In the Know: Outreach to Child Care — A Q & A with Nancy Peterson, Coordinator

For those who don’t know, what is Outreach to Childcare?

Outreach to Child Care (OCC) is a program of Jackson County Library Services designed to enhance the early literacy environment at child care sites throughout Jackson County. It provides books bags, storytimes, and supplementary materials such as music and theme bags to providers who care for four or more children between the ages of 0 to 6 years. We also provide presentations for parent/care giver groups; these presentations show the importance of sharing books with children and stress the Six Skill Areas of Early Literacy. During the summer months, we expand the program to include summer camps for older children.

While OCC is located in the back of the Medford branch library, we are available throughout the county. We have our own collection of materials which do not show in the PAC (Public Access Catalog). OCC is also the “Mother Ship” for TIOR (Taking it on the Road). This is the program that provides the weekly storytime bags for the branches.

What’s new in OCC?

We have a new staff member who speaks Spanish! Megan Pinder joined us as our Bilingual Specialist in January 2018. She has been super with our Spanish-speaking providers and will be instrumental in providing the Kaleidoscope Play & Learn.

We are singing the praises of our new book bags that are delivered to child care sites! The old bags had many stains and try as we could, they could not be cleaned. We are pleased to give a presentable representation of JCLS.

We are looking forward to providing STEAM-like theme bags to our providers. We are just awaiting the budget news.

How do volunteers assist you in achieving your goals for OCC?

Volunteers are a significant part of OCC. Volunteers assist with book bag deliveries, present storytimes, and help with in-house tasks. These volunteers help us reach a segment of our demographic for which visiting a branch is a challenge. Our volunteers take the materials to the provider. The children at the sites look forward to the storytimes and eagerly await the visit each month!

These volunteers are our heroes in taking their time, effort, and caring to provide for the youngest of our county!
Welcome New Volunteers

Max Johnson (Medford)
Madeline Vance (Medford)
Harold Sudmeyer (Medford)
Arely Gonzalez (Phoenix)
Jacqueline Keating (Medford)
Shane Berkowitz (Ruch)

August Anniversaries

One Year
Olivia Vogt (Jacksonville)
Blyth Naef (Rogue River)
Kathy McNeal (Ashland)

Two Years
Janie Tibbals (Jacksonville)
Carolyn Stieber (Eagle Point)
Trinity Mathis (Phoenix)

Three Years
Pauline Murff (Medford)

Five Years
Fred Marken (Ashland)

Seven Years
Alison Neujahr (Ashland)

Eight Years
Cosette Greenman (Talent)

Nine Years
Olive Johnson (Medford)

Ten Years
Marie DiMartini (Medford)

Thank you very much!

Our volunteers shared over 1,267 hours in the month of June!
Notice:
All branches will be closed Friday, September 14, 2018 for Staff Day!

Medford Gardens
We are still looking for another pair of hands to help out in our Medford gardens. Our own Cal Baze has created a whimsical “Mr. MacGregor’s Garden” in the Medford Children’s outdoor area and is in need of a little extra help to keep it looking great. If you have a green thumb and are looking for that extra “something” to do, give Cal a call at 541.774.8682. Thank you!

Staff Spotlight

Name: Bret Fearrien
Position: Digital Services Associate
How long have you worked with JCLS? Since September 2017.
Describe yourself in five words: Just. Five. Words? Oh. No!
Name of a book you have read more than once? I don’t think I have ever read a fiction book more than once. On the non-fiction side, I have read language books multiple times, including William Munce’s entry work, “Basics of Biblical Greek Grammar.”

Who or what inspires you? Stories and creations from creative people: composers, authors, film makers, game developers, etc.

Best present you ever received as a child? Any time spent with my grandparents.

What is the most useful advice you were ever given? “Save more than you spend.” (Paraphrase)

What is an interesting fact about yourself that someone might not know? I lived in Kentucky for 3 years, and I also lived outside Atlanta for 2 years.

What title would you give your autobiography? 2 Analytical 2 Furious

One thing you wish people knew about the library? That libraries are trying to stay relevant – with programs, technologies, and resources that are contemporary and useful for modern needs. For example, our library system has three digital collections – including Library2Go, which is wonderful for e-books and audiobooks.
According to the Urban Dictionary, “The beach read is easily digestible and designed to be guzzled down from a cramped airline seat or reclining poolside chair.” As the last month of summer ticks by, there’s still time to pick up a book and be whisked away to places and parts unknown. Check out our staff recommendations for your next beach read!

**In Other Lands by Sarah Rees Brennan**

This book is a beautiful YA story that touches on a number of issues that resonate not just with teens. I recommend it as a beach read because the story itself is witty, dry, and takes place in a fantasy land that includes man-eating mermaids and homicidal unicorns, all experienced through the eyes of a snarky, you wish you could hate, but grow to love, boy as he grows into adulthood. Also great in audiobook.

-Terra McLeod, Medford Branch Manager

**Repairman Jack Series by F. Paul Wilson**

For a thriller with both supernatural and crime elements you can rely on F. Paul Wilson's Repairman Jack series. There's a definite beginning and end so be sure you start with the first book, The Tomb. That book was intended to be Jack's only adventure, but thanks to reader demand, Wilson brought him back for fifteen more "sequels" and six "prequels." Jack is a fix-it specialist for desperate people who have no one else to turn to, but he ends up as a key player in something much bigger than he ever intended.

-Patrick Mathewes, Talent Branch Manager

**Blessed Are the Cheesemakers by Sarah-Kaye Lynch**

It's an older book, published in 2002, but it's new if you haven't read it yet. Lots of twists and turns to make a flight (or the wait for a flight) seem shorter.

-Liz Hampton, Ruch Branch Assistant

**The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan**

You really know when a book is a "beach read" when it comes back full of sand. I've seen this happen all too often. Two books I'm reading right now and enjoying very much: "The Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan and "Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring" by Angela Cervantes.

-MaryAnn Ross, Ashland Children's

**Lowcountry Boil by Susan M. Boyer**

I stumbled across this book on the 4th of July and read it all in one day! Taking place on the fictional island of Stella Maris, South Carolina, this book is the perfect beach read! It has murder, mystery, eccentric relatives, biscuits and gravy and, most importantly, a basset hound named Chumley. *Lowcountry Boil* was the first installment in the Liz Talbot Mystery series and I intend to read more!

-Jessica Arenas, Staff Development & Volunteer Coordinator
More Beach Reads to Consider: