement to read more and aren't motivated by the library's mission to combat summer slide. Some patrons read a book a day! In order to encourage these patrons' participation in our system-wide Summer Reading program, Jefferson County Public Library rebuilt our outreach program with an additional goal. Encourage people to read more, and encourage patrons to not miss a visit. In order to bring more patrons to the bookmobile, we deliver a different incentive to each stop during Summer Reading. Each visitor who shares their

reading minutes earns the 'Weekly Prize'. By distributing tracking cards, patrons can note the minutes or hours of reading time or the number of books they have read without needing to access the library website. Some patrons are eager for the prizes while others just want to see us reach our goal. The incentives vary from bookmarks to book bags, from playing cards to jigsaw puzzles, in order to have something that appeals to everyone. With no minimum reading time needed to participate, people freely share whether they have read 45 minutes or 45 hours. This resulted in increased traffic during the summer and increased Summer Reading participation. As a result, our

outreach garnered more reading time in 2017 than the other three smallest libraries in JCPL combined, reading over 70,000 hours in two months.

Jacob Browne is an Outreach Associate from Jefferson County Public Library in Lakewood, CO.



Summer Reading Tracking card created by Jacob Browne

TWO NEW VEHICLES FOR NEW MEXICO RURAL BOOKMOBILE PROGRAM

By Liana Morales

The New Mexico State Library recently acquired two new customized bookmobiles from LDV Inc. for two of their three rural bookmobile programs in the state. Bookmobile Northeast based in Cimarron and Bookmobile East based in Tucumcari. The wrap design features a "shelfie" of prominent book titles by New Mexico authors.

In addition to more than 175 linear feet of shelf space, two circulation desks, and spacious benches, the bookmobiles are also equipped with features intended for long distance travel including a galley with a microwave and mini fridge, a

broom closet, and three exterior storage compartments.

Our patrons seem to really like it! Upon debuting the new vehicle in March 2018, one of our regular patrons remarked, "Congratulations to you on your new bookmobile. Actually, congratulations to us!"

The New Mexico Rural Bookmobile Program has been on the road since 1956. The bookmobiles are funded through capital outlay funds awarded by the New Mexico State Legislature. Ongoing operations are funded through federal funds provided to the state library via

the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Liana Morales is the Rural Bookmobile East Manager for the New Mexico State Library in Tucumcari, NM.



*"Actually,
congratulations
to us!"*

BOOKMOBILE/OUTREACH TEAMS UP WITH MEALS ON WHEELS



By Willow Gale

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library was approached by our local Meals On Wheels organization with the idea of bringing library books to their clients. My Director saw it as a natural fit for the Bookmobile/Outreach Services, so he came to me. I was excited! MOW already

had a solid structure, a good staff, and a dedicated group of volunteers, so it was easy to plug in. I wrote two introductory letters, one for

clients and one for volunteers, each describing the new program from their perspectives. Knowing I would not meet these new library patrons, I created a "back" side of our usual library card application form to ask what types of materials would be of interest and in what formats. I communi-

cate with the MOW clients over the phone, through email, and via notes. It seems to work well enough! Friday mornings I go by the MOW office to pick up any returns. At my office, I then process all the accounts. On Monday mornings, we deliver new materials to the MOW office and they are distributed over the next few days. All new clients are informed of the program and offered the application form. I have reassured the MOW folks that numbers do not matter, we're happy to provide the service!

Willow Gale is the Bookmobile Supervisor from Jefferson Madison Regional Library in Charlottesville, VA.



Adding top-notch library service to Meals on Wheels delivery = A winning combination

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your Calendars!

The Annual Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska from October 23-25, 2019

BOOKMOBILE MASCOT DELIGHTS READERS

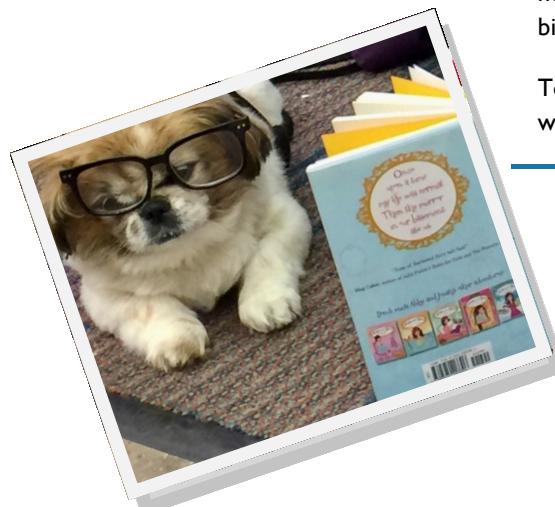
By Kris Ringwalt

"Is Baby here today?" Is one of the most asked questions on the Coshocton Public Library Bookmobile. Usually, Baby is in her bed asleep in the window. Visitors leave with a book and a smile because they were able to glimpse at her or maybe pet her, if she is awake. Baby is the dog of Manager Kris Ringwalt. What began as a way to increase use of the bookmobile at a public school has grown to mascot status. Troubled readers came on the bookmobile to read to Baby. A few pets to Baby's back and you could visibly see the children calm down and sound the words out. Thus, began a time of "Read to Baby" a program for summer reading

at the main library. Her calming manner has helped frightened children whose school was on lockdown due to a dangerous situation nearby and a teacher with a child with autism. A preschooler who was reluctant to talk was ok to talk to Baby during read to Baby time. Co-workers at the library stop by Kris's office to pet her after a stressful desk shift. Baby seems to be able to make the world right again. She dresses for parades and special events

and you can hear the children shouting, "Look in the window, that's Baby the bookmobile dog."

Kris Ringwalt is the Bookmobile Manager at Coshocton Public Library in Coshocton, OH



HAVE YOU JOINED THE LISTERV YET?

Receive professional insights, seek out input from colleagues, learn about webinars, test drives, general programs and other events that will help inform your knowledge of mobile libraries and outreach services.

To join the listerv, send an email to: webmaster@abos-outreach.com.

OUT & ABOUT

"ROCK OUR TEACHERS' WORLD" AT SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY

By Cathy Zimmerman

On Wed., Aug 15 the Scott County bookmobile wanted to show appreciation for its elementary teachers by holding a supply drive just for them. The first ever "Rock Our Teachers World" was held in the parking lot of the main branch with the purpose of filling the bookmobile full of supplies which are needed in the classroom. Many of our teachers spend their own money to supply their classrooms. The local TV was on site to give great coverage as well as the local newspaper. We even went LIVE on their Facebook page! The event was a great success with over

50 bags of supplies collected as well as monetary donations. The monetary donations will be used to round out the collection of items. Among the items were bulletin board supplies, notebooks, crayons, tissues, name tags, construction paper, notebook paper, journals, rulers and grouping items. Supplies will be distributed among the five elementary schools serviced by the bookmobile during the school year and placed in the community supply room at each school.

Cathy Zimmerman is a Bookmobile Associate from Scott County Library in Eldridge, IA.



Supply drive success!



INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW REPOSITORY: THE BOIR PROJECT



Giving Assistant is a program that donates a portion of your online purchases as you shop

What is BOIR? It is the Bookmobile and Outreach Information Repository Project. It is a database tool that will help the organization properly archive, record, and research the ever-evolving and adaptable world of outreach services so that valuable information about these programs can be preserved for future reference and guidance.

ABOS members, their affiliates, and supporters are encouraged to join Giving Assistant to have a portion of their online purchases given back to ABOS. Simply visit <https://givingassitant.org> and select Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services to start donating as you shop.

Join today!

A REAL S.T.E.A.M. ENGINE: PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM'S MAKER MOBILE



By Steven Streetman

"Whaat?!" exclaimed Jennifer, eyes popping in amazement.

"Yep!" replied Ira, grinning.

"You're kidding!"

"Nope!"

"You tried to engrave a rock with the laser cutter and it made glass?!"

"Crazy, right? Totally unexpected. The kids are going to love making these at our Summer Reading programs!"

This sort of creative 'happy accident' is a frequent occurrence aboard the Pioneer Library System's Maker Mo-

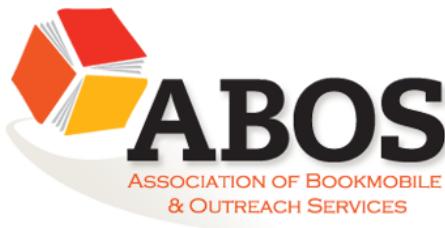
bile, a state-of-the-art mobile technology center attached to a Ford F-550 truck that travels throughout central Oklahoma's Cleveland, McClain and Pottawatomie counties. Managed by PLS Community Engagement team leader Jennifer Fourcade and operated by Outreach Specialist Ira Topp, the Maker Mobile brings STEAM-focused programming to Pioneer communities through work with local schools, Pioneer's twelve branch libraries, rural Information Stations, participation in community events, and scheduled appointments with special audiences. The PLS Maker Mobile features a 3D printer and scanner, a laser

cutter, and a CNC mill, each mounted to a separate wheeled cabinet. A built-in wheelchair lift helps get the equipment to ground level, where it can then be rolled into classrooms or event spaces. It's stocked with a fleet of instructional laptops loaded with design software like Inkscape, 123Design, Cura and more. For larger community events like festivals or street fairs, the Maker Mobile features a drop-down stage, stairs and a retractable awning to invite folks to flow through and see the machines in action. The vehicle is capable of generating its own power, so

all of the onboard technologies can operate in even the most remote locations. Since its maiden voyage in early 2016, the PLS Maker Mobile has made hundreds of stops and fascinated thousands of folks, including the multitude of enthusiastic teens and tweens who experienced the laser-engraving, glass-making rock program as part of Summer Reading 2018. There's no telling what amazing thing may happen next on the PLS Maker Mobile – or where!

Steven Streetman is an Outreach Specialist from Pioneer Library System in Norman, OK.





Get involved! Join a committee today!

- Advocacy—board1@abos-outreach.com
- Awards—board5@abos-outreach.com/awards@abos-outreach.com
- By-Laws—pastpresident@abos-outreach.com
- Bookmobile/Outreach Information Repository (BOIR) - board3@abos.outreach.com
- Conference Planning—president@abos-outreach.com
- Finance—treasurer@abos-outreach.com
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The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services is comprised of libraries of all types and sizes. Library administrators, support staff, library staff, governmental officials, trustees, friends of libraries, and professionals from other fields comprise this movement.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are fundamental values of ABOS and its members.

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Let's Book It in Raleigh!

October 17-19, 2018

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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Thank you to all of our awesome contributors!

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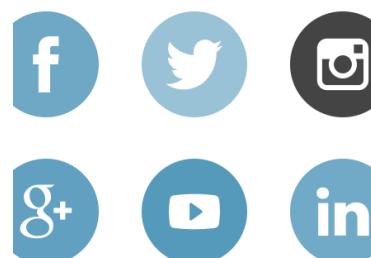
Kayla Kuni

Kris Ringwalt

Steven Streetman

Cathy Zimmerman

The Out & About newsletter is accepting submissions for the next issue. If you are interested in contributing an article, column, tips, anecdotes, and/or photos to the newsletter, you may contact the marketing committee chair via email: secretary@abos-outreach.com or the editor, Liana Morales: liana.morales@state.nm.us.



Are you posting your conference experience on social media?

*Use hashtags!
#ABOSNC2018
#ABOSOutreach*