



**Contact: Tisa Davis – Indiana Library Federation
941 E. 86th Street, Suite 260, Indianapolis, IN 46240
Phone: (317) 257-2040**

For Release (October 23, 2018)

Monroe County Public Library program receives statewide *Literacy in Libraries Award*

Monroe County Public Library's Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) Program has been selected to receive the 2018 Indiana Library Federation (ILF) Tom Zupancic Literacy in Libraries Award. The ILF Tom Zupancic Literacy in Libraries Award honors and recognizes community advocacy of literacy in libraries by an individual or organization in cooperation with a library. This award is created to acknowledge outstanding efforts by an individual or an organization in advocating the importance of libraries and literacy programs in a community.

The Monroe County Public Library's VITAL program provides a safe, respectful learning environment for adults who want to improve their reading, writing, math or English language skills. Its services are accessible to adults of all ages, nationalities, economic and social backgrounds.

VITAL creates learning opportunities and has a positive impact on improving adult literacy by developing resources which learners can use for independent study; by working with local organizations to provide small group tutoring responsive to socio-cultural beliefs and needs; and by promoting and advocating for literacy awareness and the importance of Indiana public libraries.

Since the program's inception in 1977, VITAL has helped over 6,500 learners achieve their personal learning goals. An average of 150 individuals a month currently participate in one-on-one tutoring or English as a new language conversation groups. In addition to programming, the VITAL Resource Room features a public collection of high quality reading and instructional materials to support community learning.

VITAL staff share their expertise and provide leadership on needs, gaps, challenges and best practices around adult literacy activities in Indiana. The group assisted with the implementation of the [Indiana Adult Literacy Study](#) and provides direct input to ILF on potential next steps to further adult literacy programming in Indiana.

The Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) serves approximately 145,000 residents of Monroe County, Indiana, home of Indiana University. The Library provides service through the Main Library downtown, the Ellettsville Branch Library and through a variety of community based

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services including a bookmobile, homebound, van delivery and jail service. The Library has a dynamic adult literacy program (VITAL) and community access television services (CATS).

The Library will be awarded the Tom Zupancic Literacy in Libraries Award at the Indiana Library Federation Awards & Honors Banquet in conjunction with the ILF's Annual Conference in November.

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About: Indiana Library Federation is the statewide nonprofit association for academic, public, school and special libraries and the staff and volunteers who support them. Indiana Library Federation, the state chapter of American Library Association, provides professional development, awards, programs, member services and advocacy.