

## Cumberland County Library System to Celebrate National Library Outreach Day, April 7, 2021

Mechanicsburg, PA – The Cumberland County Library System will join communities from across the country in observing National Library Outreach Day on April 7, 2021. Formerly known as National Bookmobile Day, libraries will celebrate the invaluable role library professionals, library volunteers, and libraries play in bringing library services to those in need.

One of the Cumberland County Library System programs reaching those most in need is STAR – Service to Adult Readers. With a cadre of trained volunteers, STAR provides the County’s most isolated residents with large-print books, e-readers, and other library materials selected for them according to their reading preferences – and also, as COVID restrictions allow, provides those patrons with an in-person visit from their STAR volunteer, to deliver fresh reading materials and pick up items to return.

BECAUSE A  
LIBRARY’S REACH  
IS BEYOND ITS  
WALLS.

LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORM<sup>™</sup>  
ALA American Library Association

**Carolyn Blatchley, executive director of the library system, comments, “As the most volunteer-intensive program we offer, STAR exemplifies the invaluable role our libraries play in bringing services to those in need.”**

Established in 1987, STAR provides services to homebound, mostly senior residents of Cumberland County in two ways. The first is by partnering the homebound resident with a trained volunteer who visits the patron to discern reading likes and then visits every 4-6 weeks to deliver new reading materials and collect items already read to be returned to the library. The second is Mini-Libraries, the providing (and regular updating) of large-print reading materials in the community

rooms of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior apartments and day centers throughout the county. Both of these programs are led by the Library System’s Adult Outreach Services Coordinator.

In 2019, 70 trained STAR volunteers provided services to 89 clients, delivering 5,392 items (mostly large-print books but also some audiobooks and DVDs). The 23 mini-libraries located across the county share the Library System’s large-print books. Currently because of COVID restrictions, many in-person visits are on hold, but the coordinator is maintaining phone contact with patrons and volunteers until activities can resume. In addition to providing reading materials that keep homebound seniors engaged, the regular contact with volunteers and the program coordinator helps stave off the loneliness of those living in isolation.

Celebrated annually during National Library Week, National Library Outreach Day is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS), and the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). It is a time for highlighting outreach services and for library advocates to make their support known—through thanking library staff, writing a letter or e-mail to their libraries, or voicing their support to community leaders.

Cumberland County’s public libraries – Amelia Givin Library in Mt. Holly Springs, Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle, Coy Public Library of Shippensburg, East Pennsboro Branch Library in Enola, Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, John Graham Library in Newville, New Cumberland Public Library, and Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg - lead their communities with educational, cultural, and entertainment programs, as well as authoritative and interesting materials. For more information, please visit [www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org](http://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org).