**2018 Super Volunteers**

Each year, we take time to honor some outstanding volunteers who share their time with NEKLS libraries, and with their communities. This year the selection committee chose to honor six volunteers from five libraries.

Volunteers will be our guests for lunch and will be called forward during this ceremony to receive an award from System Director Laura DeBaun. Nominating libraries will receive a small grant to thank them for fostering excellent volunteerism in their communities.

**George and JoAnn Kautz  
Atchison Public Library**

**Nominated by** Betty Sue Thomas, head of Homebound Services for Atchison Public Library

**Hosted by** Jacque Slingsby, library director

**Guests include** their daughters

George and JoAnn Kautz are faithful volunteers who deliver library materials to people in their homes every other week.

They take time to chat with each person they visit and brighten their day. The Kautzs provide such a marvelous service for people who can't get out on their own and the Kautzs do a valuable service.

The Kautzs have been providing this service for more than 11 years, and they also volunteer at the hospital in Atchison.

One of the things NEKLS values about volunteers is that they selflessly give to their communities, which is evident in the amount of time that the Kautzs have given—every other week for more than a decade! Not to mention all of the time they have given at the hospital.

**Patricia Welicky  
Bonner Springs City Library**

**Nominated by** Lesley Lard, Youth and Teen Librarian

**Hosted** **by** Lesley Lard and Jack Granath, library director

Over the past five years, Patricia has volunteered for a variety of special events, and has recruited her family members to help.

At the 2017 Young Child Fair she went above and beyond. She and her kids drove four hours round trip to pick up Paw Patrol Costumes. When the event rolled around, staff found that the costumes were too small for volunteers who were scheduled to wear them, so Patricia and her son stepped in to wear them for three unexpected hours.

Her nominator, Lesley, says:

“Patricia is one of the most generous people I have ever met. She has provided prizes, gift baskets, materials and more for the Library. She does most of these things without even being asked; she simply wants to help. Whenever we have needed help with anything, she is there.”

“She also promotes the Library wherever she goes and on her social media, and has been a huge advocate for us. To say Patricia has been indispensable is an understatement.”

**Jill Strahm  
Mary Cotton Public Library, Sabetha**

**Nominated and hosted by** Kim Priest, library director

**Guests include** her parents

Jill joined the Mary Cotton Library family about a year ago, when her mother asked if she could volunteer a few hours a week. Her quickness at learning a new skill came in handy because she was immediately able to assist Brianna, a staff member who has limited hand mobility. Their favorite patrons always make a point to come in on the days Jill and Brianna work together, just to say hello and check in.

Her nominator, Kim Priest says, “Working at the library is fun, educational and usually very social. Jill just adds to the mix. She wears her Mary Cotton Library shirt and nametag with pride!”

Kim also says, “Jill’s love of cookies is famous around the library, her family and her church. One of the first things out of her mouth when she steps in the door on Monday and Wednesday mornings is…anybody bring cookies? Often, she will be the one bringing the goodies for the staff.”

**Lynn Drake  
Overbrook Public Library**

**Nominated by** Kyle Sederstrom, library director

**Hosted by** Pam Johnston, Overbrook Assistant Librarian

Nominator Kyle Sederstrom said,

“Lynn is a truly exceptional volunteer. She is the driving force behind our bakeware collection, and she handles all of the monthly bakeware displays, along with acquisitions and collections management of our bakeware items.”

Another aspect that the selection committee likes is when volunteers enhance—or even provide—services that would otherwise be unavailable. Lynn’s dedication to the cake pan collection at Overbrook is a key example of this.

Lynn also exemplifies another NEKLS value, recruiting more resources for local libraries.

Kyle said,

“She is a huge help towards helping us operate the library and serve the needs of Overbrook and the surrounding area. I know this because in addition to her other roles, she is our volunteer coordinator, and helps with recruiting, training and time tracking for all of our volunteers.”

**Carol Wills  
Pomona Community Library**

**Nominated and hosted by** Judy Stratton

Director Judy Stratton says,

“The Pomona Community Library has long had trouble having a person or company come in and clean the library on a regular basis. So Carol has volunteered to do this for us. In addition to being our ‘maintenance person’, Carol is on the library board of trustees, so we do not pay her for her services.”

Carol comes in several times a week to ensure that the library is a pleasure to be in. She keeps the carpets stain-free to help them last as long as possible. She paints walls that are chipped or marked up.

The library has a mural that was created by volunteers, library patrons and staff. Carol helped paint the building to prepare for the mural and was instrumental in putting all the finishing touches on the finished product. She currently makes sure that any vandalism to the mural is quickly removed.

Library Director Judy Stratton says, “Because of Carol's efforts, the library is a warm, inviting place that welcomes our patrons. We cannot be grateful enough for this extraordinary service she provides.”

**Thank you, Super Volunteers!**

In addition to recognizing this year’s Super Volunteers, we’d also like to take this time to celebrate the generosity and accomplishments of all the volunteers across NEKLS libraries.

With volunteers’ help, our libraries provide better service and are more vibrant than ever!

Please help me thank and congratulate this year’s Super Volunteers!