

**Sue Erdman, Executive Director at Joseph T. Simpson Public Library, Named Employee of the Month
by the Cumberland County Library System Foundation**

Mechanicsburg, Pa. – Earlier this year, when Sue announced her plans for retiring in February 2026, there was a sense of disbelief. It would be the end of an era. Starting her library career as Technical Services Librarian at Bosler Memorial Library in 1987, then serving as Reference/Adult Services Librarian and Assistant Director, also at Bosler until being named Director at Simpson Library in 1996, Sue has had a long and successful career.

Carol Reighter, a Simpson Library board member for 28 years, commented, “Having learned of the need to hire a new director at the Mechanicsburg Area Public Library in 1996, as president of the board at the time, my heart sank. We were in the middle of our first capital campaign and construction of our “new” old building on Walnut Street. With Sue leading us through the final stages of that campaign and construction phase, we quickly realized that hiring her was the best decision we could have made.”



Carol continues, “Sue jumped in with both feet, leading us through that campaign and two more in the intervening years. The wonderful Learning & Book Sale Center is the most recent in her illustrious career, the result of her capable leadership and foresight.”

During Sue’s search, the board was advised that they “would not be sorry if they hired Sue.” Almost thirty years later, they were prophetic words.

Sue will be remembered as a conscientious and effective leader. Just some of her accomplishments include three capital campaigns—the ones that funded major improvements to former and current locations and more recently, the purchase and renovation of the Learning & Book Sale Center; increasing number of items circulated from 292,144 in 1996 to 845,406 in 2024; securing PANO – Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations – Standards of Excellence status for the Library; and service to a variety of boards and organizations including the Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg North, the Mechanicsburg Area Community Foundation, and the Pennsylvania and American Library Associations.

Cynthia Stratton Thompson, one of Sue’s library director peers at the Cumberland County Library System (CCLS), comments, “Sue has been an integral part of the Cumberland County Library System for many years. Her work with fellow library directors has always been strategic, thoughtful, and thorough. When Sue speaks, we all listen! What a wonderful legacy she has left to both the Simpson Library and CCLS. Sue will be deeply missed in so many ways!”

Sue is a central Pennsylvania native, a graduate of Shippensburg University with her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Library Science and her Master of Science Degree in Library Science. She models lifelong learning, not just maintaining skills and abilities to ensure the effective operation of the library, but also taking on new ventures and educational genres.

Library System Executive Director Carolyn Blatchley adds, “Sue’s leadership will leave an indelible mark on the future of the library system. Her commitment to community strengthened the bonds between institutions and the people they serve.” As a former employee of Simpson Library, Carolyn voiced firsthand experience in how Sue made people feel seen, valued, and supported, building comradery among the staff.

Sue’s legacy to the community, her Simpson Family, and her successor as Director is an effective, well-run library: traditional, innovative, and in all ways a community treasure. Thank you, Sue, for your many gifts of service and excellence, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.