



## Service Excellence Award

### **Kristy Szkudlarek, Read for Life Coordinator, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library**

Kristy Szkudlarek has served as the Read for Life (RFL) Coordinator at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library since 2014. Under her exceptional leadership, the RFL program has more than doubled in size, a testament to her strategic vision and deep commitment to literacy and lifelong learning. She has shown remarkable adaptability, especially in serving vulnerable and diverse populations across Hancock County.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kristy acted swiftly to transition the RFL program to an online format, ensuring adult learners could continue receiving literacy support without disruption. She also responded proactively to the county's growing migrant population by expanding volunteer recruitment and training, tailoring the program to meet evolving community needs.

In 2023, Kristy launched the Language for Life program, offering 16-week sessions to support non-native English speakers on their journey to fluency. This innovative effort further highlights her forward-thinking approach and passion for inclusive service.

Beyond her literacy work, Kristy has served as the library's Social Media Coordinator for the past five years, enhancing the library's digital presence and strengthening its community outreach.

For these reasons and more, Kristy Szkudlarek is the recipient of this year's Service Excellence Award.